

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE THROUGH THIS PROJECT?

Low income residents and immigrants of Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties who are victims of domestic violence are eligible.

The following assistance with civil cases will be provided:

- Advocacy & Accompaniment
Legal Advocates can assist with:
 - ♦ Completing applications
 - ♦ Court preparation and support throughout the proceedings
 - ♦ Making referrals for Direct Representation on behalf of their clients.

ATTORNEYS PROVIDE:

- Direct Representation in Final Protective Order Hearings
- Direct Representation for the Modification of a Protective Order
- Direct Representation for divorce, custody and contested custody cases
- All contested custody cases, not just domestic violence cases, qualify.

Resources are limited. We are not able to help everyone who asks for direct representation. For non domestic violence cases contact Mid-Shore Pro Bono Project, 800-574-2249.

MID-SHORE COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE



ABOUT US

Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence is a regional domestic violence program providing crisis and transitional services for victims of domestic violence in Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties.

Services include:

- Shelter
- 24 hour hotline
- Crisis response
- Legal advocacy, direct legal representation in final protective orders and divorce and custody cases
- Support groups
- Abuser Intervention Program
- Public awareness programs.

All services are provided in Spanish through its Bilingual Program.

24 HOUR HOTLINE
1-800-927-4673
www.mscfv.org

Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence
P.O. Box 5
Denton, MD 21629

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPRESENTATION PROJECT

Providing direct legal representation and legal advocacy to victims of domestic violence

MID-SHORE COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE



WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic Violence may be physical, sexual or emotional abuse. It may come from a husband, wife, boyfriend, girlfriend, or even from the caretaker of an elderly person. You may be a victim of domestic violence if you have suffered:

- Beatings or physical attacks such as kicking, slapping, punching, or hair pulling,
- Threats with a weapon such as a gun or knife,
- Threats that cause you to fear for your life or to fear serious injury to yourself, your children, or other family members,
- Repeated, humiliating verbal attacks,
- Imprisonment in your own home or another place,
- Forced sexual contact or rape,
- Isolation from friends and family members.



NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO HARM YOU!

WE CAN HELP

**24 HOUR HOTLINE
1-800-927-4673**

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WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A PROTECTIVE ORDER?

You are eligible to file for a PROTECTIVE ORDER if you are being hurt or threatened by:

- A current spouse,
- Someone with whom you have a child in common,
- A cohabitant—someone you have lived with as a sexual partner for at least 90 days during the previous year (this includes homosexual and heterosexual relationships),
- A parent, stepparent, child, or stepchild you have lived with for at least 90 days within the past year, or
- Any person to whom you are related by blood, marriage, or adoption.

If you do not meet the eligibility criteria for a Protective Order, you may be eligible for a PEACE ORDER.

WHAT ACTIONS MUST HAVE BEEN COMMITTED AGAINST YOU?

The person who applies for a Protective Order (called the “Petitioner”) must have been a victim of abuse. The law defines abuse as:

- An act that caused physical harm
- An act that placed the person in fear of serious bodily harm,
- Assault in any degree,
- Rape or sexual assault, or attempted rape or sexual assault,
- False imprisonment - keeping someone in a place against his or her will, or
- Stalking.

3 TYPES OF PROTECTIVE ORDERS

- **Interim**—When courts are closed, District Court Commissioners may issue Interim Peace and Protective Orders which last until the Judge holds a temporary hearing.
- **Temporary**—Lasts for seven days unless extended by a Judge.
- **Final**—A Protective Order may last up to one year, with a possible extension; a Peace Order may last up to six months.

Note: The order goes into effect once the respondent is served by a law enforcement officer.