

Relocation Assistance is available to:

- Families who have applied and met the eligibility criteria for Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF).
- Families who were granted an Upfront Diversion for domestic violence or another emergency situation.
- Families who are currently receiving TANF.

Myth #1

I have to move out of town in order to receive relocation assistance.

Reality: As a domestic violence victim, there is no minimum distance you must move in order to qualify for relocation assistance.

Myth #2

I have to have a job lined up in my destination city in order to obtain relocation assistance.

Reality: You do not have to have a job lined up if you are a domestic violence victim.

How to Apply:

You must apply for Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) through the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

After you apply with DCF, you will be notified to go to a Workforce Central Florida One Stop to register for work. Inform the Workforce Office that you are a victim of domestic violence and that you need relocation assistance.

At this point the Workforce staff should:

- Let DCF know (through a system alert) that you are work registered and that you have met your pre-eligibility requirements.

- Set up an appointment with a welfare transition counselor to process the paperwork for Relocation Assistance.

The process should take at most 10 to 14 days, then you will have the money on your EBT card to make the move.

Victims of domestic violence are not required to develop a relocation plan that prevents them from applying for TCA for six months after receiving relocation assistance. Once you have received relocation funds, you may reapply for cash assistance 30 days later.

Helpful numbers:

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-7233

Florida Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-500-1119

About Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida (CLSMF)

Our mission is to provide access to justice through high quality legal assistance to low-income persons.

Domestic Violence cases have no income restrictions.

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. provides free legal assistance to eligible low-income persons in civil matters (we do not offer legal assistance in criminal or traffic matters).

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COMMUNITY
LEGAL SERVICES
of MID-FLORIDA

*BREVARD: 1-866-469-7444

CITRUS & SUMTER

106 N. Osceola Avenue, Inverness, FL 34450

CITRUS: (352) 726-6592

SUMTER: 1-800-984-2918

FLAGLER: 1-800-405-1417

HERNANDO: 1-866-801-5566

LAKE: (352) 343-6351

226 West Main Street, Tavares, FL 32778

MARION: (352) 629-6257

1610 SE 36th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

*ORANGE (407) 841-7777

122 E. Colonial Drive, Suite 200, Orlando, FL 32801

OSCEOLA: (407) 933-1791

800 North Main Street, Kissimmee, FL 34744

PUTNAM: (386) 385-0928

216 S. 6th Street, Palatka, FL 32177

*SEMINOLE: (407) 322-6673

315 Magnolia Ave., Sanford, FL 32771

VOLUSIA : (386) 258-5600

128 Orange Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Client toll-free number: 1-800-363-2357

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: (386)523-9181

**Certain legal services not offered*

info@clsmf.org

Apply for help online at:

www.clsmf.org



COMMUNITY
LEGAL SERVICES
of MID-FLORIDA

ARE YOU A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

You may be a victim of domestic violence if any of the following individuals strikes or hurts you, or threatens you with harm:

- Spouse
- Former Spouse
- Relative by blood or marriage
- Live-in (or former live-in) girlfriend or boyfriend
- Person with whom you have a child

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISN'T JUST WRONG. IT'S A CRIME!

Florida's domestic violence law enables you to work with the court system to stop the abuse. If you are a victim of domestic violence or if you have reason to believe you will become a victim, you may should file a police report and request an Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence (IFP).

www.clsmf.org

E-mail: info@clsmf.org



STEP 1: HOW TO GET A TEMPORARY INJUNCTION FOR PROTECTION

Go to the Courthouse and ask for the Circuit Court Clerk's office. Tell them you want to apply for an Injunction for Protection. Complete the forms. Be as thorough and descriptive as possible. Mention all details, including dates of threats, bruises, weapons, drugs, alcohol, etc. If the abuser was arrested for abuse or may soon be released from jail, include this information. If you are pregnant and being abused, include this information as well. What has happened *most recently* is what is most important.

- An official will ask you questions to verify your petition, and you will be asked to swear that the facts in the petition are true.
- For safety reasons, you may furnish the Court with your address in a separate confidential filing.
- If you want the judge to order certain things such as custody of your children, child support or a batterer's intervention program for the abuser, you must request this in writing. on the petition or the judge can't provide the child support in the final order.

Remember, you must request the relief you are seeking in writing in your petition. This includes:

- *No Contact or Restricted Contact:* This orders the abuser to stay away from your home, work and/or school, or restricts the abuser to having contact with you for purposes only related to minor children.
- *Request for Counseling or Drug/Alcohol Evaluation:* This might lead the abuser to confront issues related to abusive behavior.
- *Exclusive possession and use of the home:* This allows you to remain in the home without the abuser.
- *Time Sharing/Support:* This gives you temporary time sharing of the child(ren) and orders the abuser to pay some child support to you.

Bring your pay stub and one of the abuser's pay stubs if you have it. If you want a specific schedule for time sharing or someone to help or intervene, you need to be prepared and have a written schedule or a third party present.

After you have completed and filed these forms, the clerk will locate a judge to review your forms. You will not see the judge. Later in the day, or possibly the next day, you will return to the clerk's office to learn if the judge agreed that you need some protection. If this is the case, the judge may sign a Temporary Injunction for Protection (IFP), which is good for up to 15 days. The judge will schedule a hearing within this period, at which you will present evidence for the court to determine if a Permanent Order should be granted. The clerk will give you a copy of the IFP and will inform you of the date of the hearing. The clerk will send a copy of the IFP to the Sheriff's office, and the Sheriff will attempt to serve the abuser with the papers within 24 hours.

Since the Temporary IFP only lasts until the hearing, it is important that you attend the hearing and give testimony. If you have witnesses, bring them. At this hearing, the judge will decide how long to continue the IFP.

Once you have your Temporary IFP, call Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida to learn if you are eligible for free representation at the hearing.

NOTE: In Brevard, Seminole and Orange Counties CLSMF does not provide this service. Contact the office in your county for more information:

Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar:
(407) 841-8310
Seminole County Bar Assoc. Legal Aid Society:
(407) 834-1660
Brevard County Legal Aid:
(321) 631-2500

STEP 2: WHAT TO DO AT THE FINAL HEARING FOR THE INJUNCTION FOR PROTECTION

- Dress appropriately (as you would for work), and behave appropriately. Remember: You are in court.
- Let the judge know why you need protection. Be as detailed as possible. If necessary, write a list of abusive incidents and bring the list to court to help you explain your case to the judge. Know your dates.
- If you are not represented by an attorney, ask the judge to grant your requests for any and all relief you have asked for in your petition, i.e. Custody, Child Support, Counseling, etc.
- Bring all witnesses and evidence to this hearing. **THIS IS YOUR ONLY HEARING.**

STEP 3: WHAT TO DO IF THE INJUNCTION IS GRANTED AND THE ABUSER DOES NOT OBEY THE ORDER

- If you are in immediate danger, call 911. If you are not in immediate danger, return as soon as possible to the clerk's office where you filed the IFP, and complete a report of violation. This report is called an *affidavit of noncompliance*. Witnesses should also sign an affidavit.
- A hearing will be set, and the abuser will have to show why he or she should not be punished. You will have to go to court.
- If the judge finds that the abuser disobeyed the court order, the judge can put the abuser in jail by finding him/her in contempt. The judge may also issue other sanctions such as fines or changes in custody/visitation.

STEP 4: WHAT ELSE YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- Plan an emergency escape route.
- Keep money saved to use for your escape.
- See if a neighbor will give you emergency shelter.

- Make extra keys to the house and car. Leave them in a safe-and-secure place outside your residence.
- Keep extra clothes for yourself and your child(ren) with a friend, relative, or neighbor.
- Copy important papers: birth certificate, driver's license, vehicle registration, court orders, etc. and keep these papers with a third party.

KEEP YOUR COPY OF THE ORDER OR FINAL JUDGMENT WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES!

If you are abused, call the police as soon as possible. When the police arrive, explain the situation. Once you have described the abuse, the police officer is required by law to give you a package of helpful information, which includes details about where you and your child(ren) can go for shelter, food, clothing, etc.

The police can arrest the abuser if the officer finds evidence of bodily harm and believes your abuser has committed battery. Your abuser can also be arrested if the officer believes you will be in danger if an immediate arrest is not made.

This is the law. It is not necessary for the police to actually see the abuse or for you to have an IFP in order for the abuser to be arrested. If the officer refuses to arrest your abuser, get the officer's name and badge number, and report it to the Police Department.

In order to help prevent the abuse from happening again, protect yourself by cooperating with the State Attorney's Office after the abuser has been arrested. Your testimony will be needed at trial.

Apply for the financial support you need and BREAK THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE!