

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE and THE LAW

A Practical Guide for Survivors

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Experiencing domestic violence can be frightening and confusing. It can also make people feel very alone. If you have a boyfriend, girlfriend, or spouse that is abusive, there are people who want to help.

This booklet can help explain your legal rights. If you need help right now, you may need to read this book later after you are out of immediate danger.

Try not to solve this problem on your own and always try to put your safety first.

What to do RIGHT NOW:

- **CALL 911.**

If you are in danger right now, call the police. You do not need to decide whether a crime has been committed to call them for help. They can drive you to somewhere safe and provide you with information. You can also call them if you need medical attention.

- **CALL someone to HELP and SUPPORT you.**

If you have a friend or family member to help you through this, consider confiding in them. There is an agency in almost every county in North Carolina that can help you. All of them have 24-hour hotlines where you can call for information and help. These agencies are listed, by county, at the back of this book.

During a fight. . .

- Avoid small rooms where you could get trapped, and rooms that contain weapons such as kitchen knives or garage tools.
- Protect your face and head by curling into a tight ball and going into the nearest corner.
- Teach your children to stay away from the fighting so they won't get hurt.
- Make up code words to alert friends or family members that you are in danger.
- If you can confide in your neighbors, ask them to call for help if they hear the abuse or see a pre-arranged signal (for example, your porch light is on or blinking during the daytime).

Planning to leave. . .

- Think about a place you can go where your partner will not find you: a shelter, church/synagogue/mosque/temple, friend's home, hotel, etc.
- Pack an emergency bag including medication, a change of clothes, basic hygiene items, money, spare car, house & office keys, bus pass, and diapers, bottles & formula if necessary (hide the bag in a place ONLY you can easily access such as: your car trunk, shed, garage, office or neighbor's house).
- Collect and hide outside your house originals or copies of documents such as marriage & birth certificates, passports, your and your partner's social security & drivers license numbers, bank account numbers, ATM card, and home & car titles.
- Be cautious about telling your children about your escape plan, to insure they will not accidentally reveal your arrangements.

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Introduction

Domestic violence under the law is physical abuse and continued harassment done by family members and other people that live in the same house. It can include slapping, punching, beating, kicking, or threats to hurt you. It can include forcing you to have sex.

Violent behavior toward anyone is wrong no matter who does it.

What is Domestic Violence Under North Carolina Law?

The organizations listed in the back of this booklet can help you no matter what type of abuse you have suffered.

1. Physical Abuse Under the Law.

The legal definition of domestic violence in North Carolina is physical violence and threats. Physical violence includes kicking, beating, grabbing, using a weapon against you (like a knife, gun or a hammer), slapping, pushing, pulling your hair, throwing you (on the floor, down stairs, etc.) or throwing something at you or near you in order to scare you.

Physical Abuse may also be:

- forced sex;
- destruction of your possessions to make you believe you might get physically hurt (like ripping your clothes or destroying your personal items); and
- threatening behavior. For example, if someone lets you know that if you get up from a chair or leave a room, you will be hurt physically.

2. Threats Under the Law.

The legal definition of domestic violence includes placing someone in fear of imminent serious bodily harm by threat of force. This may include threats of violence and statements like "I will hit you," "If you leave, I will hurt you," or "If you tell anyone, I will kill you." Domestic violence does not include threats to take custody of the children or to leave the home.

3. Child Abuse Under the Law.

The legal definition of domestic violence also includes violence against your children, such as actions that cause marks or bruises on your children. Domestic violence may also include sexual abuse of children, such as fondling or rape.

4. Stalking.

Domestic Violence can be stalking, which is defined as "harassment to the level of emotional distress." Stalking includes following someone around either

on foot or in a vehicle. The person being followed would feel threatened or intimidated because he or she is being followed. This also includes harassing or threatening telephone calls, letters, or other communication made with the intent to terrorize someone or put the person in fear of his or her safety.

Domestic Violence Under the Law is

- 1. Physical Abuse.**
- 2. Threats.**
- 3. Child Abuse.**
- 4. Stalking.**

How Can a Victim of Domestic Violence Get Help?

1. CALL THE POLICE.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, you can call the police or county sheriff for help. **BE READY TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HARM FOR AT LEAST A SHORT WHILE.** The police are only required to respond to your call as soon as practicable.

The law requires the police to provide you with:

- INFORMATION**

Law enforcement officers are trained to know and be able to tell you where the closest shelters for domestic violence victims are located. If you are hurt, in need of food, clothing or counseling, the police can direct you to a place for help.

- TRANSPORTATION**

Law enforcement officers should take you where you need to go to get help, whether it be the home of a friend or family member, shelter or hospital. The police can also take you to the magistrate's office if you want to file a criminal

complaint. If you can do it safely, leave the house and take your children, pets, and important things with you.

- **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

Law enforcement officers are authorized by law to do whatever is reasonable to protect you from harm. The police can arrest your abusive partner if they have good reason to believe that your partner has hurt you. They can also arrest your abusive partner if they believe he has violated a court order by hurting you or coming to your house.

- **COLLECT EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN BEATEN OR THREATENED.**

When the police arrive, give them torn or bloody clothing, pictures or any other evidence of an attack (if you have any). Be sure to give the police names and phone numbers of any witnesses to your attack. If there is a court order that your partner has violated, give the police a copy of it so they can arrest him for violating the order. You should also give the police a copy of separation, divorce or custody papers, if there are any.

- **ASK THE POLICE TO MAKE A REPORT OF WHAT HAPPENED.**

Ask the police to take pictures of your injuries and any damage to your home or belongings and to conduct an investigation. You may ask for the police officer's name and badge number so that the officer can be a witness for you in any civil or criminal proceeding you may bring against your abusive partner. Write this information down so you can report it to the district attorney if you sign a criminal complaint.

If you do not press criminal charges against your abusive partner, the police may be less likely to help you in the future and your abusive partner may believe that he or she can get away with hurting you.

2. USE THE COURT SYSTEM.

To get started with the court system, you can contact:

- **MAGISTRATE.** If the police officer does not file criminal charges against your abusive partner, you can go to the local magistrate and sign a criminal complaint. Look in your local phone book in the blue pages for the telephone number and location of the magistrate's office.

- **CLERK OF COURT.** You can go to your local clerk of court's office to

file a request for a civil complaint and motion for a domestic violence protective order. A local domestic violence assistance agency should be able to assist you in preparing these forms.

- **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM.** You can contact your local domestic violence agency. The phone numbers are listed at the back of this booklet.

- **AN ATTORNEY.** You can contact an attorney for legal advice. If you cannot afford an attorney, then you can contact your local legal services organization for assistance. The phone numbers are listed at the back of this booklet.

3. PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY.

If you leave the residence, take your children with you. Do not leave them with your abusive partner. If you have left the house and can come back to get the children safely, do so. If you can take your pets safely and have somewhere for them to stay, take them with you too. It is better to talk to an attorney before you move with your children out of North Carolina.

How Can You Get Help?

- 1. Call the Police**
- 2. Use the Court System**
- 3. Protect Your Children's Safety**

How Does the Law Protect People Against Domestic Violence?

You have two distinct options: criminal court and civil court. You can file and pursue actions in both courts at the same time.

1. You can bring CRIMINAL CHARGES if:

- You have suffered violence in an abusive relationship, regardless of whether

you are married to or living with the abuser.

2. You can and should file a CHILD ABUSE COMPLAINT if:

- You suspect or know about abuse of any child. Reports of child abuse go to your county Department of Social Services. Their phone number is listed in the blue pages of your phone book under the county section.

3. You can file for CIVIL RELIEF (a "Protective Order") in the civil courts if:

- You are currently married to the person abusing you;
- You used to be married to the person abusing you;
- You are currently living with or have previously lived with the person abusing you;
- You and the person who is hurting you are related as parents or grandparents. You can not get an order against a child under 16;
- You are dating or used to date the person who is abusing you and you are different sexes;
- You and the person abusing you have a child in common.

How Does a Victim of Domestic Violence Start a Criminal Case?

1. REPORT THE CRIME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

If you can get to a telephone, call the police immediately. If the police witness an assault, they are required by law to make an arrest on the spot. You should never remain in a place of danger in order to allow the police to witness the violence. They can make an arrest even if they don't witness it if they have enough evidence to believe an assault occurred. This is called "probable cause."

2. BE PREPARED TO TELL WHAT HAPPENED

If the police do not witness the assault, and do not find "probable cause," you may have to go to the magistrate's office to file charges. You will need to describe to the magistrate what happened to you and take along with you any witnesses to the domestic violence and any evidence of injury or abuse, including pictures, torn or blood-stained clothes and medical reports. Upon hearing your sworn testimony, the magistrate should issue a criminal summons or a

warrant, even if you do not have physical evidence of abuse.

3. MOST COMMON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRIMES

• RAPE AND SEXUAL OFFENSE

A person is guilty of raping you if they have vaginal intercourse with you by force and against your will. If the person that rapes you uses or displays a dangerous weapon, causes serious personal injury on you, or is aided in the crime by one or more other persons, the crime is first degree rape and the abuser may be sentenced to life imprisonment. A person is guilty of a sexual offense against you if they force you to have sexual activity (other than vaginal intercourse) by force and against your will.

• ASSAULT (can be either a misdemeanor or a felony)

Misdemeanor assault is an act or an attempt, with force and violence, to do immediate physical injury to you and to put you in fear of immediate bodily harm. The assault will result in a more serious penalty if the victim is a child younger than 12, or, if a male older than 18 assaults a female. These crimes are called "assault on a child" and "assault on a female." Felonies are more serious crimes usually resulting in stiffer penalties. A felony assault is one in which a weapon is used with the intent to kill or cause serious injury to someone. Also, strangulation is a common form of domestic abuse, and when strangulation results in injury, it can be charged as a felony.

• DOMESTIC CRIMINAL TRESPASS

First, domestic criminal trespass happens only when you and your former partner live in different homes.

A person is guilty of domestic criminal trespass if he or she is a former partner and comes to your residence after your separation and after you have asked him or her not to come to your residence, or, if he or she refuses your request to leave your residence after your separation.

• COMMUNICATING THREATS

A person is guilty of communicating threats against you if, without lawful authority, he or she threatens to physically injure you or damage your property, the threat is spoken or in writing, and is made in such a way that it would cause a reasonable person to believe that it is likely to be carried out (and you actually believe that the threat will be carried out).

• STALKING

The offense of stalking occurs when a person willfully and continually follows you or is in your presence without legal purpose and with the intent to cause emotional distress to you by placing you in reasonable fear of death or bodily injury. To be illegal, the stalking must occur on more than one occasion.

Stalking may also include threatening telephone calls or other forms of threatening communication which is made for the purpose of terrorizing the victim or placing the victim in fear of his/her personal safety.

- **HARASSING PHONE CALLS**

Using profane, indecent or threatening language against you over the telephone or on your answering machine is illegal. This includes annoying or harassing you by making false statements over the telephone or by repeated calling.

TIPS AND POINTERS FOR THE CRIMINAL TRIAL

- **Attend the Trial**

You will need to be present in court to testify about what happened. You will be contacted by the District Attorney's office with the court date and/or you may contact their office. Their phone number is listed in the blue pages of the phone book.

- **The District Attorney is Your Attorney**

You may contact the district attorney's office before the trial date to discuss the case and the evidence that you will be able to present. If there are any witnesses to the domestic violence that was committed against you, you should let the district attorney know as soon as possible and request that they be subpoenaed to appear at the trial. If you do not think that you can attend the trial, let the district attorney know immediately.

- **Expect Continuances**

Criminal cases are often continued for many different reasons. It is important to keep track of the date on which the case is scheduled to return and, once again, to go to court at the appropriate time and day.

- **Convictions and Punishment**

If the person abusing you (the defendant) is found guilty, the punishment will be decided by the judge. The punishment can be influenced by the type of crime and the abuser's criminal history.

- If you do not appear on the day scheduled for trial, your case may be dismissed. Also, you may be ordered to pay court costs.
- Be present and ready to have all witnesses available on short notice. Cooperate with the district attorney and tell him or her everything you can remember about the domestic violence against you.
- If the abuser attacks you again (after he or she has been found guilty),

you can take out another warrant for the abuser's arrest and should report the attack to his or her probation officer.

- 1. Report the Crime Immediately**
- 2. Explain What Happened Clearly and Thoroughly**
- 3. Know the Court Date. Show up on time!**
- 4. The District Attorney is YOUR attorney. Cooperate with him or her.**

How Does a Victim of Domestic Violence Use the Civil Justice System?

What can the Judge order?

A Domestic Violence Protective Order can provide some or all of the following relief:

- the abuser may not assault, threaten, harass or contact you
- the abuser may not follow you or go to your home, work, school, or other places that you normally go
- possession of the residence so that the abuser cannot return there and/or an order that the abuser leave the residence
- suitable housing other than the former residence
- law enforcement assistance in evicting the abuser from the residence and/or in returning you to it
- temporary custody of the minor children. (You may be asked to show that the children are in danger of violence or abuse)
- temporary child support
- temporary payments for your support if you and the abuser are married (most judges will not award this immediately unless you are handicapped or unless other very special and compelling circumstances exist)
- possession of a vehicle

- possession of your furniture and other household goods
- possession of certain other items of personal property (for example, the tools you use for your work or your child's wheelchair)
- your attorney's fees for the civil case to be paid for by the abuser
- temporary visitation rights
- that the abuser be prohibited from purchasing a firearm
- that the abuser attend and complete an approved abuser treatment program if it is within a reasonable distance.

Getting Your Domestic Violence Protective Order

Step One: Prepare and File the Forms

The Clerk of Court at your local county courthouse should be able to give you the appropriate forms to get started. Ask for a "*Complaint and Motion for Domestic Violence Protective Order*" and a "*Civil Summons*." When you describe the domestic violence against you on the complaint form, start with the most recent act of violence first; then go back in time and describe each violent act. Be thorough and add extra sheets if you need to. If the violence has caused any injuries such as bruises, knots or wounds, include that information in the appropriate place on the complaint. Also, be prepared to tell the judge about your injuries and any injuries to your children. If your abusive partner is violent while using alcohol and illegal drugs, tell the judge in the complaint and remind him or her of it in court. **It is very important to show the judge on paper why you are afraid now.** The judge will read your complaint and may ask you more questions in the courtroom. In the complaint, remember to ask for *all* the kinds of relief you want, particularly custody of the children.

Step Two: The Ex Parte Hearing

If you are in serious, immediate danger, you should ask the judge to issue a temporary or *ex parte* order. *Ex parte* means that the order will be issued without your abusive partner being notified of or going to the hearing. The order protects you while the summons and complaint are being served by the

sheriff to your abusive partner and before he has the chance to come before the judge. The order is only good for ten (10) days and the *ex parte* hearing usually takes place within 24 hours of filing the complaint. Take steps to protect yourself during this time, especially if you think your abusive partner will hurt you because of the actions you are taking to protect yourself.

Step Three: Service on the Abuser

The law requires that the abuser receive a copy of the complaint and motion by personal delivery from your local sheriff. This process is called "service." The judge cannot go to Step Four, the 10-day hearing, until the defendant-abuser has been served. You can give the documents to the sheriff and he or she will attempt service quickly. Give the sheriff as many addresses and phone numbers to reach the abuser that you can gather. It is also helpful to give a full description of the abuser and to complete a form called "Identifying Information about Defendant," which you can get from the clerk's office.

Step Four: The 10-Day Hearing

A full hearing with you, your witness, the abuser and the judge will take place ten days after the summons is issued and the complaint is filed, assuming the abuser has been served with your complaint. Be sure you bring with you to the courtroom any witnesses to the domestic violence against you and all evidence you can gather, such as pictures, medical reports, answering machine messages, and/or torn clothing. If you do not have any evidence, do not worry. They are not required, but they do help the judge believe you. Be prepared to describe to the judge in detail what the abuser has done to you and why you are still afraid of him or her now. Tell the judge about the most recent and most violent episodes first. Be aware that your abuser can ask you questions in court. Keep calm, if you can.

Your abuser is also going to have a chance to tell his side of the story. Do not get upset if the abuser contradicts what you say. Judges have seen many cases of domestic violence and will expect contradictions in the testimony. If the judge believes you are truthful, he or she should give you some form of domestic violence relief.

If the papers are not served on the abuser by the date of the 10-day hearing, the judge may issue another temporary, *ex parte* order or extend your original *ex parte* order until the next court date. You will have to return on later dates until the abuser has been served.

Ask the Judge for Relief

Be certain that you tell the judge exactly what relief you want. You may find it helpful to make a list before you go to court so you do not forget anything. If your circumstances have changed or if you have changed your mind since you filed the complaint, you can change the type of relief you ask for. The judge has the final decision about what kind of relief you will get although the judge will ask for your opinion.

Step Five: Keep Your Court Order with You at All Times

The local law enforcement authorities must keep copies of these orders on file, but you should keep a copy in your purse or other safe place near you so that you can show the police or magistrate that you have a domestic violence order should the abuser violate it.

Step Six: Extensions after the First Year

Your Domestic Violence Protection Order will only last for one year at most. You can get the order extended beyond one year if the abuser continues to be a threat to your physical safety. You must apply for the extension before your original order expires. Forms are available at the clerk of court's office. Again, you must write specifically what the abuser did that was in violation of the order, or why you think that you need to be protected for a longer time, there will be another hearing and you will need to explain your reasons to the judge. The judge may extend your original court order or any succeeding order for up to one year.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What happens if the Abuser Violates the Order?

a) You can call the police. A violation of a domestic violence court order is a criminal offense and you can contact the magistrate's office or the police and have the abuser arrested immediately. The police should arrest the abuser if you show them you have a court order and they reasonably believe that the abuser has violated it. Also, if you have to flee a state due to the actions of the abuser, the abuser may have committed a federal crime and you can call your local U.S. attorney's office (look for the phone number in the blue pages of the phone book).

b) You can file a "motion for entry of contempt." Your safety may depend on showing the abuser that you intend to enforce your legal rights. You can

contact an attorney to file a motion for entry of contempt or you can file a motion yourself. The forms are available at the clerk of court's office. Again, you must write specifically what the abuser did that was in violation of the order, and you and the abuser must appear before a judge. The judge may tell the abuser that if the abuser violates the order, he or she will be jailed; or the judge may find that the order has already been violated and sentence the abuser to jail or order that he or she pay a fine.

2. What happens if you contact the abuser?

If the judge has ordered the abuser not to contact you, try to refrain from any telephone or personal contact with the abuser. Although you are not violating the law, the judge may be less likely to enforce the order. If you have let the abuser into your home (even if you have started living together again), you can reapply for relief if further domestic violence occurs, but the abuser may be less likely to take a second court order seriously. More importantly, the court may begin to question your credibility and concern for protecting your own safety.

3. What if my abuser's actions make me move?

If you have a valid protective order from another state, it will be enforced by North Carolina law enforcement agencies. Also, other states will enforce your North Carolina order and it is a good idea to get a "certified" copy from the clerk before you move.

4. How does moving affect my child custody rights?

If you relocate with or without your children because of an act of domestic violence, the court is not allowed to use that fact against you in determining custody or visitation. In custody decisions, the court will consider acts of domestic violence, the safety of your child and safety of either party from domestic violence by the other party. The court may:

- designate a time and place for the exchange of children away from the abused party;
- order the participation of a third party; or
- require supervised visitation.

5. What if my abuser has an attorney that comes with him to the ten day hearing?

You should also get an attorney if your abuser is represented. You may ask the court for a continuance to find an attorney. If the court allows the continuance, the ex parte order will also be in effect until the new court date.

If you cannot afford an attorney, you should contact the nearest Legal Aid or Legal Services office as soon as possible. You can find a list of those services at the back of this booklet.

6. What if my abuser's attorney wants me to settle or dismiss the case?

Sometimes, it may be better to reach a settlement and not have a formal hearing, but this decision should only be made thinking about what is right for you. This is your choice to make, and you do not have to agree to anything offered by your abuser's attorney. If you can, talk to an attorney about any documents or settlement before you sign anything. These settlement documents are usually called consent orders. If you cannot find your own attorney, make sure that any documents you sign have protective provisions that you can use if you need to call the police.

7. What if my abuser wants me to agree to a mutual protective order?

A mutual protective order is one in which both you and the defendant are ordered to stay away from each other, not call each other, etc. The court cannot issue (and you do not have to agree to sign) a mutual protective order (that is, an order that you might be violating) unless:

- the defendant has also filed a complaint against you; and
- the court finds that both you and the defendant acted as aggressors (and not in self-defense).

8. What can I do to cope with my feelings after being abused?

You may find it helpful to talk with someone outside of your circle of family and friends. Seek counseling from volunteers at a shelter or other domestic violence assistance program and get any documents or reports from your visit for use in court later. Counseling may be important to your recovery from the domestic violence against you, and may help you sort out your feelings. A list of domestic violence agencies are listed at the end of this booklet.

9. What if it is not safe for me to stay in my home?

If you do not think it is safe for you to stay in your home, stay with friends or relatives. In cases where staying with friends or relatives may not be

safe, consider going to a shelter. Most counties have emergency temporary shelters for victims of domestic violence and their children. A list of those programs are at the back of this booklet.

10. What do I do about my money and important things after I have left my home?

After you are in a safe place, get money out of bank accounts to which your abuser also has access. Collect important personal belongings after you leave the house, if you can safely. Remember, the police can and should escort you back to your home to get your belongings. Also, you can ask the judge for a provision in your protective order allowing you to get the household goods and other personal things you need.

Immigrant North Carolinians

If you are not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (have your "green card") and have been abused, you may be eligible to continue staying in this country. If your abuser is your spouse or your parent, you do not have to rely on the abuser to support your petition for a green card.

If you are not married to your abuser, you can file for a "U-visa," which allows you to stay in this country for three years. After three years, you may be eligible to receive a green card.

If you were abused in your home country and are afraid of going back to your home country because your abuser is still in that country, you may qualify as a refugee or asylum seeker.

If someone promised you a job and a visa to come to this country, but you were actually forced to have sex to pay off your debts, you may be eligible for a "T-visa." T-visa holders can remain in this country for three years and then may be eligible to receive a green card.

If you have been abused and are not a citizen or permanent resident, you should talk to an immigration attorney. Although not all Legal Aid and Legal Services offer immigration services, they will have names of attorneys in the area that are willing to help.

American Indian North Carolinians

Some of the information provided here applies to all North Carolinians. In some cases, however, there are differences for American Indian North Carolinians. If either you or the person who abused you are members of the Cherokee Indian tribe, the proper place to file criminal and civil charges is the Tribal Court. Even if you are not Cherokee, if you live on the reservation, you should file papers with the Tribal Court.

There are a few things to know about how the Cherokee Tribal Court works. There are advocates who can help explain the process to you and make sure you are not alone. You can call the domestic violence agency listed in the table that follows for help. In order to reach the Tribal Court, call (828) 497-7874 or (828) 497-7720. If you have access to the Internet, you can read the Cherokee Tribal Rules for the NC Eastern Band of Cherokee by going to the following internet address: <http://www.tribalresourcecenter.org/ccfolder/eccodetoc.htm>.

The following is a list of organizations and tribes located around the state that will give information and referrals to American Indians. Help is available.

Cumberland County

Cumberland County Association for
Indian People
(910) 483-8442
Email: ccaip@onp.wdsc.org

Guilford County

Guilford Native American Association
(336) 273-8686
Email: warbnash@yahoo.com

Halifax-Warren County

Haliwa-Saponi Tribe
(252) 586-4017
Email: jor@coastalnet.com

Person County

Indians of Person County
(336) 599-5020
Email: sapony@starpower.net

Wake County

Triangle Native American Society
(919) 661-2515

Statewide Advocacy

The North Carolina Commission
of Indian Affairs
www.doa.state.nc.us/doa/cia/indian.btm
(919) 733-5998

Help Is Available

Almost every county in North Carolina has a domestic violence service provider. These agencies are designed to assist victims of domestic violence by providing information, support and emergency response, like emergency shelter and confidential hotlines.

You may also need an attorney. To see if you are eligible to receive the services of an attorney, you should call the legal services office in your area (see table below).

ALAMANCE COUNTY

Family Abuse Services
PO Box 2192
Burlington, NC 27216
Office: (336) 226-5982
Crisis: (336) 226-5985
Fax: (336) 226-7303
www.familyabuseservices.org

ALEXANDER COUNTY

Domestic Violence Resource Center
Po Box 652
Taylorsville, NC 28681
Office: (828) 635-8850
Crisis: (828) 635-8881
Fax: (828) 635-8841
www.dvralexander.org

ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Domestic Abuse is Not
Acceptable (DANA)
PO Box 1643
Sparta, NC 28675
Office : (336) 372-2846
Fax: (336) 372-7705
www.danaservices.org

ANSON COUNTY

Anson Co. DV Coalition
PO Box 694
Wadesboro, NC 28170
Office: (704) 694-4499
Crisis: (704) 690-0362
Fax: (704) 694-4515

ASHE COUNTY

A Safe Home for Everyone (A.S.H.E)
626 Ashe Central School Rd., Unit 1
Jefferson, NC 28640
Office: (336) 982-8851
Crisis: (336) 246-5430
Fax: (336) 982-8860

www.ashehome.org

AVERY COUNTY

Acada, Inc.
PO Box 1645
Newland, NC 28657
Office: (828) 733-3512
Crisis: (828) 733-3512
Fax: (828) 733-7319

BEAUFORT COUNTY

Options to DV/SA, Inc.
PO Box 1387
Washington, NC 27889
Office: (252) 946-3219
Crisis (toll free): 877-723-8390
Crisis: (252) 946-3219
Fax : (252) 948-1477
www.optionstodomesticviolence.com

BERTIE COUNTY

(See Hertford County)

BLADEN COUNTY

Families First Inc.
(Satellite Office)
PO Box 1776
Whiteville, NC 28472
Office: (910) 642-5996
Crisis: (910) 641-0444
Fax: (910) 644-0253

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Hope Harbor Home, Inc.
PO Box 230
Supply, NC 28462
Office: (910) 754-5726
Crisis: (910) 754-5856
Fax: (910) 754-9049

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Helpmate

68 Grove St.
Asheville, NC 28801
Office: (828) 254-2968
Crisis: (828) 254-0516
Fax: (828) 254-0720
www.belpmateonline.org

Interlace
34 Wall St. Ste. 607
Asheville, NC 28801
Office: (828) 252-1155
Fax: (828) 259-9469

BURKE COUNTY

Options
PO Box 2512
Morganton, NC 28680
Office: (828) 438-9444
Crisis: (828) 438-9444
Fax: (828) 437-0323

CABARRUS COUNTY

CVAN - Women's Program
PO Box 1749
Concord, NC 28026-1749
Office: (704) 788-1108
Crisis: (704) 788-2826
Fax: (704) 788-1109

CALDWELL COUNTY

Shelter Home of Caldwell County
PO Box 426
Lenoir, NC 28645
Office: (828) 758-0888
Crisis: (828) 758-0888
Fax: (828) 758-8949

CAMDEN COUNTY

(See Pasquotank County)

CARTERET COUNTY

Carteret Co. DV Program
PO Box 2279
Morehead City, NC 28557
Office: (252) 726-2336
Crisis: (252) 728-3788
Fax: (252) 726-8996

CASWELL COUNTY

Caswell Family Violence
Prevention
PO Box 967
Yanceyville, NC 27379
Office: (336) 694-6428
Crisis: (336) 694-5655

Fax: (336) 694-9056

CATAWBA COUNTY

First Step Domestic Violence Program
17 Hwy 70 SE
Hickory, NC 28602
Office: (828) 322-1400
Crisis: (828) 228-1787 or 911
Fax: (828) 324-8682

CHATHAM COUNTY

Family Violence & Rape Crisis Serv.
PO Box 1105
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Office: (919) 542-5445
Crisis: (919) 545-0224
Fax: (919) 542-6414
www.fvrc.org

Coalition for Family Peace
PO Box 961
Siler City, NC 27344
Office: (919) 742-7320
Crisis: (919) 545-0224
Fax: (919) 742-7323

CHOWAN COUNTY

(See Pasquotank Co. for main office)
Hopeline -
Satellite office: (252) 482-9918

CHEROKEE COUNTY

Task Force on Family Violence/
REACH, Inc.
84 Valley River Ave.
PO Box 977
Murphy, NC 28906
Office: (828) 837-2097
Crisis: (828) 837-8064
Fax: (828) 835-3434

CLAY COUNTY

REACH of Clay County
PO Box 1485
Hayesville, NC 28904
Office: (828) 389-0797
Crisis: (828) 389-0797
Fax: (828) 389-0486

CLEVELAND COUNTY

Abuse Prevention Council, Inc.
PO Box 2589
Shelby, NC 28151
Office: (704) 487-9325
Crisis: (704) 481-0043

Fax: (704) 487-9314
www.geocities.com/clevelandcountypc/

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Families First, Inc.
PO Box 1776
Whiteville, NC 28472
Office: (910) 642-5996
Crisis: (910) 641-0444
Fax: (910) 641-0253
www.columbus.org

CRAVEN COUNTY

Coastal Women's Shelter
1333 S. Glenburnie Rd.,
P.O. Box 13081
New Bern, NC 28561
Office: (252) 638-4509
Crisis: (252) 638-5995
Fax: (252) 638-1298
www.always-online.com/cws

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

CARE- Family Domestic Violence Program
1225 Ramsey
Fayetteville, NC 28301
Office: (910) 323-4187
Crisis: (910) 323-4187
Fax: (910) 677-2661

CURRITUCK COUNTY

(See Pasquotank County)

DARE COUNTY

Outer Banks Hotline, Inc.
PO Box 1417
Manteo, NC 27954
Office: (252) 473-5121
Crisis: (252) 473-3366
Fax: (252) 473-9895
Web Site: www.obbotline.org

DAVIDSON COUNTY

Family Services of Davidson Co
PO Box 607
Lexington, NC 27293
Office: (336) 243-1628
Crisis: (336) 243-1934
Fax: (336) 243-7685
Web Site: www.fsdco.org

DAVIE COUNTY

Davie Domestic Violence Services
and Rape Crisis Center
123 South Main Street 3rd Floor

Mocksville, NC 27028
Office: (336) 751-3450
Crisis: (336) 751-4357
Fax: (336) 751-3451
www.co.davie.nc.us

DUPLIN COUNTY

Sarah's Refuge, Inc.
PO Box 368
Warsaw, NC 28398
Office: (910) 293-3467
Crisis (toll free): 877-299-8111
Crisis: (910) 293-3206
Fax: (910) 293-3973

DURHAM COUNTY

Durham Crisis Response Center
206 N. Dillard St
Durham, NC 27701
Office: (919) 403-9425
Crisis: (919) 403-6562
Fax: (919) 490-9726
www.durhamcrisisresponse.org

EDGECOMBE COUNTY

My Sister's House
PO Box 7665
Rocky Mount, NC 27804-0665
Office: (252) 462-0366
Crisis (toll free): 888-465-9507
Crisis (252): 459-3094
Fax: (252) 462-0555
www.mysistersbousenc.org

FORSYTH COUNTY

Family Services, Inc.
1200 S. Broad Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Office: (336) 722-8173
Toll free: 1-800-316-5513
Crisis: (336) 723-8125
Fax: (336) 724-6491
www.familyserv.org

Family Services Shelter (Shelter office)
PO Box 604
Winston-Salem, NC 27102
Office: (336) 724-3979
Fax: (336) 724-3970

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Safe Space
PO Box 240
Louisburg, NC 27549
Office: (919) 497-5599

Crisis (toll free): 800-620-6120
Crisis: (919) 497-5444
Or 1-800-620-6120
Fax: (919) 497-1761
www.ncsafespace.org

GASTON COUNTY

Shelter of Gaston County
330 N. Marietta St.
Gastonia, NC 28052
Office: (704) 810-6492
Crisis: (704) 852-6000
Fax: (704) 852-6004
Website: *www.co.gaston.nc.us/sbelter*

GATES COUNTY

(See Pasquotank County or Hertford County)

GRAHAM COUNTY

Hope for Families
PO Box 2298
Robbinsville, NC 28771
Office: (828) 479-4612
Crisis: (828) 479-4332
Fax: (828) 479-4973

GRANVILLE COUNTY

Families Living Violence Free
1003 N Durham Road
Creedmoor, NC 27522
Office: (919) 693-2662
Crisis: (919) 693-2324
Fax: (919) 693-9652

GREENE COUNTY

(See Lenoir County)

GUILFORD COUNTY

Family Service of the Piedmont
1401 Long Street
High Point, NC 27262-2541
Office: (336) 889-6161
Fax: (336) 387-9167
www.familyservice-piedmont.org

Greensboro Location:
315 East Washington St.
Greensboro, NC 27401
Office: (336) 387-6161
Fax: (336) 273-7273
www.safeandbealthyfamilies.com

HALIFAX COUNTY

Hannah's Place

PO Box 1392
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
Office: (252) 537-2882
Crisis: (252) 535-5946
Fax: (252) 308-9781
bannabspplace@embarqmail.com

HARNETT COUNTY

SAFE of Harnett Co.
PO Box 728
Lillington, NC 27546
Office: (910) 893-7233
Crisis: (910) 893-7233
Fax: (910) 893-3508
www.safeofhc.org

HAYWOOD COUNTY

REACH of Haywood County, Inc.
PO Box 206
Waynesville, NC 28786
Office: (828) 456-7898
Crisis: (828) 456-7898
Fax: (828) 452-0960
www.haywoodreach.com

30th Judicial District DV-SA
Alliance, Inc.
PO Box 554
Waynesville, NC 28786
Office: (828) 452-2122
Fax: (828) 456-9739
www.30thalliance.org

HENDERSON COUNTY

Mainstay
133 Fifth Avenue West
Hendersonville, NC 28792
Office: (828) 693-3840
Crisis: (828) 693-3840
Hispanic Hotline: (828) 674-5099
Fax: (828) 696-8104
www.mainstaybelp.org

HERTFORD COUNTY

Roanoke-Chowan SAFE
PO Box 98
Ahoskie, NC 27910
Office: (252) 332-1933
Crisis: (252) 332-1933

HOKE COUNTY

Life after Life
112 E Elwood Avenue
Raeford, NC 28376
Office: (910) 878-0118

Crisis: (910) 878-0118
Fax: (910) 875-8443

HYDE COUNTY
(See Beaufort County)

IREDELL COUNTY
My Sister's House
PO Box 5217
Statesville, NC 28687
Office: (704) 872-4045
Crisis: (704) 872-3403
Fax: (704) 873-3319

JACKSON COUNTY
REACH of Jackson County
PO Box 1908
Sylva, NC 28779
Office: (828) 631-4488
Crisis: (828) 586-1911
Fax: (828) 631-4477
www.reachofjackson.com

JOHNSTON COUNTY
Harbor, Inc
PO Box 1903
Smithfield, NC 27577
Office: (919) 938-3566
Crisis (toll free) 877-934-0233
Crisis: (919) 934-6161
Fax: (919) 938-4515
www.harboorsbeller.org

JONES COUNTY
(See Craven County)

LEE COUNTY
Haven
160 Charlotte Avenue
PO Box 3191
Sanford, NC 27331-3191
Office: (919) 774-8923
Crisis: (919) 774-8923
Fax: (919) 775-7114
www.haveninleecounty.org

LENOIR COUNTY
SAFE in Lenoir County
834 Hardy Road
Suite 820A
Kinston, NC 285024
Office: (252) 523-5573
Crisis: (252) 523-5573
Fax: (252) 523-9888

LINCOLN COUNTY
Lincoln Co. Coalition Against D.V.
PO Box 476
Lincolnton, NC 28093
Office: (704) 736-0112
Crisis: (704) 736-1224
Fax: (704) 736-0171

MACON COUNTY
REACH of Macon County
PO Box 228
Franklin, NC 28744
Office: (828) 369-5544
Crisis: (828) 369-9116
Fax: (828) 524-4535
www.reachofmacon.org

MADISON COUNTY
My Sister's Place
PO Box 457
Marshall, NC 28753
Office: (828) 649-2582
Crisis (toll free) 888-765-3441
Crisis: (828) 649-2446
Fax: (828) 649-1287

MARTIN COUNTY
(See Beaufort County)

McDOWELL COUNTY
Family Services of McDowell Co.
PO Box 1572
Marion, NC 28752
Office: (828) 652-8538
Crisis: (828) 652-6150
Fax: (828) 659-1456
www.familyservicesofmcdowell.org

MECKLENBURG COUNTY
UFS - The Shelter for Battered Women
PO Box 220312
Charlotte, NC 28222
Office: (704) 332-2513
Crisis: (704) 332-2513
Fax: (704) 332-5403
www.unitedfamilyservices.org

UFS-Victim Assistance
720 East 4th Street, Room 204
Charlotte, NC 28202
Office: (704) 336-4126
Crisis: Shelter for Battered Women
(704) 332-2513
Fax: (704) 336-4416
Mecklenburg Co. Women's Commission

700 North Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
Office: (704) 336-3210
Fax: (704) 336-4198
<http://css.charmeck.org>

MITCHELL COUNTY

SafePlace
PO Box 544
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Office: (828) 765-4015
Crisis: (828) 765-4044
Fax: (828) 765-4011
www.mitchellcountysafeplace.com

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Crisis Council
PO Box O
Troy, NC 27371
Office: (910) 572-3749
Crisis: (910) 572-3747
Fax line: (910) 572-3749

MOORE COUNTY

Friend To Friend
111 McNeil Street
Carthage, NC 28327
Office: (910) 947-3333
Crisis: (910) 947-3333
Fax: (910) 947-1849

NASH COUNTY

(See Edgecombe County)

NEW HANOVER COUNTY

Domestic Violence Shelter & Services
PO Box 1555
Wilmington, NC 28402
Office: (910) 343-0703
Crisis (toll free) 800-672-2903
Crisis: (910) 343-0703
Fax: (910) 343-9388
www.domesticviolence-wilm.org

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

(See Hertford County)

ONSLow COUNTY

Onslow Women's Center*
PO Box 1622
Jacksonville, NC 28541
Office: (910) 347-4000
Crisis: (910) 347-4000
Fax: (910) 347-7960

ORANGE COUNTY

Family Violence Prevention Center of
Orange County
PO Box 187
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Office: (919) 929-FVPC (3872)
Crisis (toll free): 866-929-7122
Crisis: (919) 929-7122
Fax: (919) 929-9925
www.fvpcoc.org

PAMLCO COUNTY

(See Craven County)
Pamlico County Office
Office: (252) 745-0500
Crisis: (252) 638-5995

PASQUOTANK COUNTY

Albemarle Hopeline
PO Box 2064
Elizabeth City, NC 27906-2064
Office: (252) 338-5338
Crisis: (252) 338-3011
Fax: (252) 338-2952
www.albemarlehopeline.org

PENDER COUNTY

Safe Haven Pender County
PO Box 657
Burgaw, NC 28425
Office: (910) 259-8989
Crisis: (910) 259-9410
(only in Burgaw area)
(800) 259-8887
Fax: (910) 259-9410

PERQUIMANS COUNTY

(See Pasquotank County)

PERSON COUNTY

Safe Haven Person County
PO Box 474
Roxboro, NC 27573
Office: (336) 597-8699
Crisis: (336) 599-7233
Fax: (336) 597-9318

PITT COUNTY

Family Violence Program of Pitt Co., Inc.
PO Box 8429
Greenville, NC 27835-8429
Office: (252) 758-4400
Crisis: (252) 752-3811
Fax: (252) 752-4197
www.pittfup.org

POLK COUNTY

Steps To Hope, Inc.
 PO Box 518
 Columbus, NC 28722
 Office: (828) 894-2340
 Crisis (825) 894-2340
 Fax: (828) 894-3044

RANDOLPH COUNTY

Family Crisis Center
 PO Box 2161
 Asheboro, NC 27204-2161
 Office: (336) 626-5040
 Crisis: (336) 629-4159
 Fax: (336) 629-0523

RICHMOND COUNTY

New Horizons
 1225 S Long Drive
 Rockingham, NC 28379
 Office: 910-997-4840
 Crisis: 910-995-1872
 Fax: 910-997-7444

ROBESON COUNTY

Southeastern Family Violence Center
 PO Box 642
 Lumberton, NC 28359
 Office: (910) 739-8622
 Crisis (toll free): 800 742-7794
 (910) 739-8622
 Fax: (910) 739-1180

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

HELP Inc. Center Against Violence
 PO Box 16
 Wentworth, NC 27375
 Office: (336) 342-3331
 Crisis: (336) 342-3332
 Fax: (336) 342-6377

ROWAN COUNTY

Rape, Child & Family Abuse Crisis Council
 of Salisbury-Rowan, Inc.
 131 West Council Street
 Salisbury, NC 28144
 Office: (704) 636-4718
 Crisis: (704) 636-4718
 Fax: (704) 636-0345

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

Family Resources of Rutherford Co.
 PO Box 1619
 Forest City, NC 28043

Office: (828) 247-1440
 Crisis: (828) 245-8595
 Fax: (828) 245-1456
www.frrc.org

SAMPSON COUNTY

U-CARE
 PO Box 761
 Clinton, NC 28328
 Office: (910) 596-0931
 Crisis: (910) 596-0931
 Fax: (910) 596-0574
www.ucaredu.org

SCOTLAND COUNTY

Dom. Violence & Rape Crisis Center
 PO Box 2130
 Laurinburg, NC 28353
 Office: (910) 276 5505
 Crisis: (910) 276-6268
 Fax: (910) 276-3600
www.dvrcc.org

STANLY COUNTY

(See Montgomery County)

STOKES COUNTY

Stokes Family Violence Services
 PO Box 55
 Danbury, NC 27016
 Office: (336) 593-9323
 Fax: (336) 593-2184

SURRY COUNTY

Surry County Domestic Violence
 Historic Courthouse
 114 W. Atkins St. Room 215
 PO Box 294
 Dobson, NC 27017
 Office: (336) 356-2014
 Crisis: (336) 356-2014 or 911
 Fax: (336) 356-2015

SWAIN COUNTY

Swain/Qualla SAFE
 PO Box 1416
 Bryson City, NC 28713
 Office: (828) 488-9038
 Crisis: (828) 488-6809
 Fax: (828) 488-1620

Ernestine Walking Stick
 Cherokee Reservation
 Office: (828) 554-6830

Crisis: (828) 488-5572

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

SAFE of Transylvania County

PO Box 2013

Brevard NC 28712

Office: (828) 885-7233

Crisis: (828) 885-7233

Fax: (828) 885-2559

www.safebrevard.com

TYRRELL COUNTY

(See Beaufort County)

UNION COUNTY

Turning Point Union County

PO Box 952

Monroe, NC 28111

Office: (704) 283-9150

Crisis: (704) 283-7233

Fax: (704) 225-8857

www.unioncountyturningpoint.org

VANCE COUNTY

ACTS of Vance Co., Inc.

(Heart's Haven)

305 South Chestnut St.

Henderson, NC 27536

Office: (252) 492-8231

Crisis: (252) 436-2401

Fax: (252) 436-0648

WAKE COUNTY

Interact

612 Wade Avenue

Raleigh, NC 27605

Office: (919) 828-7501

Crisis: (919) 828-7740

Fax: (919) 828-8304

www.interactofwake.org

WARREN COUNTY

Helping Hands

PO Box 938

Warrenton, NC 27589

Office: (252) 257-6781

Crisis: (252) 257-6781

Fax: (252) 257-0675

WASHINGTON COUNTY

(See Beaufort County)

WATAGUA COUNTY

OASIS, Inc.

PO Box 1591

Boone, NC 28607

Office: (828) 264-1532

Crisis (toll free) 800-268-1488

Crisis: (828) 262-5035

Fax: (828) 264-1538

www.oasisinc.org

WAYNE COUNTY

Wayne Uplift (2/07)

Wayne Uplift

PO Box 1518

Goldboro, NC 27533

Office/ Crisis: (919) 736-1313

Spanish Hotline: (919) 394-1621

Fax: (919) 735-2769

WILKES COUNTY

SAFE, Inc.

PO Box 445

Wilkesboro, NC 28697

Office: (336) 838-9169

Crisis: (336) 838- SAFE (7233)

24-Hour: (336) 667-7656

Fax: (336) 838-4350

www.safedvsa.com

WILSON COUNTY

Wesley Shelter Inc.

PO Box 1426

Wilson, NC 27894

Office: (252) 291-2344

Crisis: (252) 291-2344

Fax: (252) 291-1436

www.wesleysbelter.org

YADKIN COUNTY

Yadkin Co. Family Domestic

Violence Program

PO Box 1053

106 Elm St.

Yadkinville, NC 27055

Office: (336) 679-2072

Crisis: (336) 679-2500

Fax: (336) 679-2236

YANCEY COUNTY

Family Violence Coalition of Yancey

PO Box 602

Burnsville, NC 28714

Office: (828) 682-1186

Crisis: (828) 682-0056

Fax: (828) 682-1186 (call first)

Legal Aid/Legal Services

Legal services offices serve victims of domestic violence regardless of how much money you make. Most offices can only help with domestic violence protective orders. The following list contains the name, location and phone numbers of legal services offices in North Carolina.

Domestic Violence Initiative of Legal Aid of North Carolina (statewide): (919) 856-2142

LEGAL AID OF NORTH CAROLINA OFFICES

And counties served

Legal Aid of NC - Ahoskie Office

610 East Church Street
Ahoskie NC 27910
252-332-5124 or 800-682-0010
Counties served: Bertie, Camden,
Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax,
Hertford, Northhampton, Pasquotank,
Perquimans

Legal Aid of NC - Asheville Office

184 East Chestnut
Asheville NC 28801
828-236-1080 or 877-439-3480
Counties served: Buncombe,
Henderson,
Madison, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania

Legal Aid of NC - Boone Office

171 Grand Boulevard
Boone NC 28607
828-264-5640 or 800-849-5666
Counties served: Alleghany, Ashe,
Avery, Watauga, Wilkes,

Legal Aid of NC - Charlotte Office

1431 Elizabeth Avenue
Charlotte NC 28204
704-971-2621
Counties served: Mecklenberg

Legal Aid of NC - Concord Office

24

785 Davidson Drive, NW
Concord NC 28025
704-786-4145 or 800-849-8009
Counties served: Cabarrus, Stanly,
Union, Anson

Legal Aid of NC - Durham Office

The City Center
201 West Main Street, Suite 400
Durham NC 27702
866-219-5262
Counties served: Durham, Franklin,
Granville, Person, Vance, Warren,
Caswell

Legal Aid of NC - Fayetteville Office

327 Dick Street
Fayetteville NC 28301
866-219-5262
Counties served: Cumberland, Hoke

Legal Aid of NC - Gastonia Office

111 East Third Avenue, Suite 200
Gastonia NC 28052
704-865-2357, 800-230-5812
Counties served: Gaston, Cleveland,
Lincoln

Legal Aid of NC - Greensboro Office

122 North Elm Street, Suite 700
Greensboro NC 27401

336-272-0148 or 800-951-2257
Counties served: Davidson, Guilford,
Montgomery, Randolph, Rockingham,
Rowan

Legal Aid of NC - Greenville Office

301 S. Evans Street, Suite 200
P O Box 7283
Greenville NC 27858
252-758-0113 or 800-682-4592
Counties served: Pitt, Martin, Hyde,
Washington, Tyrrell

Legal Aid of NC - Goldsboro Office

102-A South William Street
Goldsboro NC 27530
919-731-2800 or 800-682-7902
Counties served: Greene, Lenoir,
Wayne

Legal Aid of NC - Monroe Office

100 West Jefferson Street
Monroe NC 28110
704-283-2172 or 877-439-3480
Counties served: Buncombe, Mitchell,
Henderson, Polk, Yancey, Rutherford,
Madison, Transylvania

Legal Aid of NC - Morganton Office

211 East Union Street
Morganton NC 28655
828-437-8280 or 800-849-5195
Counties served: Alexander, Burke,
Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Lincoln,
McDowell

Legal Aid of NC - New Bern Office

213 Pollock Street
P O Box 1167
New Bern NC 28560
252-637-9502 or 800-672-8213
Counties served: Beaufort, Carteret,
Craven, Jones, Pamlico

Legal Aid of NC - Pembroke Office

101 East Second Street
Pembroke NC 28372
910-521-2831 or 866-219-5262
Counties served: Cumberland, Hoke,
Robeson, Scotland

Legal Aid of NC - Pittsboro Office

959 East Street , Suite A & B
Pittsboro NC 27312
866-219-5262
Counties served: Chatham, Orange,
Lee, Richmond, Alamance

Legal Aid of NC - Raleigh Office

224 South Dawson Street
Raleigh NC 27601
866-219-5262
Counties served: Harnett, Johnston,
Lee, Sampson, Wake

Legal Aid of NC - Rocky Mount Office

148 South Washington Street Mall,
Suite 105
Rocky Mount, NC 27802-0388
252-442-0635 or 800-682-7902
Counties served: Edgecombe, Nash

Legal Aid of NC - Sanford Office

503 Carthage Street, Suite 305
Sanford NC 27330
866-219-5262
Counties served: Lee

Legal Aid of NC - Smithfield Office

300 South Third Street
Smithfield NC 27577
866-219-5262
Counties served: Harnett, Johnston,
Sampson

Legal Aid of NC - Sylva Office

1286 West Main Street
Sylva NC 28779
828-586-8931 or 800-458-6817
Counties served: Cherokee, Clay,
Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon,
Swain, Qualla Indian Boundary

Legal Aid of NC - Wilmington Office

201 North Front Street, Suite 1002
Wilmington NC 28402
910-763-6207 or 800-672-9304
Counties served: Bladen, Brunswick,
Columbus, Duplin, New Hanover,
Onslow, Pender

Legal Aid of NC - Wilson Office

108 Gold Street East
Wilson NC 27893
866-219-5262
Counties served: Wilson

Legal Aid of NC - Winston-Salem Office

102 West Third Street, Suite 460,
Liberty Plaza
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
336-725-9162 or 800-660-6663
Counties served: Davie, Forsyth,
Iredell, Stokes, Surry, Yadkin

LANC STATEWIDE PROJECT:

Domestic Violence Initiative

224 S. Dawson Street
Raleigh NC 27611
919-856-2564
Counties served: Statewide

NON LANC FUNDED PROGRAMS

Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina

216 W. Fourth Street
Winston-Salem NC 27101
336-725-9166 or 800-660-6663
Counties served: Davie, Forsyth,
Iredell, Stokes,
Surry, Yadkin

Legal Services of Southern Piedmont

1431 Elizabeth Avenue
Charlotte NC 28204
704-971-2622
Client line: 704-376-1600
Counties served: Mecklenberg, West
Central Counties

Pisgah Legal Services

89 Montford Avenue
Asheville NC 28802
828-253-0406 or 800-489-6144
Counties served: Buncombe,
Henderson, Madison,
Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania

You may also contact your local social services office for further information. They are listed in the phone book in the blue pages in the county section.

Glossary of Terms Used in This Booklet

- Accused:** A person or persons formally charged but not yet tried for committing a crime.
- Affidavit:** A written, sworn statement in which the writer swears that the information stated therein is true.
- Alleged:** The term used to modify any fact or charge not yet proven true.
- Arrest:** The taking into custody of a person suspected of a crime for the purpose of charging him with committing a specific offense.
- Arrest warrant:** A document issued by a judicial officer which directs a law enforcement officer to arrest a person who has been accused of an offense.
- Assault:** An attempt, with unlawful force, to inflict bodily injury upon another, along with the current ability to succeed in the attempt unless prevented from doing so. No physical contact is necessary.
- Assault by Pointing a Gun:** Pointing a gun or pistol at someone, whether loaded or not.
- Assault on a Female:** An assault on a woman by a man at least 18 years of age.
- Battery:** The infliction of physical contact with force by one person against another.
- Charge:** A formal allegation that a specific person(s) has committed a specific offense; also referred to as "pressing charges."
- Communicating a Threat:** Willfully threatening to injure someone or damage the property of another, which the person threatened believes will be carried out.
- Contempt of Court:** Failure to obey a judge's order. The judge may find a party in criminal or civil contempt.
- Continuance:** A delay or postponement of a court hearing; the case is said to be "continued" when it has been delayed or postponed.
- Conviction:** The judgment of the court, based either on the decision of a jury or on the guilty plea of the accused, that the defendant is guilty of the crime for which he has been tried.
- Custodial parent:** The party to whom the court has awarded primary physical custody of her children and who is usually entitled to receive child support from the non-custodial parent on behalf of the children.
- Defendant:** In criminal law, a person who has been formally charged with committing a crime and against whom a criminal proceeding is pending. In civil law, a person who has been sued by the plaintiff.
- Dismissal:** A decision by a judicial officer to end a case for legal or other reasons without a determination of guilt or innocence.

Docket: The list of cases to be heard on a given day.

Domestic Violence Protective Order: A civil order that grants immediate relief to victims of domestic violence by prohibiting batterers from committing further acts of abuse.

Evidence: Testimony and objects (such as photographs, medical records) used to prove or corroborate the statements made by the victim, the accused or other witnesses.

Ex-parte: In Latin, this means "from one side." A temporary order issued by a judge who hears from only one party in the dispute and without the other party being present is an ex parte order.

Magistrate: An officer of the District Court whose duties include accepting guilty pleas, entering judgment of certain misdemeanors and issuing search and arrest warrants.

Plaintiff: The person filing a complaint in a civil proceeding.

Pro Bono: When an attorney takes a case agreeing to represent the party for no fee.

Pro se: Acting as one's own attorney in any legal proceedings: representing oneself.

Prosecutor: An attorney for the county employed by a government agency whose official duty it is to prosecute criminal defendants for crimes they have committed.

Public Defender: An attorney for the county employed by a government agency whose official duty it is to represent criminal defendants who are unable to hire their own attorneys.

Rape: Unlawful sexual intercourse or attempted sexual intercourse by a male with a female by force or without legal or factual consent. A spouse can be charged with rape.

Separation Agreement: A legal contract between parties that covers issues such a division of property, financial matters, custody and visitations. This is NOT the equivalent of a court order and therefore the court does not have powers of contempt over the parties if the agreement is breached.

Sexual assault: Broadly, any sexual act or attempted sexual act in which the victim is forced to participate by the threat or use of force.

Temporary Restraining Order: See Domestic Violence Protective Order. A Temporary Restraining Order is also a separate civil remedy that a party can seek if she does not meet the requirements of a domestic violence protective order.

Testimony: Statements made in court by witnesses or parties who have sworn to tell the truth.