

Do You Wish You Could Afford to Hire a Lawyer? Maybe You Can.



Thanks to the United Way, there is a program that provides free legal representation to victims of domestic violence who can't afford to hire a lawyer.

Interested?

Fill out the application on the back and give it to the clerk.

Or call or come by the
Domestic Violence Advocacy Center

At the Legal Aid office:
216 West Fourth Street
Winston-Salem, N. C.

Phone: 725-9166

THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT

This information is prepared by the Domestic Violence Advocacy Center (DVAC). The fact that Clerk's Office employees give it to you does not give it any official status. DVAC is a collaborative effort of the Forsyth County Bar Association, students at Wake Forest University's School of Law, Family Services, The Family Court Unit of the Forsyth County District Attorney's Office and the Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina. This folder provides general information, not legal advice, but we hope it will be helpful to you anyway.

WE WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE TO THANK

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT TERRY L. HOLBROOK

AND HIS STAFF FOR THEIR KINDNESS IN DISTRIBUTING THIS INFORMATION AND MAKING REFERRALS TO THE CENTER

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCACY CENTER
APPLICATION FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Name:	
Phones (include people who can get word to you):	
Address (if you know):	Street / Mail
	City, State, Zip
Today's Date:	
Defendant's Name:	

Sex: Female Male Race: Asian Black Hispanic Native American Other White
 If you are a citizen of the U.S., please check yes. If not, please check no. (No problem either way.)

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

Total number of household members, including yourself:
If you're staying somewhere temporarily, don't count the people you're staying with. Don't count the defendant, even if you haven't moved out yet.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total amount of income coming into your household per month:
This is before tax income, not take home pay. Don't count the defendant's income. Tell us if income is temporary or short term.

Total amount of unusual expenses per month:
Include daycare, high medical bills, and other unusually high costs.

Total amount of property belonging to your household:
Don't count the defendant's property. If you have checking or savings accounts, land, cars, stocks, bonds or mobile homes list it here.

OPTIONAL – LIST PROPERTY, EXPENSES AND/OR INCOME BELOW AND WE'LL ADD IT UP FOR YOU.

I cannot afford to hire a lawyer, but I expect to have a hearing coming up soon, so I'd like to find out if I qualify for assistance from the Domestic Violence Advocacy Center. Please call.

Signature

Information about filing for a 50B Protective Order

Congratulations on your decision to stop the violence in your life!

When you read the instructions for filling out the forms, you will see that clerk's office employees cannot help you fill out the forms or tell you what to say. That is true. Don't worry, just do the best you can and keep going.

Filling out the forms. Things from the past are probably a part of your decision to file papers today, but part of your fear is likely to be recent. Maybe something violent that the defendant did or threatened to do within the last few days will have scared you. Usually, your request for a protective order will make more sense to the court if you ***start with whatever happened recently***, and then fill in enough of the background for the judge to understand why you are afraid of the defendant.

Seeing the judge. When you finish with the forms, the clerk will do some work with them, and then the clerk will take you to see a judge. Everybody wants to know what to tell the judge. Don't worry about it. Different judges handle these cases differently. Some don't ask any questions at all. If the judge has questions, they will probably be similar to the ones on the complaint form. If the judge has other questions, answer them. Just tell the truth. Explain why you are afraid of the defendant, and what protection you need.

Your case isn't over after today. When you've seen a judge and your order has been signed, you have accomplished a lot. The order will get you special attention from the police or sheriff whenever you call for the next ten days, but your case is not over. ***Today's order can only last ten days.*** That is why one of the papers the clerk gives you – the Notice of Hearing – will have the date for another hearing on it. That date will be within ten days of today. ***To keep the protective order, you must go to that hearing.*** It might be the same judge; it might not be. There is no way to know in advance. The defendant will be notified of that hearing, and will have a chance to come to it, and will be allowed to bring a lawyer.

You are allowed to get a lawyer if you want one. If you want a lawyer, and can't afford to hire one, fill out the application right now, tear it off, and give it to the clerk with the rest of these papers when you've filled them out. The clerk will send your application to DVAC. We will try to reach you at the number(s) you put down on the application. We can't help everybody. Sometimes we have to turn cases down, but if we can take your case, our help is free of charge.

If you haven't heard from us within 2 business days, PLEASE CALL US. Even before two days, **you don't have to wait for us to call you; you can call us, too.** Our number is **725-9166**; ask for Tonya Ward or Wendy Sieck, or come by the Legal Aid Society office at 216 West 4th St., Winston-Salem, NC.

If the defendant tries to hurt you after the judge has given you an order, call 911 right away; tell the police you have a protective order, and tell them what the defendant is doing and where you are.

The back of this sheet has the names and numbers of other agencies that may be able to help you with food, shelter and other things you need while you're making these changes in your life. **For help with non-legal matters, you can also call Family Services at 723-8125.**

Congratulations!

The Domestic Violence Advocacy Center wishes you the very **best** of good Luck!

Slapping is violence.

Shoving is violence.

Pushing is violence.

Words that threaten to hurt someone physically are violence.

Pinching is violence.

Helpful Community Numbers

Advice and Counseling - Emergency	Family Services Domestic Violence Hotline	723-8126
Advice and Counseling - Emergency	Family Services Sexual Assault Hotline	722-4457
Advice on escaping from violence	Family Services Domestic Violence Hotline	723-8126
Alcohol or drug problems – help with	Step One	725-8389
Counseling	Family Services Main Office	722-8173
Criminal proceedings – information about	Warrant Office	761-2408
Doctor	Forsyth Medical Ctr Emergency Room	718-2001
Doctor	WFU Baptist Medical Center	713-9000
Emergency Medical Care	Forsyth Medical Ctr Emergency Room	718-2001
Emergency Medical Care	WFU Baptist Medical Center	713-9000
Emergency protective order	Clerk of Court	761-2340
Info: has defendant been released?	Forsyth County Jail	748-4200
Info: has defendant been served?	Forsyth County Sheriff's Department	727-2112
Legal advice or representation in court	Legal Aid Society/ Domestic Violence Advocacy Center	725-9166
Money, food and medication - emergency	Crisis Control Ministry	724-7453
Money, food and medication - emergency	Department of Social Services	727-8311
Money, food, and medicines – ongoing	Department of Social Services	727-8311
Planning to support myself in the future	Experiment in Self Reliance	722-9400
Police assistance (not emergency)	Kernersville Police Dept.	996-3177
Police assistance (not emergency)	WSPD - DV Escort	773-7700
Police assistance (not emergency)	WSPD – DV Unit	773-7943
Police assistance (not emergency)	WSPD – Victim Assistance Unit	773-7865
Prosecuting witness information	District Attorney's Office	761-2214
Protective order -- emergency	Clerk of Court	761-2340
Protective order -- help getting one	Legal Aid Society/ Domestic Violence Advocacy Center	725-9166
Someone to talk to.	Family Services Main Office	722-8173
Someone to talk to.	CenterPoint	725-7777
Someone to talk to.	CONTACT	722-5153
Something that isn't listed here	First Line	727-8100
Somewhere safe to stay.	Family Services Shelter	724-3979
Somewhere to stay	Salvation Army	722-8721
Somewhere to stay	Samaritan Inn	748-1962
Support groups.	Family Services Main Office	722-8173
Teaching my children to avoid abuse	SCAN	748-9028

The Domestic Violence Advocacy Center

is located in the offices of the
Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina, Inc.
 216 West Fourth Street
 Winston-Salem, N. C.
 Call (336) 725-9166
 Or come by between 9
 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday
 through Friday.



DVAC is a collaborative effort of the Forsyth County Bar Association, students at Wake Forest University's School of Law, Family Services, The Family Court Unit of the Forsyth County District Attorney's Office and the Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina.

