

What if my partner is found guilty?

If your partner is found guilty of the domestic violence crime, he may be sentenced to counseling, to supervision by a probation or parole officer, and possibly to jail. The Court may issue an extended No Contact Order for your protection.

What else can I do to be safe?

You can file for an Order for Protection. This type of order can exclude your partner from entering your home, prohibit him from harassing or contacting you, prohibit him from removing your children from the State of Washington, and establish a temporary schedule for visitation. You do not need to be a citizen or have a green card to get an Order for Protection. You can file for this type of order at the court nearest you. A special advocate will help you.

You can contact one of the agencies listed under Community Resources. All of these agencies are private and are not part of the government. An advocate can help you to develop a safety plan, and find clothing, food, shelter and support.

You can talk to someone you trust, who understands your situation and who can help you.

You can learn your legal rights, and get legal help directly from one of the agencies listed below.

Community Resources

The agencies listed below are all private and are not part of the government or the INS.

- **Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services**
(TDD only)
206-236-3134
- **Asian/Pacific Islander Women & Family Safety Center**
206-467-9976
- **Chaya (for South Asian women)**
206-325-0325
- **Consejo Counseling & Referral Service**
206-461-4880

- **Domestic Abuse Women's Network (DAWN)**
425-656-7867
- **Eastside Domestic Violence Program**
425-746-1940 or 1-800-827-8840
- **Jewish Family Service**
206-461-3240
- **New Beginnings**
206-522-9472
- **Northwest Network for Bisexual, Trans, & Lesbian Survivors of Abuse**
206-568-7777, 206-517-9670 tty msg
- **Refugee Women's Alliance (serves 14 language communities)**
206-721-0243
- **Seattle Indian Health Board**
206-324-9360, ext. 802
- **YWCA**
206-568-7845 or 425-226-1266

Legal Resources

- **CLEAR** (Coordinated Legal Education Advice and Referral System): A toll-free telephone service for free legal assistance with civil legal issues.
888-201-1014, TTY 1-888-201-9737
- **Northwest Immigrants Rights Project**,
206-587-4009 or 800-445-5771
- **Northwest Justice Project**
206-464-1519, www.nwjustice.org
- **Northwest Women's Law Center**
206-621-7691

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**IF SOMEONE
IS HURTING
YOU
AT HOME**

**THERE ARE
LAWS TO
PROTECT YOU**

Information for Seattle and King County, WA

What is Domestic Violence?

Is your partner (husband, boyfriend or “ex”) jealous? Does he keep you away from your friends and family? Does he try to prevent you from getting a job? Has he ever threatened to take away your children? Does he threaten to have you deported?

Has your partner ever physically hurt you, for example, by slapping, pushing, punching, kicking, choking you, or pulling your hair? Has he ever threatened to hurt you with weapons like guns, knives, or other objects? Does he tell you the violence is your fault?

If you answered yes to these questions, you are in an abusive relationship. You may even be in danger. You are not alone. Many other people are in the same situation. Help is available at the agencies listed in this brochure.

In this brochure, we refer to the abuser as “he,” but anyone, male or female, may be abused by their partner.

Is Domestic Violence against the law?

Many forms of domestic violence are against the law in Washington State. It is illegal for your spouse or partner to hurt you physically in any way, to force you to have sex when you don’t want to, to threaten to hurt or kill you or your children, or to destroy your property. If you are a victim of domestic violence, there are laws to protect you.

Should I call the police?

If you are in danger, call 9-1-1 to get help from the police. You will be asked to give an accurate street address, a clear description of what happened, when it happened, your partner’s name, date of birth, vehicle license number, and a physical description (hair color, skin color, age, height, weight). The operator will send police officers to your home. You may have to wait for them to arrive. If you feel afraid, ask the operator to stay on the line.

If you do not speak English, tell the 911 operator the name of the language you speak (in English). The 911 operator will make a phone connection

with someone who speaks your language (at the AT&T language line). You will then be speaking to two people, the interpreter and the 911 operator.

What will happen when the police arrive?

When the police arrive, they will separate you and your partner and ask each of you several questions. Provide as much information as possible about the incident. If you are hurt, show the officers any bruises, marks, cuts or other injuries. If your partner has hurt or scared you before at other times, tell the police the details of this history.

You have the right to make a statement to the police. Your child, partner and other family members should NOT be used to interpret for you. The police officers can call a telephone interpreter to translate for you. You can write a description of what happened in your own language and ask the officers to add it to their report. If there are guns in your home, tell the officers where they are. Also, ask for an incident number and write it down.

It is not the policy of local police agencies to report a domestic violence victim to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. If you are asked about your immigration status, you can tell the officer that you don’t wish to answer, and that you need to speak with an attorney.

What will happen if my partner is arrested?

Officers may arrest your partner if they believe that a crime has been committed. If they take him to jail, he may be released in a few hours, or he may be held for several days or longer. You can receive telephone notice of his release from jail if you register with VINE (available for the King County Jail only), a computerized phone system. To register for this free service, call 1-877-425-8463.

What happens after my partner is arrested?

If your partner is arrested, the prosecutor may decide to file charges against him. It is not up to you to press or drop charges against him. Only the

prosecutor can make the decision to file or to drop the charges.

At the first court hearing, the judge may issue a No Contact Order, which orders your partner to stay away from you. If he contacts you in person, by phone or by mail, you can call 9-1-1 and he can be arrested again.

The No Contact Order generally does not provide protection for your children. If you are concerned about the safety of your children, or arrangements for visitation, you need to file for an Order for Protection.

What if I have to go to court?

In a criminal case, there may be several court hearings. If there is a trial, you will be notified by phone or in writing that you are expected to appear in court. If anyone threatens you to try to prevent you from going to court, that is a crime and you can report it to the police.

An advocate will work with you to help you through the court process. Make sure your advocate knows where to contact you. In court, the prosecutor and the defense attorneys may ask you questions about the domestic violence incident.

Is there more than one court?

In King County, there are many different courts. Your advocate will explain the court system to you. Local courts (Municipal and District) hear misdemeanor (lower level) crimes. King County Superior Court hears both felony (more severe) crimes, and family matters such as divorce and child custody. Orders for Protection are available through all of these courts.

If you and your partner have cases in more than one court, do not assume that the judge in one court has information about the case in the other courts. Each court operates independently. You should bring all related legal documents, including Orders for Protection and No Contact Orders, to every court hearing, and make sure that your advocate is aware of your other cases.
