

What Help is Available?

IF YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER, CALL 9-1-1

If you need emergency shelter, you may call the **Women Against Abuse shelter program** to find safe, short-term housing. **Call 1-866-723-3014.**

The CARIE Line (1-800-356-3606) can assist a caller of any age by giving information about victim rights, referrals to community resources, problem solving and victim support services.

SeniorLAW Center (215-988-1244) provides attorneys who can listen to your questions and concerns and address your legal issues. You can come to our office at 100 S. Broad Street, 18th floor, Philadelphia, PA. You don't need an appointment to speak with an attorney and get answers, including whether a Protection From Abuse Order is right for you. The attorney can also counsel you about non-legal resources and connect you to other organizations that provide non-legal services such as supportive counseling or new housing.

If you are a victim of abuse, the most important thing you can do is to seek legal help immediately.

Even if you believe that you will never be hurt or threatened again, **speaking with an attorney can help you to understand your options.**

SeniorLAW Center has no duty to report abuse unless you wish us to do so. Everything you tell us is completely **confidential.**

As a victim, you have certain rights, including the right to privacy, to refuse to talk to media and to have your advocate serve as liaison with media if you wish. Your victim advocate will provide more information about your full "bill of rights" as a victim. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

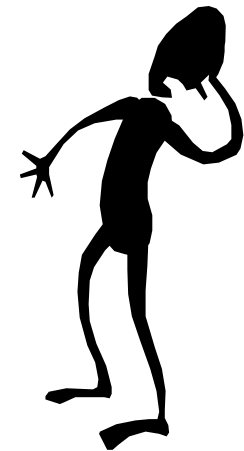
We are committed to keeping you safe and helping you to regain control over your life.

**Call SeniorLAW Center at
(215) 988-1244**

100 S. Broad Street, Suite 1810
Philadelphia, PA 19110

**No appointment necessary for
Protection from Abuse cases**

Protection From Abuse For SENIORS



**What to do if
you or someone you
know is a victim...**

SeniorLAW Center
100 S. Broad St., 18th Floor
Land Title Building
Philadelphia, PA 19110
(215) 988-1244
www.seniorlawcenter.org

What is Domestic Violence?

Unfortunately, abuse against seniors, like other types of domestic violence, is too often kept secret.

Elder abuse includes domestic violence directed against senior citizens. It may affect those that are frail or disabled. A person of any age, race, or gender can become a victim.

The **PA Protection From Abuse Act** defines abuse as:

- Attempting or causing physical injury
- Placing another in fear of physical injury
- Sexual assault
- False imprisonment
- Stalking

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, help is available.

It's free and confidential.

The information in this brochure is not intended to be, or replace, legal advice from an attorney.

What Can I Do If I Am Being Abused?

1. **Call the Philadelphia Police by dialing 9-1-1, if you are in immediate danger of abuse.**

2. File a Protection From Abuse Petition at the Domestic Violence (DV) Unit of Family Court at 34 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA. A petition can be filed **free of charge** Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

3. If an incident occurs when the DV Unit is closed, **Emergency Petitions** are filed at the Criminal Justice Center, 1301 Filbert Street, Room B-03, Philadelphia, PA. Information is available by telephone 24 hours a day at **215-686-3511**.

4. Anyone who files at the Emergency Unit when Family Court is closed should call the DV Unit the next business day (215-686-3512) for instructions on obtaining a copy of the Temporary Order which has been issued.

5. If you have been denied an emergency order, you may go to the DV Unit in Room 242 at Family Court, 34 S. 11th Street during regular business hours.

Protection From Abuse Orders

The Protection From Abuse law permits a court to issue an Order (PFA Order) directing the defendant:

- Not to abuse, threaten, harass or stalk you
- Be evicted from your residence, even if it is also the abuser's residence
- Stay away from you
- Turn over weapons to the police

A PFA Order is available if you have been abused by:

- A current or former spouse
- A parent or child
- Current or former sexual or intimate partner
- Household member
- Others related by blood or marriage

A judge will review your PFA petition after it is filed and determine whether a temporary order should be issued. A hearing for a final order must occur within 10 business days.

A Final Order for Protection From Abuse can be in force up to **36 months**. The Final Order can sometimes be extended if the abuse has continued or threats made after the Final Order was entered.