

## - TABLE OF CONTENTS -

<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MYTHS AND REALITIES.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SURVIVAL SHEET.....</b>	<b>4</b>
BEFORE AN ATTACK.....	4
DURING AN ATTACK.....	5
AFTER AN ATTACK.....	5
<b>EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>A. EMERGENCY SHELTER AND SERVICES.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>B. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.....</b>	<b>7</b>
1. Welfare, Cash Assistance and Food Stamps.....	7
2. Child Support Payments.....	10
3. Crime Victim Compensation.....	13
<b>C. HOUSING.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>D. EMPLOYMENT.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>E. CONFIDENTIAL ADDRESS PROGRAM (CAP).....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>THE LEGAL SYSTEM: HOW TO GET HELP.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>A. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>B. ORDERS FOR PROTECTION AGAINST         DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.....</b>	<b>18</b>
1. What is an Order of Protection?.....	18
2. Who Can Get an Order of Protection?.....	20
3. What is Domestic Violence?.....	20

4. When Can You Get an Order of Protection?.....	20
5. Where Can You Get an Order of Protection?.....	22
6. What Do You Do After You Have an Order of Protection?.....	22
<b>C. STALKING.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>D. LAW ENFORCEMENT.....</b>	<b>24</b>
1. Acts of Domestic Violence-Penalties.....	24
2. Mandatory Arrest.....	26
3. Citizen's Arrest/Criminal Complaint.....	27
4. Police Reports.....	28
5. Victim Information.....	28
<b>E. THE CRIMINAL COURT PROCESS.....</b>	<b>29</b>
1. Arraignment.....	29
2. Procedures Before Trial.....	29
3. Trial.....	30
4. Sentencing.....	30
<b>CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION, SUPPORT, AND ASSISTANCE.....</b>	<b>32 &amp; 33</b>

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE**  
**1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**

## - ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -

This resource is based in part on a handbook developed and published by the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (NNADV) wishes to thank the many domestic violence professionals and others in the state of Nevada who have contributed with their writing and comments to the production of this valuable resource. Special thanks are directed to Susan Meuschke, Executive Director of NNADV, and Susan Lentz, former Special Projects Assistant, Office of the Attorney General; as well as to the Honorable Gloria Sanchez, District Court Judge, Family Division of the Eighth Judicial District Court, and Lori Fralick, Domestic Violence Ombudsman, Office of the Attorney General.

## - INTRODUCTION -

This handbook is about domestic violence. You may want to read it straight through or you may want to begin with the topics that apply to your present situation. Hold on to this handbook, go back to it, use it as a guide.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** is a term which is used in reference to many types of abuse, such as child abuse, spousal abuse, elder abuse, and sibling abuse. This handbook will specifically address the physical abuse that occurs between couples involved in ongoing relationships (they may or may not be married). In the large majority of cases, the woman is the victim of domestic violence; thus, this handbook is primarily directed to the battered wife or woman. We have used “she” to refer to victims, and “he” to refer to batterers. The information contained in the handbook, however, is applicable to male family violence victims and to those being abused by a female family or household member.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide basic information for victims seeking an alternative to the violence, to describe the options and rights of domestic violence victims, to explain the role of the justice system, and to provide a list of organizations to contact for emergency services, as well as for general information and assistance.

While this handbook is directed primarily at victims of domestic violence, it is also designed as a useful reference for law enforcement officials and people in government and the private sector who assist victims of domestic violence.

**By communicating and working together, we can find solutions to this devastating social problem.**

## - FACTS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE -

- ♦ Domestic violence is a major problem, both in Nevada and in the United States. National estimates range from 960,000 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend per year to 3 million women who are physically abused by their husband or boyfriend per year.
- ♦ Nearly one third of women in the United States (31%) will be abused by a current or former partner sometime during their lives.
- ♦ More than 35,000 women in Nevada will receive domestic violence services in this year alone. (Nevada Domestic Violence Marriage License Reports, CY 2003)
- ♦ Domestic violence is the most common but least reported crime in the United States. It's the number one cause of women's injuries--more than car accidents, rapes and muggings combined.
- ♦ Approximately 95% of the victims of domestic violence are women.
- ♦ 34% of women homicide victims over age 15 are killed by their husbands, ex-husbands or boyfriends. On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands, ex-husbands or boyfriends in this country every day, totaling approximately 1,500 each year.
- ♦ Each year more than one million women seek medical assistance for injuries caused by battering.
- ♦ In a national survey of more than 6,000 American families, 50% of the men who frequently assaulted their wives, also frequently abused their children.

---

These facts were compiled by the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence from materials supplied by credible sources. For a detailed report of sources consulted, contact the NNADV Resource Center at (775) 828-1115.

## - MYTHS AND REALITIES -

**MYTH:** A SLAP NEVER HURT ANYONE.

**REALITY...** Domestic violence is distinguished by its frequency and duration. It can occur over several years. Physical injuries range from a black eye to broken bones, burst ear drums, split lips, burns, scalds, torn scalps, broken teeth and bruised necks through attempted strangulations. Women are frequently hospitalized.

Injuries can end in death. Over one-third of the murders in America take place between family members. Constant exposure to beatings is also damaging mentally in terms of that individual's self-esteem, self-worth, and self-confidence.

**MYTH:** ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE CAUSES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

**REALITY...** Drinking/drug abuse lowers inhibitions or control over violent behavior, but the substance may be used as an excuse to let down these inhibitions. According to statistics, one-third of batterers do not drink or use illegal substances at all.

**MYTH:** DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS BEHAVIOR THAT IS "OUT OF CONTROL".

**REALITY...** Physical abuse is often the most serious aspect of a course of conduct intended to subject the victim to the control of the abuser. Other controlling behaviors may include intimidation, economic control, using children as weapons, destruction of property and isolation. The abuser's behavior is, therefore, quite intentional.

**MYTH:** I SHOULD STAY WITH MY ABUSER FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN.

**REALITY...** It is extremely harmful emotionally for children to live in an environment in which family violence is occurring. This is true even if the child has not been the target of physical abuse.

**MYTH:** ONCE A BATTERED WOMAN, ALWAYS A BATTERED WOMAN.

**REALITY...** There is a growing community awareness of the plight of battered women and their children. There are counseling programs offering

support and help with housing and employment, hotlines providing crisis counseling and referrals, and shelters providing safe refuge. Battered women can break the cycle of violence.

## - SURVIVAL SHEET -

Once a violent act takes place in a relationship, the violence almost always reoccurs. In fact, it tends to become more severe and more frequent as time goes on. This will happen even when the man apologizes and promises to change after a violent incident. In addition, a batterer will almost always try to isolate his victim by causing disagreements between the victim and those who care about her. Therefore, it is extremely important that you think ahead about what to do in the case of another attack. Start by keeping a journal.

## - BEFORE AN ATTACK -

**MAKE CONTACTS...** Read this handbook and contact one of the organizations and agencies listed on the last page to learn about what you can do the next time your husband or lover becomes violent. These organizations are available to provide information, support and emergency assistance. In addition, try to maintain good relationships with friends and relatives. Their support and assistance will make a difference. Decide now where you will go and how you will get there the next time violence occurs.

**BE PREPARED...** Prepare for quick access to a phone, cash, clothing, and important items such as: car title and keys, birth certificates, apartment lease, marriage license, medical cards and records, income and other financial records, all family social security numbers, a list of phone numbers to call for shelter or transportation, credit cards, blank checks, bank books and this handbook.

If possible, keep an emergency kit with keys, cash and essential papers together in an old purse or other small container so that you can easily and quickly grab it and leave. If you are afraid to keep these essential items together in your home, consider hiding them outside your house or leaving them with a trusted friend. Prepare your children by teaching them their name and address and how to dial 911 in the event of an attack.

**- DURING AN ATTACK -**

**DEFEND AND PROTECT YOURSELF...**

**CALL FOR HELP...** Scream loudly and continuously. You have nothing to be ashamed of, he does.

**GET AWAY...** When an attack has begun, escape if you can. Whenever you believe that you are in danger, leave your home and take your children, no matter the time of night or day. Go to the house of a relative or friend, or to a public place and call for help.

**CALL THE POLICE AS SOON AS YOU CAN...** Dial 911. Explain what is happening, or has happened. Tell them where you are. The dispatcher may ask questions. Answer as clearly as possible. Let the police know whether there are weapons or drugs involved. Let them know whether you already have a protective order against your abuser.

**- AFTER AN ATTACK -**

**HOTLINE HELP IN NEVADA  
1-800-500-1556**

**SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY...** Always seek medical attention; you may be injured more seriously than you think. Go to your private doctor, a clinic or emergency room. Tell the doctor or nurse what happened to you so that they can note it in their records. Ask them to take pictures of your injuries. Find out how to get copies of your records. Tell them that you want to sign a waiver so that the prosecutor or your attorney can obtain copies of those medical records, when necessary.

The law prohibits discrimination by your insurance company and they cannot deny your claim or drop your policy because of domestic violence.

**SAVE EVIDENCE...** As much as you are able, save all evidence showing that you were attacked and the seriousness of your injuries. If you did not have photographs taken while you were receiving medical care, ask a friend,

someone from the domestic violence shelter, or the police to take color photographs of your injuries as soon as possible. Additional evidence includes medical records, torn or bloody clothing, weapons, photographs of the destruction of property and the disarray in the house and statements of anyone who heard or saw the attack. The police will also make a report of their investigation. Be sure to include in your statement to the police the names and addresses of any witnesses. Ask for a copy of the police report.

**TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT YOUR CHOICES...** This handbook will give you information about whom to call for help. It will also provide information about your options. Read the handbook and contact the services available. Ask them questions and talk to them about your choices. In addition, at the time of a police investigation, peace officers are required by law to provide information to domestic abuse victims regarding shelter and other community services, as well as legal options.

**REMEMBER, MOST ABUSERS BECOME MORE VIOLENT.** Over time, beatings tend to become more severe and more frequent. Even though you may be afraid, embarrassed, or even ashamed to act NOW, your safety and the safety of your children may depend upon your willingness to take action.

## **- EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT -**

There are people who care that you and your children have been hurt. They have information, experience, and resources to help you plan for the future. The following sections provide a general description of the types of agencies and organizations that provide services that you might need. There are no miracle answers but together we can begin to build a better future for you and your children.

### **A. EMERGENCY SHELTER AND SERVICES**

If you need to get away, try to stay with a friend or a relative. If you cannot find a safe place to live temporarily, contact the nearest domestic violence program (see pages at the end of this handbook for a complete listing). Shelter can be hard to find, but keep trying and stress to the people with whom you speak that you are in danger. Information on sources of emergency food, clothing, cash assistance or transportation is also available.

If there is no domestic violence program in your area or if they are unable to take you in, look in the Yellow Pages of the telephone book under Social Service or Women's Organizations. You may also be able to receive assistance from local churches.

Even if you do not need or want emergency shelter assistance, talking with other women who have been abused, or with a peer counselor, can help you learn about the alternatives available to you. Knowing that you are not alone may help you break the cycle of violence. You will not be told what to do; rather, you will receive information and support so that you can make the best possible decisions for yourself and your family.

The more you talk about your situation with friends or relatives, and other abused women, the better able you will be to figure out what you want to do. If you keep it all a secret, you are protecting him, not yourself and your children.

Sharing your experiences with women who have had similar ones can be a great help. If there are no battered women support groups in your area, talk to your local domestic violence organization or mental health agency about starting a group. The more you talk about your life, the more you will discover new possibilities for a better future.

## **B. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Women often feel they are trapped in abusive relationships because of financial reasons. Often, batterers will repeatedly tell their victims they will never be able to get hired or hold a job. There are no easy answers, but the information contained in this section may provide the first steps in achieving independence from your abuser.

### **1. Welfare, Cash Assistance and Food Stamps**

Whether or not you are working, you may be eligible for cash assistance or other aid from County and State agencies.

#### **♦ County Social Services**

The Social Services agency in your county may have cash assistance

or other local aid programs. Contact them for information on how to apply for assistance which may be available to you.

♦ **Nevada State Welfare Division -  
Cash Assistance and Food Stamps**

The Nevada State Welfare Division administers the federal block grant program called TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and the Food Stamp program. TANF, prior to 1996, was known as AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children). The program has changed significantly, including very strict requirements for work and pursuit of child support, and a lifetime limit of 60 months receipt of cash benefits. In Nevada, a mandatory 12-month “sit-out” period is required after families have received 24 months of TANF cash assistance.

**-TANF and the Family Violence Option**

The Family Violence Option (FVO) was adopted by the Nevada State Welfare Division after research showed that some TANF requirements would endanger some families, and that domestic violence is a major barrier to self-sufficiency.

The Family Violence Option commits the Welfare Division to:

- 1) Screen for domestic violence among TANF participants;
- 2) Make referrals to counseling and supportive services;
- 3) Waive TANF program requirements, after a decision has been made that the client has “good cause” to be excused. Good cause is usually granted when the TANF requirements unfairly blame the victim for her abuse, or would make it more difficult for the client to escape abuse or remain safe at home.

To apply for cash assistance and food stamps, go to the Welfare district office closest to where you live (look in the telephone book under “Nevada, State Department of Human Resources, Welfare Division” for the address and telephone number). The office is open weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except holidays. Go early in the morning and ask for an application and an appointment for an interview.

The Welfare Division is required to verify information you provide on your application. When you go to your interview you should bring documentation which will provide verification in order to prevent delays in processing your request for assistance. The most common areas are as follows:

### **-Income and Ongoing Expenses**

It is important to bring along verification of such things as your monthly income, unemployment benefits, social security benefits and child support. You will also be asked to verify the amounts of your rent and utility bills. This may be done by providing copies of your lease or rent receipts, recent telephone bills and utility bills. If you have just moved, ask your landlord to provide an estimate of monthly utility bills. If you pay for child care, you will also need to provide verification of the amount.

### **-Household Composition**

You will be requested to verify the identity of your household members. If you have separated from your husband or partner, you will be questioned about the amount of child support received on your children's behalf. If you are not receiving child support payments, you may be requested to provide your spouse's name and address in order to start the process of collecting child support from him. If providing the requested information would threaten the safety of your children or yourself, you may not be required to do so if you meet the criteria for a good cause exception. Tell your worker you would like to apply for this exception.

### **-Identity and Residence of Children**

If you have children, the Welfare Division will want to know whether they are living with you and will need to verify their identity. At the initial interview, bring birth certificates and social security numbers. Also, bring school records, if any.

Processing your application will take some time. By law, the Welfare Division has up to 45 days to approve/deny your application for cash and regular medical assistance. They have up to 30 days to make a decision on your application for food stamps.

If you have little or no money, you may be eligible for “expedited” (fast) service for food stamps. Expedited food stamps must be furnished within seven days of your application. Although expedited food stamps should automatically be processed for eligible applicants, be sure to ask them to review your eligibility for expedited food stamps at the time you turn in your application.

If you are found eligible for medical assistance, you may qualify for Medicaid for “prior medical” months. This covers all or part of medical bills you may have incurred for up to three months prior to your application for assistance. If you have had medical bills during the three months prior to your application, you should request this type of assistance.

If you are told you are not eligible for immediate assistance, fill out the application forms and turn them in the same day, whether or not you know all the answers. The date of your eligibility for Welfare benefits are determined by the date you hand in your application. Do not take the forms home to fill them out, even if you are requested to do so. The sooner you turn them in, the sooner Welfare will act on them.

Welfare laws and policies can be complicated. You may feel confused and frustrated. Be persistent. Get the names of the workers you talk with. You may request to speak with a supervisor if the worker cannot help you. You may also contact one of the organizations or agencies listed at the end of this book if you have questions or feel you are not getting the assistance you need.

If your application for cash or food stamp benefits is denied and you believe you are entitled to the benefits, you can appeal the decision. Your appeal rights are identified on your denial notice. You must file your appeal within the time limit on the notice. The sooner you appeal an improper denial, the sooner you will receive the benefits for which you are eligible. For information or assistance in appealing a denial for benefits, you may also call Nevada Legal Services at 1-800-323-8666 or 883-0404. If you live in Washoe County you should contact Washoe Legal Services at 329-2727.

## **2. Child Support Payments**

The father of your children has a legal duty to help support them financially. This is true even if you weren’t married when the children were born or have never been married to the children’s father.

The following paragraphs briefly outline some options available to you. When you are not directed to an agency for assistance, contact the organization listed at the end of this guide-book for further information.

***If you are receiving welfare assistance, other than food stamps***, the Welfare Division of the Nevada Department of Human Resources will begin a child support action against the child(ren)'s father for you through its Support Enforcement Office. If you only receive food stamps, the office may not act on your behalf. You may call regarding the current requirements.

It is important for you to remember that there are eligibility requirements for cash assistance and to remain eligible it is necessary for child support payments to be paid to the Welfare Division.

***If you receive no cash assistance from the Welfare Division, or only receive food stamps***, you may file an application for child support enforcement with the District Attorney's Office in the county where you live. (Look in the white pages of the telephone book under your county for the D.A.'s Office and its family or child support division). There is a \$2.00 application fee.

**The following services are available through the Child Support Enforcement Program:**

- ♦ The Child Support Enforcement Program (CSEP) will help establish paternity (the legal father). Sometimes the alleged father agrees to a blood test; sometimes a blood test is ordered by the court. Sometimes the alleged father admits he is, in fact, the father; sometimes there will have to be a trial. The identity of the father must be legally established before CSEP can collect child support.
- ♦ CSEP will try to locate the non-custodial parent, even if he/she resides in another state. You can help by supplying information you have about the non-custodial parent, such as name, address, date and place of birth, Social Security number and place of employment. The more information you provide, the better chance CSEP has to locate the non-custodial parent.
- ♦ CSEP can get a court order so the child support payments can be collected and CSEP can help enforce the court order. When child support has been ordered by the court:

- ♦ If the non-custodial parent isn't making court ordered child support payments, CSEP can have his/her wages withheld. When overdue child support payments are equal to one month's support, wage withholding is mandatory and automatic. To withhold wages, CSEP must know where the non-custodial parent works.
- ♦ CSEP can intercept federal income tax refunds from a non-custodial parent who owes child support.
- ♦ If the non-custodial parent who owes child support receives unemployment compensation, CSEP can have his/her unemployment compensation checks attached.
- ♦ CSEP can impose liens against real personal property belonging to the non-custodial parent for the amount of child support overdue.
- ♦ You can request a review to adjust the amount of child support you are receiving if one of the following has occurred: 1) 3 years have passed since the establishment of your court order; 2) at least 3 years have passed since the last review; 3) it is determined the non-custodial parent should provide for the child(ren)'s health care needs through health insurance coverage or other means.
- ♦ CSEP will establish and enforce medical support for children.
- ♦ Child support collected on behalf of non-public assistance families goes directly to the families.

***If you apply for an Order of Protection from the courts***, to protect you and your family from abuse, you can, in the case of an Extended Order, request child support from the abuser if he is the father of one or more of your children. Under certain circumstances in an Extended Protection Order proceeding, you may also request support for yourself. For a discussion of Orders of Protection, see pages 16-23.

***If you are married***, you may file for a divorce, legal separation, or in special cases an annulment. In any of these proceedings, child support must be ordered if your spouse is the father of one or more of your minor children. Spousal support may also be available.

***If you are not married to the child's father***, you may need to file a paternity action. In this action, you can request an order stating this person is in fact the minor child's legal father. As part of a paternity action, you may request custody and child support.

***If you already have a child support order*** from the courts, but support is not being paid, you can hire an attorney to file an action to reduce the child support arrears to a judgment and/or to have child support taken from the father's paycheck. This action must be filed with the court that entered the child support order. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may qualify for assistance from your local legal aid office. As an alternative, you may also file an application with the District Attorney's family or child support enforcement division in your county (see above).

### **3. Crime Victim Compensation**

If you have received injuries from an assault that caused you to incur medical bills and/or lost wages from your job, the **Nevada Victims of Crime Program** may pay you for losses. To be eligible for compensation you must:

- (a) Have been a resident of the State of Nevada for six weeks prior to the time the crime occurred, and the crime must have occurred in the State of Nevada. In some circumstances a non-resident is eligible for compensation.
- (b) Report the crime on which the claim is based to the police within five days of the crime, unless there is a substantial reason why the crime could not have been reported within five days.
- (c) File an application for compensation within one year of the date of the crime.

**For more information and forms, you can call one of the state offices of Victims of Crime in Las Vegas at 1-702-486-2740 or Reno at 1-775-688-2900.**

## C. HOUSING

Finding a new home, especially an inexpensive one, can be difficult. This section provides information and suggestions for overcoming this obstacle.

Depending on your income, you may be eligible for subsidized housing. Contact your local housing authority for more details. Look in the telephone book under your local or city government. Your county welfare or social services department will also be able to give you the telephone number. Because of the long waiting lists associated with subsidized housing, this may not be a practical solution to an immediate problem. However, do not overlook this option and be sure to get on waiting lists for subsidized housing, as they often move faster than expected.

If you need immediate housing, tell everyone you know that you are looking. Look in the daily, weekly and neighborhood newspapers.

### ***Here are some questions to ask before renting a new home or apartment:***

- ♦ Does the rent include heat, electricity and gas? If not, how much do they average monthly?
- ♦ Will those things presently in disrepair be repaired or fixed before you move in?
- ♦ Is there maintenance on the building?
- ♦ How safe is the building?
- ♦ Will extra locks be installed for increased safety?
- ♦ Is a deposit required? If so, how much? When and under what conditions will it be refunded?
- ♦ Are there any restrictions regarding children or pets?

Do not give the landlord any money until you sign a written lease. A lease is your security that the landlord will abide by its terms. Always read the lease carefully. Ask questions. Be clear about its terms and the time period it will be in effect. If there isn't a written lease, it is wise to ask for one.

Be prepared to pay a security deposit. In Nevada it can be no greater than three months' rent. A security deposit is money that may be used by your landlord at the end of your tenancy for unpaid rent or cleaning and damage beyond normal wear and tear.

Before you begin looking for an apartment, be aware that some landlords discriminate because of race or ethnic origin, because you are a single mother or because you have children. They may refuse to rent to you or make excuses about why you cannot have the apartment or house. It is against state and federal law to discriminate in housing on the basis of sex or family status, as well as race, religion, and handicap. If you encounter these problems and live in northwest Nevada, you may contact Truckee Meadows Fair Housing in Reno at **775-324-0990** or Washoe Legal Services at **775-329-2727**. You may also seek legal advice or assistance from Nevada Legal Services at **1-800-323-8666** or **775-883-0404** or Nevada Fair Housing Center, Inc. at **702-731-6095**. The Nevada Equal Rights Commission or the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are other agencies that may assist you.

#### **D. EMPLOYMENT**

If you are unemployed, there are agencies and organizations to help you find a job. Many communities have state employment offices for job referrals, and some counseling and assessment. These offices provide support for people who want to get back in the labor force with the skills they have and just need assistance to find openings in the job market. The service has no eligibility requirements. Look in the Yellow Pages under Employment Service - Government for the office nearest you. In some cases, private employment agencies may be useful. But remember to always ask private agencies whether they charge a fee. For private services, look in the Yellow Pages under Employment Agencies.

#### **Other employment resources include:**

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN NEVADA...** JOIN is a federally-funded program. It provides career counseling, employment workshops, classroom skills training, on-the-job training and placement. There are eligibility requirements so check with your local office. You can find the phone number for the office nearest you in the Yellow Pages under Employment Service-Government.

**CLAIMANT EMPLOYMENT PROJECT...** The CEP program helps unemployed claimants return to work sooner by providing classroom and on-the-job training. An assessment determines if a claimant will benefit from the program.

CEP offers job-training contracts in which an employer hires a trainee for a particular position and is reimbursed by CEP for training costs. Contact the Nevada Employment Security Division for more information.

Your local domestic violence program (see the last pages of this booklet) can provide information about employment and child care services that might be offered by other state or local agencies or organizations.

#### **E. CONFIDENTIAL ADDRESS PROGRAM (CAP)**

The goal of Confidential Address Program (or CAP) as established by the 1997 Nevada State Legislature is to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence fleeing abusive situations and attempting a fresh start for themselves and their children. The program provides two basic services: **1)** a substitute mailing address and **2)** confidential voter registration records. Use of the substitute address can maintain the victim's confidentiality and reduce the risk for being tracked using state and local public records. CAP participation can be used as a component of a victim's long-term, personal security plan. Application materials for CAP participation are available through some community-based domestic violence programs. For the location of the program nearest you, please call the Nevada Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline.

## - THE LEGAL SYSTEM: HOW TO GET HELP -

### A. INTRODUCTION

It is against the law for anyone to beat or physically hurt another person, no matter how the two people are related. There are a number of legal steps you can take to protect yourself from further abuse and bring your abuser to justice. This chapter will briefly explain how to do these things. The laws of this state are contained in the Nevada Revised Statutes (hereafter cited as NRS) which are typically available in local libraries and county courthouses.

There are basically two kinds of courts: *criminal court and civil court*.

**Criminal court** deals with people who have committed crimes, such as assault or battery. In the state of Nevada, for example, criminal assault is intentionally placing another in reasonable apprehension of immediate bodily harm. NRS 200.471. In Nevada, the crime of battery is the willful and unlawful use of force or violence upon the person of another. NRS 200.481. A person who engages in a course of conduct that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated or harrassed, and actually causes the victim to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated or harrassed, commits the crime of stalking. NRS 200.575.

The police can arrest anyone who commits a crime and the District Attorney of each county or City Attorney in Las Vegas, Reno or Sparks can prosecute the offender. There must always be sufficient evidence on which to base charges. If the offender pleads guilty or is convicted of the crime, he can be sentenced to jail, probation, counseling and/or payment of fines.

**Civil court** handles non-criminal matters such as divorce and child custody. It can order people to do or not to do certain things. For example, it may order a parent to pay child support. It may also order your abuser to vacate your shared premises, or it may order that your children not be removed from the state without approval of the court. If its orders are not obeyed, the judge can hold the violator in "contempt of court" and either fine or jail him. In 1997 a civil remedy was added to allow you to recover money damages from your abuser. You may wish to hire an attorney, although one is not required; also, a domestic violence advocate may be available to attend court with you.

The following three sections describe in greater detail the laws affecting victims of domestic violence and how to pursue criminal charges as well as how to use civil process to obtain relief. Before taking any legal action, it is important to understand the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative course. Also, it is important to know that the legal process can be a very lengthy, confusing and frustrating one. However, you are entitled to its protection and assistance, and the threat of arrest or contempt of court can be a very effective way to prevent your abuser from continuing his violence toward you.

## **B. ORDERS FOR PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Nevada recognizes domestic violence as a serious crime. In 1985, the legislature created a new type of order, the Order for Protection Against Domestic Violence. NRS 33.017-33.100. It involves a civil court proceeding that specifically addresses domestic violence situations.

### **1. What is an Order of Protection?**

**An Order of Protection** is a written court order, signed by a judge, which requires an abusive household or family member or dating partner to do or not to do certain things. There are basically two kinds of protection orders: **Temporary Orders and Extended Orders**.

**A Temporary Order** is an emergency order which may be obtained just on your testimony and court appearance; that is, your abuser is not present to tell his side of the story. Before issuing a Temporary Order of Protection, the judge must find that there is good cause to grant it without first notifying the abuser. The judge must also evaluate each individual remedy separately (for example, that you will likely be harmed if the abuser knows you were seeking legal protection). Temporary Orders of Protection can last for up to 30 days.

By law, both extended and temporary orders are to be available at no cost, without need for a lawyer, and within one day of application. The court clerk or other personnel should provide information regarding the procedures and be able to assist you in completing the necessary paperwork. Temporary and Extended Orders of Protection must be served on an individual before they can be enforced.

In a Temporary Order, the judge can order any or all of the following:

- Forbid any further threats, harassment or injury,
- Order the abuser to vacate (leave) or not to enter the shared home for a period of time,
- Prohibit the abuser from entering the victim's place of employment, school or other specified location,
- Award temporary legal custody (if the court has jurisdiction over the children), and
- Other relief the court considers necessary in an emergency situation.

**An Extended Order of Protection** is available when all the legal requirements of notifying the abuser of the intended action have been satisfied. This order is also available without cost. There will be an opportunity for both parties to present their cases in a hearing. If you apply for an Extended Order, the Temporary Order will remain in effect until the Extended Order hearing is held. The remedies that may be requested for an Extended Order are in addition to those that are available for Temporary Orders. Extended Orders can last for up to one year.

*Although it is always up to the judge to determine how long any particular order will last, remember that no Extended Order of Protection may be in effect for longer than one (1) year. To obtain more permanent restraining orders, it is necessary to request such relief outside the provisions of NRS 33.017-33.100 in civil or family court, (for example, in a divorce or parentage action). An Order of Protection cannot be used as a substitute for bringing a divorce action or to permanently change child custody or visitation. Nor can an Order of Protection be used to divide property or debts, beyond making temporary allowances for the shared residence and the payment of the rent or mortgage, as noted above.*

B. An Extended Order may:

- ♦ Limit or prohibit the abuser's communication with you and your children.

- ♦ Award custody and the payment of child support.
- ♦ Establish visitation arrangements and require supervision by a third party if necessary.
- ♦ Order the abuser to make rental or mortgage payments on the home in which you are living.
- ♦ Order the abuser to pay all or part of costs and fees incurred in obtaining the protection order.

## **2. Who Can Get an Order of Protection?**

*Who is covered?* Any household or family member who is abused by another household or family member is eligible to seek a protective order. Spouses, ex-spouses, persons living together, persons who formerly lived together, children of either of the persons who have lived together, stepchildren, parents, persons who share a child or other persons related by blood or marriage are all protected by the law. Persons who have had or are having a dating relationship are also protected by the law.

*Who is Not Covered?* Persons, other than those listed, are not covered by this law.

## **3. What is Domestic Violence?**

Domestic violence includes acts of physical violence (slapping, punching, strangling, etc.); threatening, coercive or harassing conduct; interference with the personal liberty of the victim; or forcible entry of the victim's residence against her will. A course of conduct intended to harass, such as arson, trespassing, larceny, destruction of private property, carrying a concealed weapon without a permit and stalking may also be considered domestic violence. The additional protections against stalking will be explained in section C.

## **4. When Can You Get an Order of Protection?**

Any person who is abused by a household or family member or by a dating partner can ask the court for an Order of Protection. A parent or guardian can ask for one for a child, an elderly person or anyone who is unable because of a disability to ask for one themselves.

*You do not have to file any other civil action or pursue criminal charges in order to obtain an Order of Protection.*

In order to obtain an Order of Protection, a verified written application must normally be filled out and submitted by the person requesting the order. However, in some cases where the alleged perpetrator of domestic violence has been arrested and is in custody, an Order of Protection may be requested over the telephone. In any case, the court must either grant or deny an application for a Temporary Order of Protection within 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) after the application is filed. NRS 33.020.

The victim or person requesting the order will be asked to present evidence of abuse to the judge that domestic violence has taken place - the more evidence you have, the stronger your case will be. Evidence includes such things as:

- ♦ The victim's statements as to the abuse inflicted.
- ♦ Hospital or doctor's reports of injuries.
- ♦ Photographs of injuries.
- ♦ Police reports.
- ♦ Statements from other family members, neighbors, or others who saw or heard the abuse.
- ♦ Weapons used.
- ♦ Torn or bloody clothing or broken household items.
- ♦ Pictures of damaged furnishings and of the house or room in disarray.

While any one of these may be enough for an order to be granted, the more evidence you have, the more likely the judge will believe you and grant you the legal remedies you need.

## **5. Where Can You Get an Order of Protection?**

An Order of Protection can be obtained in two ways:

- (1) In State District Court in connection with such actions as divorce, separation, child support or parentage actions. If you are filing for divorce, ask your attorney to file for an Order of Protection as well.
- (2) In State District or Justice Court as an action by itself. This is where you want the Order of Protection in order to have the legal system help stop the violence against you. You may apply for an order on your own without the services of an attorney.

To obtain information about where and when to file for protective orders, you should contact your local court clerk, whose phone number will be located in the white pages under your community. You may also contact the organizations listed at the end of this publication for assistance.

## **6. What Do You Do After You Have an Order of Protection?**

If the judge in civil court grants you an Order of Protection, obtain several copies and keep one with you at all times. If your abuser was not present at the proceeding, find out whether and when he received a copy of the order. Try to get a “proof of service” copy from the court, or something that demonstrates whether or not he has been served. However, do not place your safety in jeopardy by attempting to give him a copy yourself. The Court may order the appropriate law enforcement agency to personally serve the abuser.

If your abuser violates the order by hurting you again, by coming onto your property when the order forbids him to do so, or by violating another provision of the order, call your local law enforcement agency, the police or sheriff's department. Show them the Order of Protection and any proof that the abuser has been notified of the order. If you do not have a copy to show them, they can try to verify its existence through their police radio (this will only work if a copy has been provided to the dispatcher of that agency).

Nevada law mandates arrest by any law enforcement officer who has probable cause of the violation or witnesses a violation of any provision of a protective order. However, an officer will not arrest a person subject to a protective order unless that person has received notice of the order. If the

officer does not make an arrest, ask the officer to inform your abuser that he is now on notice of the provisions of the order and that any violation will, in the future, result in his arrest. Obviously, if your abuser commits another crime while violating the protective order, he may be arrested for that criminal conduct in itself.

Under Nevada law, if the abuser violates an Order of Protection, he has committed a crime, a misdemeanor, punishable by jail and/or a fine. Alternatively, he can be found in contempt of court for violating a court order. This can also result in a fine or imprisonment.

Under federal law, if the abuser crosses state lines with the intent to violate the order of protection, more stringent penalties apply.

If you decide that you want to go back with your husband or partner after the court has issued an Order of Protection forbidding his entry into your home, it is important that you go back to court to dissolve the order. Please be aware that neither you nor your husband or partner can change or terminate the order without court approval. If you do not obtain a modification of the order by the court, and your abuser violates it by being in the house with your permission, the police and the court may be less willing to extend their protection to you in the future. However, even in that circumstance, don't hesitate to return for another Order of Protection rather than remain in a violent and dangerous environment.

### **C. STALKING**

As noted above, stalking is treated as a form of domestic violence. In 1993 and 1995, the legislature adopted provisions making stalking a crime and also providing for restraining orders against alleged stalkers. NRS 200.575 - 200.601.

Stalking occurs when any person, not just a family or household member or dating partner, willfully or maliciously engages in a course of conduct that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated or harassed and, in fact, causes such a reaction in the alleged victim.

Aggravated stalking occurs when such conduct is accompanied by threats of substantial bodily harm or death.

Anyone who has reason to believe that the crime of stalking/aggravated stalking is being committed against them may also petition the court for a temporary or extended restraining order. The purpose of such a restraining order is to keep the alleged or convicted stalker away from the victim's home, school or employment, as well as prohibit any contact with the victim and the victim's family and/or household. As in the case for Orders of Protection, a temporary restraining order regarding stalking lasts no longer than 30 days, and an extended restraining order may not last more than a year. NRS 200.591 and 200.594.

Arrest may be made for violation of such restraining orders, in addition to whatever arrests are made for the actual crime of stalking. Violation of a temporary restraining order is a gross misdemeanor, while the penalty for violating an extended restraining order is a Category C felony. General information on such punishments is provided in the following section.

The law provides that the prosecutor must inform the alleged victim of the final disposition of any criminal stalking prosecution. NRS 200.601.

#### **D. LAW ENFORCEMENT**

##### **1. Acts of Domestic Violence - Penalties**

Every act which is a crime if a stranger does it, is also a crime if committed by someone who is or was your spouse or partner, or otherwise related to you. This includes such offenses as assault, battery, kidnapping, false imprisonment and sexual assault, among others. NRS 33.018.

Domestic violence resulting in any of these crimes may be a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or different categories of felonies. The designation and the possible penalties will be the same, whether the offender is a stranger, partner or spouse. For example, domestic violence will be a Category B felony battery if the unlawful use of violence or force is committed with a deadly weapon. If the battery is not committed with a deadly weapon but there is substantial bodily harm, or it is the third conviction within seven years, it will be a Category C felony; if no substantial bodily harm results, it will be a misdemeanor, unless there are two or more convictions within seven years, then it is a felony. NRS 200.481.

The crime of stalking will be a misdemeanor for a first offense. For second and subsequent stalking offenses, the penalty is a gross misdemeanor. The crime of aggravated stalking will be a Category B felony if it includes a threat of substantial bodily harm or death. Remember, these penalties for the crime of stalking may be imposed in addition to the criminal penalties imposed for a violation of a restraining order obtained against the alleged or convicted stalker.

In general, a misdemeanor is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, and/or by a fine of not more than \$1,000. NRS 193.150. Most gross misdemeanors are punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for up to one year and/or by a fine of up to \$2,000. NRS 193.140. The general provision for felony punishments varies depending on the category of felony. A Category B felony normally requires imprisonment in the state prison for no less than one year and no more than 20 years. A Category C felony normally requires imprisonment for no less than one year and no more than five years, and a fine of not more than \$10,000. NRS 193.130. However, higher or lower punishments may be specified for particular crimes by law. For example, the crime of battery with a deadly weapon, a Category B felony, is punished by imprisonment in the state prison for no less than two years and no more than 10 years, and a fine of not more than \$10,000. The crime of aggravated stalking, under circumstances making it a Category B felony, is punished by imprisonment in the state prison for no less than one year and no more than six years, and a fine of not more than \$5,000.

In 1997, minimum mandatory jail time, batterer's intervention counseling, community service and fines were added for the first two domestic battery convictions for any person within seven years. On the first conviction by a judge either after a criminal trial or a plea agreement, the abuser must spend at least two days in jail (with credit for time served), perform not less than 48 hours of community service, pay at least \$200.00 in fines and participate in weekly counseling sessions for at least six months. On the second offense, the minimum jail time goes up to ten days, the fine up to \$500.00, the community service to 100 hours, and weekly counseling sessions extend to at least 12 months. The third conviction within seven years is a Category C felony.

## 2. Mandatory Arrest

Calling the police will set the criminal justice system in motion. The police can help you in the following ways:

- They can protect you from immediate danger and help you and your children to safety. Dial 911.
- They can arrest your attacker which may lead to his conviction.

In Nevada, law enforcement agencies operate in certain circumstances under a mandatory arrest policy by state law. This means that if the police have sufficient reason to believe that a person, **within the preceding twenty-four (24) hours**, committed an act of domestic violence or spousal battery, the officer is required to arrest that person, absent of mitigating circumstances. Contacting the police sets this process in motion.

**The officer is required NOT to base his decision regarding an arrest on his perception of the willingness of you or other witnesses to testify or otherwise participate in any related court proceeding. Your signature on a complaint is not necessary.** If the officer has reason to believe that the battery was a mutual battery committed by both people involved, he must attempt to determine which person was the **primary physical aggressor**. Once the officer makes that determination, he is required to arrest that person.

In determining whether a person is a primary physical aggressor, the officer is required to consider:

- ♦ Prior domestic violence involving either person.
- ♦ The relative seriousness of the injuries inflicted upon each of the persons involved.
- ♦ The potential for future injury.
- ♦ Whether one of the alleged batteries was committed in self-defense.

- ♦ Any other factor which helps the officer decide which person was the primary physical aggressor.

If your attacker is arrested at the time of the incident, the laws of this state are designed to give you time to leave, seek help or otherwise ensure your safety. If he has been arrested for domestic violence, he will not be released from jail or be able to bail out of jail for a minimum of 12 hours. NRS 178.484

### 3. Citizen's Arrest/Criminal Complaint

**Citizen's Arrest.** In spite of the state's mandatory arrest law, law enforcement officers may sometimes be reluctant to make an arrest if they did not see your attacker hurt you, if they cannot determine the primary physical aggressor, if there are no visible injuries or if they cannot determine whether or not a crime has been committed. **You are always entitled to make a citizen's arrest.** Make the citizen's arrest only in the presence of a law enforcement officer. Be aware that your abuser may also attempt to make a citizen's arrest. You both may be taken into custody.

To make a citizen's arrest, you must ask the police to give you the appropriate forms to sign. Tell the police, "I want to make a citizen's arrest!" Once you have told the police what happened to you and have signed the papers, the police are required to take the offender into custody.

**Criminal Complaint.** If you did not call the police or if the police do not arrest your attacker or take the case to the local prosecutor in order to obtain a complaint and an arrest warrant, you may still file a criminal complaint against your attacker. Ask your local law enforcement agency for the procedure to file a complaint. Once you know where and when to go, take with you as much evidence as possible (medical records, photographs, etc.). In such a case, you must be willing to follow through with the charges and be prepared to testify. Be persistent. The prosecutor's office then determines whether to go forward with the case.

If charges are filed, a warrant will be issued for your abuser's arrest. Check with your local complaint officer concerning how soon this may occur.

## **4. Police Reports**

Whether or not your attacker is arrested, make sure a police report is completed. The police are required by state law to complete a report every time they respond to a domestic violence call. This is the official record of what happened to you. It contains the dates and names of people involved, what happened, and how the dispute was handled, including whether an arrest was made, and, if not, why not. It is important to make this report, even if you don't plan to press charges at the time, because:

- ♦ You can use it to substantiate your story if you do decide to press charges against your attacker;
- ♦ It provides a past history which may assist you in gaining the help of the police and prosecutor if you are threatened again; and
- ♦ It can be used to show good cause for the court to grant an Order of Protection. Be sure you write down the name and badge number of the officer, as well as the police report number. This will make it easier for you to get a copy of the police report later.

## **5. Victim Information**

Peace officers are required by law to give victims of domestic violence certain information. Insist on getting this information, as you not only have a right to it, but your safety and the safety of your children may depend on it.

The information that you should receive from the officer includes availability of a shelter or other services, information on how to seek an Order of Protection against any further threats or acts of violence and how to file a complaint if the abuser has not been arrested, as well as other information to help you through this time. The officer should also give you a written summary of your legal rights. If this is not done, contact your local law enforcement agency or domestic abuse program.

## E. THE CRIMINAL COURT PROCESS

After the abuser has been arrested and the prosecutor's office determines to proceed with a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony case, the criminal court process begins. Your attacker is now the defendant in a criminal prosecution.

### 1. Arraignment

The first appearance in court for the defendant will normally be the arraignment. This will usually occur within 48 hours of arrest if the defendant is still in jail. If the defendant has been released on his own recognizance or has posted a bond or cash bail, the arraignment will usually occur within a short time period after his release from jail. You will not be officially notified of this court appearance.

At the arraignment, the defendant will be informed of the charges against him and must enter a plea of guilty, not guilty, or no contest. If the defendant enters a plea of guilty or no contest, the judge may impose sentencing immediately or may set a later date for sentencing. If the defendant enters a plea of not guilty, a trial date will be set within 60 days from the arraignment.

### 2. Procedures Before Trial

In certain cases, the defendant will have a right to a preliminary hearing before a judge prior to trial. At this hearing the judge will determine whether there is sufficient evidence for the prosecutor to proceed with the case. In all cases, the prosecuting attorney must evaluate the case to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to take it to trial. Because domestic violence is a criminal act against the state or city, the decision to prosecute will be made by the prosecutor. Your cooperation, or lack of cooperation, as a victim is but one factor in determining whether to prosecute. **The decision to prosecute is not made by the victim.**

If there are any plea bargain discussions, the prosecutor should inform the victim in order to consider what she might think, but remember, only the prosecutor can bring charges, and only the prosecutor can drop charges. **The decision to prosecute is always up to the prosecutor.**

### **3. Trial**

Once the trial date has been set, the victim will be subpoenaed to testify in court against the defendant. A subpoena requires that you appear in court to testify. As a victim/witness in a criminal proceeding, you do not need to be represented by an attorney. A victim may, however, seek independent legal advice if she can afford to hire a lawyer or otherwise qualifies for legal aid. A victim may also have an advocate with her in court to help put her at ease. The victim will usually be contacted by the City Attorney's or District Attorney's Office before trial to discuss the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident. If you are not contacted by the prosecutor or witness/victim advocate prior to trial, contact them. Make an appointment to discuss the trial. Bring to the meeting any medical reports and pictures of the injuries, if these items have not already been delivered to the prosecutor's office.

Trials for misdemeanors in Nevada will be in front of a judge without a jury. The prosecutor will present evidence to show that the defendant is guilty, and that he committed the crime that he is charged with. This evidence may include testimony of the victim, testimony of independent witnesses, including police officers, as well as photographs and medical records. The defendant can present similar evidence to show that he is innocent of the charges.

The judge will consider the admissible evidence and then decide if the defendant is guilty or not guilty.

### **4. Sentencing**

At the conclusion of the trial, the defendant will be found guilty or not guilty. If the defendant is found guilty, the judge will decide what the appropriate sentence should be. In misdemeanor cases, the judge can sentence the defendant to up to six months in jail and/or up to a \$1,000 fine. Additionally, a judge may suspend the sentence for not more than three years after the minimum mandatory jail time (as discussed on pg. 24) is served. A suspended sentence is based on a number of conditions including the requirement that the offender actively participate in a program of professional counseling at the expense of the offender. NRS 5.055(1)(c). If the defendant complies with the conditions of his suspended sentence, he will not have to serve the remaining jail time. Although a judge may order that jail

time may be satisfied by restricting the abuser to his home, this may only be done after a hearing and finding that he is not likely to pose a threat to you. In gross misdemeanor and felony cases, the penalties are potentially much higher.

Before imposing a sentence the court will offer the victim an opportunity to appear personally or through a lawyer and reasonably express any views concerning the crime, the person responsible for the crime and the impact of the crime on her and her family. This means that the victim may, but does not have to, address the court. NRS 176.015(3).

If the defendant violates a specific condition of a suspended sentence or commits a crime while on a suspended sentence, the judge can bring the defendant back into court and order the defendant to serve time in jail, if jail was originally ordered and then suspended.

## - CONCLUSION -

This handbook is only meant to be a guide. It does not have all the answers. In many ways it is just a work in progress. Situations change; laws change. There are no easy answers but we are learning. As individuals and communities, we are constantly learning and changing.

**Use this handbook to help yourself. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Together, we can make a difference.**

To obtain additional copies of this handbook, contact:

***Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence***

220 So. Rock Blvd., Ste. 7

Reno, NV 89502

Voice/TTY (775) 828-1115

Fax (775) 828-9911

**ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTACT  
FOR INFORMATION, SUPPORT, AND ASSISTANCE**

**CARSON & STOREY COUNTY**

**ADVOCATES TO END  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

P. O. Box 2529  
Carson City, NV 89702

**Office:** 775-883-7654

**CHURCHILL COUNTY**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
INTERVENTION, INC.**

P. O. Box 2231  
Fallon, NV 89407

**Office:** 775-423-1313

**CLARK COUNTY**

**TADC/SAFENEST**

P. O. Box 43264  
Las Vegas, NV 89116

**Hotline:** 702-646-4981

**Rural Hotline:** 800-486-7282

**Office:** 702-877-0133

**SAFEHOUSE, INC.**

921 American Pacific Dr., #300  
Henderson, NV 89014

**Hotline:** 702-564-3227

**Office:** 702-451-4203

**DOUGLAS COUNTY**

**FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL**

P. O. Box 810  
Minden, NV 89423

**Office:** 775-782-7565

**Hotline:** 775-782-8692

**ELKO COUNTY**

**COMMITTEE AGAINST  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

P.O. Box 2531  
Elko, NV 89803

**Office:** 775-738-6524

**Hotline:** 888-738-9454

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY**

**WINNEMUCCA DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE SHELTER, INC.**

705 E. 4th Street  
Winnemucca, NV 89445

**Office:** 775-625-1313

**LANDER COUNTY**

**COMMITTEE AGAINST  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

P. O. Box 624

Battle Mountain, NV 89820

**Hotline:** 775-635-2500

**LYON COUNTY**

**A.L.I.V.E.**

400-A N. Main

Yerington, NV 89447

**Hotline:** 800-453-4009

**Office:** 775-463-5843

**ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTACT  
FOR INFORMATION, SUPPORT, AND ASSISTANCE**

*Continued...*

**MINERAL COUNTY**

**ADVOCATES TO END  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**  
P. O. Box 1613  
Hawthorne, NV 89415  
**Hotline:** 775-945-2312  
**Office:** 775-945-2472

**PERSHING COUNTY**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
INTERVENTION**  
P. O. Box 1203  
Lovelock, NV 89419  
**Office:** 775-273-7373

**NYE COUNTY**

**NO TO ABUSE**  
P.O. Box 2869  
Pahrump, NV 89048  
**Hotline:** 888-882-2873  
**Office:** 775-751-1118

**WASHOE COUNTY**

**COMMITTEE TO AID  
ABUSED WOMEN**  
1735 Vassar St.  
Reno, NV 89502  
**Hotline:** 775-329-4150  
**Office:** 775-329-4150

**A SAFE EMBRACE**

P.O. Box 3745  
Reno, NV 89505  
**Hotline:** 877-930-3466  
**Office:** 775-322-3466

**TAHOE WOMEN'S SERVICES**

948 Incline Way  
Incline Village, NV 89451  
**Hotline:** 800-736-1060  
**Office:** 775-298-0010

**STATEWIDE DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE HOTLINE**

**1-800-500-1556**

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE HOTLINE**

**1-800-799-SAFE (7233)  
1-800-787-3224 TTY**

---