



**THE
POCKETBOOK**

ABUSE IS NEVER JUSTIFIED!

- You do not deserve to be abused .
- You need not feel ashamed or guilty.
- You did not cause or provoke the violence because of selfishness, nagging, neglect or any other behavior.
- You cannot end the violence by trying to be “better” or by trying harder to please your abuser.
- You have a right to a life free from abuse.

Copies of this guide can be obtained from the
County Executive's Office of Women's Services:

P.O. Box 6100
Hauppauge, NY 11788
(631) 853-8284

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INTRODUCTION

This guide describes options and resources available for you if you are physically or emotionally abused and want to help yourself find a life free from violence.

It is a crime to commit violence against another person. Being married or living together as a family does not make violent behavior more acceptable or less criminal.

It is against the law to:

- Threaten physical violence
- Harass, hit, slap, push, punch
- Engage in stalking activity
- Endanger recklessly
- Assault
- Make threats by written, verbal, or electronic means
- Commit sexual assault or rape*

Complaints of these offenses can be taken to Family Court where the proceeding is Civil (non-criminal) and the goal is to provide relief in an attempt to end the violence and /or you can choose to go to the police and have your complaint handled through the criminal courts where the proceeding is criminal, and the goal is to hold the abuser accountable under the law.

Should you decide to take your abuser to court, you also need to think about other actions you may want to take to help end the violence. Court proceedings alone may not alleviate the abuse you are experiencing. You may want to consider:

- Obtaining supportive counseling before, instead of, or in addition to going to court
- Ending the relationship as a possible means to stop the violence
- Allegations of sexual assault or rape are not covered in the Family Offense Proceedings, and can only be pursued through Criminal Court.
- Obtaining a legal separation or divorce
- Moving to a relative's or friend's home
- Obtaining shelter
- Making a safety plan

** In the back of this guide you will find names and phone numbers of agencies to choose the best course of action.*

WHAT TO DO IMMEDIATELY AFTER A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENT

- Call the Police as soon as possible.
- Try to remain calm.
- Protect yourself.
- Get medical attention for your injuries. Tell the doctor how it happened.
- Have pictures taken of your injuries, date them and save the evidence. Keep copies of all medical records.
- Find a safe shelter if it is not safe for you or your children to stay at home. If you do not have relatives or friends to stay with, call one of the victim service agencies listed in the back of this guide.
- Go to court. You may bring an advocate to either Family or Criminal Court to help you pursue an Order of Protection and/or other appropriate legal remedies. If you already have an Order of Protection, file for a violation of the order. Bring all police and medical records wherever possible for evidence of the abuse.

- **You do not deserve to be abused.**
- **You need not feel ashamed or guilty.**
- **You did not cause or provoke the violence because of selfishness, nagging, neglect or any other behavior.**
- **You cannot end the violence by trying to be “better” or by trying harder to please your abuser.**
- **You have a right to a life free from abuse.**

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!!!

WHAT THE POLICE CAN DO

The Suffolk County Police Department covers the towns of Huntington, Babylon, Islip, Smithtown and Brookhaven. The towns of Southampton, East Hampton, Riverhead, Southold, Shelter Island and most incorporated villages have their own police departments.

In cases of family violence, all police departments are directed by New York State law to implement the following policy:

- When a police officer has reasonable cause to believe that an individual has committed a felony, the abuser shall be arrested even if the victim requests otherwise. The police officer cannot ask the victim if she / he wants the abuser to be arrested.
- When a police officer has reasonable cause to believe that a misdemeanor has been committed, the abuser shall be arrested, unless the victim requests otherwise. The police officer cannot ask the victim if she / he wants the abuser to be arrested.
 - * Some police departments may be required to make an arrest for all crimes which involve domestic violence.
- When a police officer has reasonable cause to believe that a violation has been committed, the abuser shall be arrested at the request of the victim (civilian arrest).
- When a police officer has reasonable cause to believe that an Order of Protection has been violated, the offender shall be arrested.

A police officer does not have to be present when the crime takes place to be able to make an arrest. Reasonable cause may be based on such factors as:

- Physical injury
- Property damage
- Signs of serious disruption
- Statements by the victim or other witnesses

A police officer **may not** use any of the following reasons for failing to make an arrest:

- Abuser lives with the victim
- Financial consequences
- Abuser has left the premises, or is willing to leave
- Abuser and the victim are married
- Victim has made the complaints before
- Abuser promises not to hurt the victim again
- Alleged injury is minor or not visible

- the victim may not be willing to participate in later proceedings;
- prosecution or conviction may not occur even though reasonable cause exists.

In most cases following arrest, the abuser will be held by the police until brought before a judge.

CROSS COMPLAINTS / PRIMARY AGGRESSOR

Officers are not required to arrest both or all parties, however, the “primary physical aggressor” shall be arrested. The primary physical aggressor is not necessarily the person who was first to use force. During the officer’s investigation to determine who was the primary physical aggressor, the officer shall consider the following:

- The comparative severity of the injuries inflicted by and between the parties;
- Whether any person has made threats of future harm against another party, another family member or household member;
- Whether any person has prior history of domestic violence that the officer can reasonably ascertain;
- Whether any person acted defensively to protect him or herself or a third party from injury.

The arrest of the primary physical aggressor does not prohibit the officer from arresting both or all parties.

The police officer must give you a copy of the police report with the CC (central complaint) number. The police officer will give you a copy at the time you report the incident.

The police officer must give you information on your right to bring a case to Family Court and / or Criminal Court, and also give you information on the agencies that can help you. Feel free to contact these agencies.

**READ ALL DOCUMENTS FOR
ACCURACY BEFORE YOU SIGN.**

When a Domestic Incident involves violence or Orders of Protection violations, a copy of the incident report will be sent to the Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk and/or the Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence {SCCADV}, so that they can contact you to offer assistance. Elder Abuse reports are sent to the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk (VIBS).

**You can request an Order of Protection in
Family Court, Criminal Court or both.**

COURT OPTIONS

You may go to:

<u>Relationship to Offender</u>	<u>Family Court</u>	<u>Criminal Court</u>
Legally married	Yes	Yes
Divorced	Yes	Yes
Related by blood or marriage	Yes	Yes
Never legally married ...child in common	Yes	Yes
Never legally married ...no children	No	Yes

WHAT THE FAMILY COURT CAN DO

Locations:

Cohalan Court Complex
400 Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, NY 11722

or Supreme Court Annex
877 East Main Street
Millbrook Plaza
Riverhead, NY 11901

The main purpose of Family Court is to attempt to stop the violence and obtain protection for the abused person.

A Family Court judge can issue an Order of Protection which may:

- Order your abuser to stay away from you and the children, your place of business, and /or order the abuser out of the house;
- Give you custody of your children and determine visiting rights, and order child support;
- Order reasonable counsel fees and payment for expenses involved in getting and enforcing the Order of Protection
- Provide for medical expenses required as a result of the abuse
- Order the abuser to participate in a Batterer's Program
- Order your abuser to observe other conditions as necessary to further the purposes of protection.

You can start a proceeding in Family Court by filing a petition for an Order of Protection in the Family Court Intake Unit of the Probation Department. **A prior arrest is not necessary.**

Custody or visitation issues may require a separate petition to be filed. Another petition is required for an Order of Support which is best filed through the Child Support Enforcement Bureau (CSEB) if there are any minor children.

- Family Court and Probation are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Family Court Intake Units are located at:

Probation Department
Cohalan Court Complex
400 Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, NY 11722
631 853-4024

Probation Department
Arthur M. Cromarty Court Complex
300 County Center Drive
Riverhead, NY 11901
631 852-1939

Although you may file a petition {See Page 21} at any Intake Office, you will be asked to go to the office that serves the community where you live.

An advocate can go with you for moral support and to explain the legal proceedings. The advocate may also attend the court hearings. It is not required that you have a lawyer, but it may help you. Look for a list of agencies providing advocacy or legal assistance in the back of this guide.

FAMILY COURT ORDERS OF PROTECTION

If you want an Order of Protection you must file a petition. A probation officer will interview you. You will be asked for the date, time, place and description of the incident, and about other recent incidents to establish a pattern of behavior. It will be helpful to have this information organized before your interview.

Go to the Probation Intake Office early in the day. If possible, don't bring any children; the process takes time.

Make sure your petition is complete. Include information about threats to you, the children and other family members. Mention any drug, alcohol or weapon involvement. Be sure to request in the petition the relief you seek: protection from abuse - exclusion from the home - temporary custody and child support - counseling for the abuser - legal and medical expenses.

In most cases, you will see a judge to request a Temporary Order of Protection within 24 hours of appearing at the Probation Office, exclusive of weekends and holidays.

- Show the judge your injuries and any other evidence
- Bring any witness who can help confirm what happened

You must convince the judge that you need protection NOW!

- When leaving the court you should have a copy of your petition and the Temporary Order of Protection, if one is granted, and notice of your hearing.

A DEPUTY SHERIFF WILL SERVE THE RESPONDENT WITH A COPY OF THE PETITION AND ANY ORDER OF PROTECTION ISSUED, AND ENFORCE CERTAIN CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF SERVICE (ie EXCLUSION, WEAPON SEIZURE, ETC.).

Although it is not necessary, a recent photograph of the respondent may be helpful.

- The Family Court Temporary Order of Protection is effective from the time it is served. In order to receive a Permanent Order of Protection you must return on your hearing date.
- On the hearing date, both parties have an opportunity to explain the situation to the judge. Bring the evidence you had when you first requested protection, as well as any new evidence. Be prepared to answer the judge's questions. Any witnesses should be prepared to come to court if necessary. If you do not appear on the hearing date, your petition may be dismissed and you will lose your Temporary Order of Protection. The outcome of the hearing can be a Permanent Order of Protection, supervision of the abuser by the Department of Probation, counseling or dismissal of the petition.
- A Permanent Order of Protection can be effective for up to three years.

VIOLATIONS OF FAMILY COURT ORDERS OF PROTECTION

The police must arrest if there is reasonable cause to believe that the Order of Protection has been violated.

If the abuser is arrested for violation of an Order of Protection, he or she will be brought to Criminal Court to be arraigned. If you choose not to call the police to have the abuser arrested, you may still file a violation petition at the Probation Department intake Office. If you elect to return to Family Court, you will be able to ask the judge for additional protection.

WHAT THE CRIMINAL COURT CAN DO

Cohalan Court Complex
400 Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, NY 11722

The purpose of the criminal court is to prosecute and provide punishment if there is a conviction. The defendants are prosecuted by the State of New York (District Attorney) for crimes committed against you.

If you decide to press a criminal charge against the abuser, you can call the police if it is an emergency, or go to the local precinct in which the incident occurred. The police officer will prepare a Domestic Incident Report. When a criminal charge is taken by the police against an abuser, it will be necessary for you to sign a sworn statement or sign the actual criminal complaint. When you sign either the statement or complaint you will be swearing that the document is true. Therefore, be sure that the document is accurate before you sign it. **Whenever a police officer asks you to sign your name, make sure that you carefully read what you are signing.**

After pressing a criminal charge against the abuser, you can contact the District Attorney at 631 853-4138 or go to the District Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit located in the Cohalan Court Complex to discuss the charge and the procedure to apply for a Temporary Order of Protection. **{Note: East End residents should go to the District Attorney's office in Southold (852-8600) or Southampton (852-8800).}**

- If your abuser was arrested and held in custody until arraignment, you should appear before the judge at the arraignment to request an Order of Protection. If you are unable to appear at the arraignment, call the Domestic Violence Unit of the District Attorney's office at 631 853-4138.
- If your abuser was not arrested, you can request a Temporary Order of Protection, after the criminal complaint has been filed in court. The District Attorney's office or domestic violence agencies can help you with this.
- If your abuser was not arrested, he or she will be served with a criminal summons, after the criminal complaint has been filed in court. If the abuser fails to appear in court, a warrant may be issued for his /her arrest.
- An advocate from one of the agencies listed in the back of this guide can assist you when you go to court.
- A Temporary Order of Protection from Criminal Court is effective from the date it is served.
- If the abuser is not present when the Temporary Order of Protection is issued, it will be served by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.

- A Temporary Order of Protection is valid until the case is concluded, or until the date indicated on the order.
- A criminal proceeding may be lengthy. Be prepared for several adjournments of your case.
- If the abuser is convicted, the judge can order a Permanent Order of Protection, counseling, conditional discharge, a fine, probation and /or jail. The judge can also order payment of restitution to compensate you for medical bills and other costs.

(Note: Residents of the Towns of Riverhead, Southampton, East Hampton, Southold and Shelter Island must use their own local Town or Village Court.)

No criminal charges can be dropped unless the District Attorney's office and the judge agree to drop the charges. If the charges against the abuser are dropped, you will automatically lose your Criminal Court Temporary Order of Protection.

- The expiration date of the Permanent Order of Protection should appear on the front of the order.

If the person you are seeking protection from owns a gun, it is important to tell this to the judge when applying for an Order of Protection.

VIOLATIONS OF CRIMINAL COURT ORDERS OF PROTECTION

- The police must arrest if there is reasonable cause to believe that the Order of Protection has been violated.
- A violation of a Criminal Court Order of Protection will be charged as criminal contempt.
- If another crime was committed while the Order of Protection was being violated, additional charges may be filed.

WHAT THE SUPREME COURT CAN DO

**Cohalan Court Complex
400 Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, NY 11722**

The Supreme Court has the power to issue judgments of divorce and orders of protection. The Supreme Court also has the power to issue orders of custody, visitation, child support, maintenance, medical expenses and counsel fees.

INTEGRATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

One Family, One Judge

**Cohalan Court Complex
400 Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, NY 11722**

Where domestic violence is involved, cases involving the same family which are pending in Criminal Court, Family Court and Supreme Court may be transferred to the IDV Court to be heard by one judge. This prevents parties from having to appear in different courts, before different judges, on different days. The IDV judge is also able to address a family's problems in the quickest and best possible way. The IDV Court may make referral for needed services including: victim advocates, referrals for counseling or drug treatment, as well as batterer's intervention programs.

The IDV Justice decides which cases are proper for transfer to the IDV Court. If you have cases pending in different courts your case may be transferred to the new IDV Court.

SAFETY PLAN

If you are worried about your safety, remember the 3 P's - PHOTOCOPY, PACK, PICK. This will help you ahead of time.

PHOTOCOPY

- Birth Certificates
- Medicaid card
- Bank account numbers
- Important phone numbers
- Immunization & health records
- Marriage License / Divorce papers
- Any court orders, including protection, visitation, custody or support.
- Driver's License
- Immigration Papers
- Social Security card
- Insurance papers

PACK a bag with:

- Extra keys to house and car
- Medications
- Copies of important papers
- Clothes for yourself and children
- Copies of court papers
- Money
- Important phone numbers

Give the bag to a trusted friend or hide it in a safe place where you can get it later.

PICK

- A signal or code word to let family or friends know to call the police.
- A safe place to go - a friend's house or emergency shelter.

† Additionally any evidence that might help police investigating your case such as threatening letters or phone message tapes.

WHOM TO CALL FOR HELP

Police Department - Emergency..... 911

New York State Domestic Violence Hotline.800-942-6906

Espanol (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.).....800-942-6908

Hearing Impaired Access.....TTY/TDD

New York State Child Abuse and Neglect.....1-800-342-3720

VICTIM SERVICES {The Following Services Are Free}

Brighter Tomorrows:.....631 395-1800

24-hour hotline, court advocacy, counseling, children's program, Transitional Housing Program and non-residential support group.

Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence:

24-Hour Hotline.....631 666-8833

Shelter, Court /Precinct Advocacy, support groups, children's programs, Bilingual services.

TTY Assistance.....631 233-3626

The Retreat:.....631 329-2200

24-hour hotline; East End Shelter; adult /children's services to non-residents; counseling; batterers' program, Bilingual Services.

Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk (VIBS)

HOTLINE (Voice / TDD).....631 360-3606

Counseling, advocacy, court accompaniment, children's program, elder abuse program, batterer's program, bilingual services.www.vibs.org

Southampton Advocacy Program.....631 287-4505, Ext. 2
Advocacy for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Family Court Probation Intake

File petitions for Orders of Protection, custody, visitation and support.

Locations:

John P. Cohalan Court Complex
3rd Floor of the
Criminal Justice Building
400 Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, NY 11722
631 853-4024

Arthur M. Cromarty Court Complex
Lower Level
County Center
300 County Center Drive
Riverhead, NY 11901
631 852-1939

Suffolk County Police Department

Domestic Violence /Elder Abuse Bureau.....631 854-7520

Services Provided: Conduct confidential investigations involving domestic violence and elder abuse. Liaison to outside agencies and courts. Raise community awareness through education regarding family violence issues.

Suffolk County Sheriff's Department

Domestic Violence Unit631 853-7590

Orders of Protection served and enforced.
Criminal contempt and family offense warrants executed.

District Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit631 853-4138

5th Floor of the Criminal Justice Building
Cohalan Court Complex, 400 Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, NY 11722
Prosecute criminal violations and misdemeanors, obtaining orders of protection for members of the same family, household or intimate relationship.

District Attorney's Office

Family Crimes Bureau.....631 852-2555

Criminal Courts Building – Riverhead, NY

Women's Services Unit Helpline

Hauppauge (H. Lee Dennison Bldg.)

631 853-8222

Riverhead (County Center)

631 852-1603

Information, referral and peer counseling on questions of concern to women, including domestic violence.

Office for the Aging

Hauppauge (H. Lee Dennison Bldg.)

631 853-8200

Assistance for persons over the age of 60.

Brookhaven Helpline**631 698-2074**

Free Information and referral service on issues, including domestic violence.

Huntington Helpline**631 549-8700**

24-hour hotline serving Huntington Town residents.

OTHER AGENCIES**Domestic Violence Clinic**

Cohalan Court Complex, Central Islip

In court assistance available upon request regarding Orders of Protection.

No income guidelines.

Elder Law**631 853-0401**

Legal representation for the elderly.

Family Counseling Service**631 288-1954**

Individual, family, group therapy, family violence, victim and child abuse services.

Family Service League **631 427-3700**

Counseling for problems related to family violence.

F.E.G.S Long Island **516 496-7550**

115 Carleton Ave, Central Islip

631 234-7807

220 Main Street, Center Moriches

631 874-2700

Life Partnership Project

445 Oak Street, Copiague

631 264-2915

Counseling for people with family violence problems and adult survivors of sexual abuse and incest.

FOCUS **631 854-0857**

5 Shore Lane, Bay Shore

Advocacy on child support. Information on paternity, visitation, custody, separation and divorce.

Call for days and hours.

Law Guardian **631 853-4336**

Attorney representation for children for family offenses, abuse or neglect matters. No income criteria.

Legal Aid Society **631 853-4343**

Cohalan Court Complex

400 Carleton Avenue

Central Islip, NY 11722

Family Court representation for victims of family offense matters who have limited income.

Nassau-Suffolk Law Services631 232-2400

1757 Veteran's Memorial Highway, Islandia

Legal assistance in civil matters for people with limited income.

Legal assistance to commence or defend on matrimonial actions.

Referrals for matrimonial made through domestic violence service providers.

Response.....631 751-7500

24-hour hotline, counseling and referrals.

Suffolk County Bar Association631 234-5511 or 234-6794

Referral Service

Parents for Megan's Law631 689-2672

1320 Stony Brook Road, Stony Brook, NY 11790

Parents for Megan's Law is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to prevent and treat childhood sexual abuse through the provision of education, counseling, advocacy, policy and legislative support services.

For more information about our services,

contact our Hotline631 689-2672

www.parentsformeganslaw.com

GLOSSARY

Adjournment: Postponement of action in a court case.

Arrest: Detainment of a person who has allegedly committed a crime.

Assault: An intentional action which causes physical injury to another.

• There are *three* degrees of assault:

Assault 3rd: Intentionally or recklessly causing physical injury to another person. This is a misdemeanor.

Assault 2nd: Intentionally causing serious injury or causing physical injury by means of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument. This is a felony.

Assault 1st: Causing serious physical injury by means of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument, by intending to seriously or permanently disfigure or by recklessly engaging in conduct which causes grave risks of death. This is a felony.

Bail: Money or bond deposited with the court to assure that the accused person comes back to court. If a person fails to appear after posting bail, a warrant for arrest may be issued, and bail may be forfeited.

Conviction: Decision by a judge or jury that a person is guilty of a crime. This can also occur when a plea is entered.

Court Clerk: A public official who handles the records and paperwork for the court. Petitions and other legal papers are usually given to the court clerk to get the legal proceedings started.

Crime: An act prohibited by the penal code of the state which can result in imprisonment of more than fifteen days.

Criminal Complaint: A statement under oath given to a criminal court, accusing a person of having committed a crime.

Custody of Children: The legal right to keep and care for children.

Defendant: A person charged with committing a crime in District (Criminal) Court.

Defense Attorney: The lawyer who defends the person accused of a crime.

District Attorney (DA) or Assistant District Attorney (ADA): A lawyer employed by the County who prosecutes people who are accused of having committed crimes.

Felony: A crime for which imprisonment of more than one year may be imposed.

Harassment in the First Degree: Intentionally and repeatedly harassing another person by following in or about a public place(s) or by engaging in a course of conduct or by repeatedly committing acts which place such person in reasonable fear of physical injury. (Stalking Law - Misdemeanor)

Harassment in the Second Degree: Intentionally hitting or subjecting another person to physical contact or threatening to do same.

Petition: A sworn statement that initiates a Family Court Proceeding.

Petitioner: A person who begins a proceeding in Family Court.

Probation Officer: A public official who assists petitioners in filing petitions in Family Court, gives counseling, and supervises a person sentenced to probation.

Reckless Endangerment: Recklessly engaging in conduct which creates a substantial risk of serious injury or death to another person.

Respondent: A person against whom a petition is filed in Family Court.

Stalking: See Appendix A.

Subpoena: A court order summoning a person to court to testify as a witness.

**FOR FAMILY COURT ONLY
PETITION FILING OFFICES BY
COMMUNITY**

John P. Cohalan
Court Complex
400 Carleton Avenue
PO. Box 9082
Central Islip, NY 11722
631 853-5337

Arthur M. Cromarty
Court Complex
300 County Center Drive
County Center
Riverhead, NY 11901
631 852-1939

CENTRAL ISLIP

Amityville
Babylon
Bayport
Bay Shore
Blue Point
Bohemia
Brentwood
Brightwaters
Centereach
Central Islip
Cold Spring Harbor
Commack
Copiague
Coram
Davis Park
Deer Park
Dix Hills
East Islip
East Northport

East Setauket
Fair Harbor
Farmingville
Great River
Greenland
Holbrook
Holtsville
Huntington
Huntington Sta.
Islip
Islip Terrace
Kings Park
Lake Grove
Lake Ronkonkoma
Lindenhurst
Medford
Melville
Nesconset
Northport

Oakdale
Ocean Beach
Patchogue
Point O' Woods
Pt. Jefferson
Pt. Jeff Station
Ronkonkoma
Saint James
Saltaire
Sayville
Selden
Setauket
Smithtown
Stony Brook
West Islip
West Sayville
Wheatley Heights
Wyandanch

RIVERHEAD

Amagansett	Manorville	Sag Harbor
Aquebogue	Mastic	Shelter Island
Bellport	Mastic Beach	Shelter Island Heights
Bridgehampton	Mattituck	Shinnecock Hills
Brookhaven	Middle Island	Shirley
Calverton	Miller Place	Shoreham
Center Moriches	Montauk	Sound Beach
Cutchogue	Moriches	Southampton
East Hampton	Mount Sinai	South Jamesport
East Marion	New Suffolk	Southold
East Moriches	Orient	Upton
East Patchogue	Peconic	Wading River
Eastport	Quogue	Wainscott
East Quogue	Remsenburg	Watermill
Fishers Island	Ridge	Westhampton
Greenport	Riverhead	Westhampton Beach
Hampton Bays	Rocky Point	Yaphank
Jamesport	Sagaponack	
Laurel		

EAST END JUSTICE COURTS

Town of East Hampton	324-4134
Town of Riverhead	727-3200
Shelter Island	749-8989
Town of Southampton	283-6000
Southold	768-1852

SUFFOLK COUNTY VILLAGE JUSTICES

Amityville.....	264-6000
Asharoken.....	261-8677
Babylon.....	669-1500
Belle Terre.....	928-0018
Bellport.....	286-0327
Brightwaters.....	665-1280
East Hampton.....	324-4134
Greenport.....	765-1852
Head of the Harbor.....	584-2034
Huntington Bay.....	427-2843
Islandia.....	348-0470
Lake Grove.....	585-2000
Lindenhurst.....	957-7500
Lloyd Harbor.....	549-8220
Nissequoque.....	862-7400
Northport.....	757-0935
Ocean Beach.....	583-0104
Old Field.....	941-9412
Poquott.....	474-0344
Port Jefferson.....	473-4724
Patchogue.....	475-4300
Quoque.....	653-4498
Sag Harbor.....	324-4134
Saltaire.....	583-5566
Shoreham.....	821-0680
Southampton.....	283-6017
Village of the Branch.....	724-1050
Westhampton Beach.....	288-1654
Westhampton Dunes.....	288-3980

APPENDIX A

New York State Stalking Law: Stalking occurs when anyone, without a legitimate purpose, intentionally and repeatedly causes you to fear for your safety, the safety of an immediate family member or someone you know, or your property. If he / she cause harm to your mental or emotional health, or threatens your employment, he / she may also be guilty of stalking, **if he /she has been previously warned to stop his or her behavior.**

Stalking is a criminal offense that requires a pattern of repeated acts. Individual acts within the pattern do not have to be criminal offenses. When a pattern of non-criminal behavior is directed at a particular person, it may be the criminal act of stalking. Stalking can also consist of a criminal act like assault in addition to an otherwise non-criminal act like sending you flowers. Examples of stalking include:

- Unwanted phone calls, letters, gifts, flowers, email or faxes
- Following you or showing up at the places that you frequent (such as home, work, school, etc.)
- Verbal, written or implied threats directed at you, an immediate family member or someone you know
- Acts causing you to fear your business, employment or career is threatened
- Vandalism of property belonging to you, an immediate family member or someone you know
- Actual assaults or other acts of violence directed at you, and immediate family member or someone you know, including sexual assault

These are only a few examples of stalking behavior. Any repeated, unwanted contact, harassment or violent act directed at you, and immediate family member or someone you know may be stalking.

You should keep track of all acts of stalking including a description of the behavior and the date and time it occurred. Even if your batterer is being prosecuted for other crimes, he can also be charged with stalking since it is a separate and distinct from other criminal acts like assault or harassment.

Since stalking can be extremely dangerous, you should talk to your local domestic violence program about specific steps you can take to protect yourself.

APPENDIX B

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program: If you have been the victim of a sexual assault or rape, you may seek medical attention or evidence through the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program. You may request that the Police bring you to either of the SANE Centers at Good Samaritan Hospital or John T. Mather Memorial Hospital. You may also present at either of the above emergency rooms up to 72 hours after the assault and request a SANE and /or Police Officer.

NOTES

A Message From **COUNTY EXECUTIVE STEVE LEVY**



Domestic violence is a serious crime that we are taking seriously here in Suffolk County. Having seen its devastating consequences, the government and private sector are working hard to educate our citizens in order to prevent domestic violence. If you have been a victim of domestic violence, the police, probation, courts, district attorney and victim's service agencies are there to help you. The information provided in this booklet can help victims of domestic violence understand their rights, seek justice and find the resources that can help them through a trying ordeal.

This booklet can help you to navigate the Family and Criminal Courts. It explains how to obtain orders of protection and other measures the court can assist you with. A section of government and county resources provides referral for court advocacy and other needed services. At the back of this booklet you will find a suggested safety plan with options to help you reduce the risk of harm. A new section in the appendix contains a brief overview of the New York State Stalking statute. Finally, a glossary at the end lists definitions of the terms used by the courts.

If you are a victim of domestic violence you may want to refer often to this useful booklet. If you know someone who is experiencing abuse you will want them to know what their rights are and how to get help. You have a right to a life free of abuse.

STEVE LEVY
Suffolk County Executive



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Suffolk County Executive