

YOU DO NOT DESERVE TO BE ABUSED.

If you are being abused:

Find a safe place. Stay with family, friends, or at a shelter. Use this directory to help you find any services you need. Remember, you are not alone!

If you have an emergency:

Dial 911
Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you are injured:

Go to a hospital emergency room or your doctor. Tell them what happened to you.

SHELTER PROGRAM

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:
Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Department
Lewis County Opportunities, Inc.
Office: (315) 376-8202 ext. 4
After hours HELP Hotline 376-4357 (HELP)
collect calls accepted

POLICE

For Emergencies, Call 911

LEWIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
(315) 376-3511

NEW YORK STATE POLICE
(315) 376-6513

LOWVILLE VILLAGE POLICE
(315) 376-6511

CARTHAGE POLICE STATION
(315) 493-1141

MEDICAL SERVICES

For Emergencies, Call 911

LEWIS COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL
(315) 376-5200 OR
376-5252 (Emergency Room)

SAMARITAN MEDICAL CENTER
(315) 785-4000

CARTHAGE AREA HOSPITAL
(315) 493-1000

HOTLINES

Lewis County Hotlines

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & RAPE CRISIS
DEPARTMENT
LEWIS COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES, INC.
Office: (315) 376-8202 ext. 4
After hours HELP Hotline 376-4357 (HELP)
collect calls accepted

LEWIS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH
(315) 376-5450 (after hours, call 376-5200 and
ask for the on-call crisis worker)

LEWIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
SERVICES
(315) 376-5400 (after hours, call the Sheriff's
Department at 376-3511 and ask for the on-call
DSS worker)

New York State Hotlines

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
(800) 942-6906 (English)
(800) 942-6908 (Spanish)

CHILD ABUSE
(800) 342-3720
(800) 638-5163 (TDD)

National Hotlines

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
(800) 799-7233
(800) 787-3224 (TDD)

ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & RAPE CRISIS DEPART-
MENT
LEWIS COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES, INC.
Office: (315) 376-8202 ext. 4
After hours HELP Hotline 376-4357 (HELP)
collect calls accepted

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
(315) 376-5390

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE
(315) 376-6565 (Family Court)
(315) 376-3410 (Criminal Court)

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MID-NY
(315) 788-3770

LEWIS COUNTY COUNSELING & SUPPORT

LEWIS COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES, INC.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & RAPE CRISIS DEPT.
(315) 376-8202 ext 4 or Hotline 376-4357 (HELP)
HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(315) 376-8202 ext 1
FAMILY SERVICE DEPARTMENT
(315) 376-8202 ext 3
CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION
(315) 376-8202 ext 4 or (800) 247-8035

LEWIS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH (315) 376-5450
CATHOLIC CHARITIES (LEWIS) (315) 376-4141
CATHOLIC CHARITIES (JEFFERSON) (315) 788-4330
MOUNTAIN MENTAL HEALTH (315) 942-4252
ALCOHOL TREATMENT CENTER (315) 376-5958
MOUNTAIN VIEW PREVENTION
SERVICES (315) 376-2321
SAMARITAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (315) 779-5060
SAMARITAN MENTAL HEALTH (315) 785-4000

LEWIS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LIAISON
(315) 376-5400
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES
(315) 376-5400
ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES
(315) 376-5400

LEGAL SYSTEM

Criminal Court Proceedings:

CONTACT the police.

CALL the Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Department of Lewis County Opportunities, Inc. at 376-4357 (HELP) immediately after contacting the police.

FILE a formal complaint with a police officer. If you can, get a copy of the domestic incident report from the police.

SEEK the assistance of a Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Department advocate at 376-4357 (HELP) if you go to court.

APPEAR in court when you are subpoenaed.

Family Court Proceedings:

GO to Lewis County Family Court.

ASK the court clerk for help from a Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Department advocate while at the courthouse.

FILE a petition in Family Court with the help of your advocate.

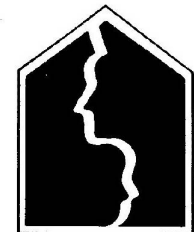
APPEAR in court for all proceedings. If you cannot afford a lawyer, you can ask the court to assign you one.

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This booklet was prepared for the Domestic Violence Coalition of Broome County by the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc. to provide a directory of services and general legal information for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. For more information regarding this booklet, contact the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc. at 255 Genesee Street, 2nd Floor, Utica, New York (315-732-2131).

LEWIS COUNTY SERVICE DIRECTORY



Q: What should I do if I have been hit or threatened?

A: Call 911 if it is in operation in your community. If not, call the police.

Q: Where can I go?

A: Safety first. If you decide to leave your home, you may be able to go to a shelter and bring your children with you. If you decide to stay at home, you may be able to get an order of protection that requires the abuser to leave your home.

Q: What is an order of protection?

A: It is an order signed by a judge that prohibits the abuser from threatening, abusing or acting violently towards you. It may also order the abuser to stay away from you, your children, your home and your workplace.

Q: Do I have to be hit to request an order of protection?

A: No. If someone is threatening you or your children by words or actions, you may be able to get an order of protection.

Q: What court do I go to?

A: There are three courts where you can file for an order of protection. First, if you are married to the abuser, have a child together, or a blood relationship with the abuser, you should go to family court. Second, if you are in the process of a divorce, you should go to Supreme Court. Third, if the District Attorney decides to bring a case against your abuser, you can get an order of protection in criminal court. You do not need a blood or marriage relationship or a child in common with the abuser to get an order of protection in criminal court.

Q: Who can get orders of protection?

A: Both men and women have equal rights to get orders of protection.

Q: Can I file an order of protection for someone else?

A: You may file an order of protection for your children if they are under the age of 18. Also, family court will allow you to file for a relative by blood or marriage, if you believe he or she is in danger.

Q: How do I get a family court order of protection?

A: First, you need to get order of protection paperwork from the clerk's office in your county's family court. Bring your ID. Fill the petition out with your attorney, if you have one, or with assistance from the domestic violence advocates at the courthouse. Make sure to write down the actions the abuser has taken against you, why you need to be protected, and what you would like the judge to do to protect you. You may also include your children to be protected from the abuser. There is no age requirement for an order of protection and it is free.

Q: How do I get a Supreme Court order of protection?

A: If you are already in the process of a divorce, you can ask for an order of protection as part of your divorce.

Q: How do I get a criminal court order of protection?

A: Call the police and file a criminal complaint with them. Tell the police you want to seek an order of protection and they will contact the District Attorney's Office.

Q: If I am in danger, can I get an order of protection right away?

A: A family court judge can give you a temporary order of protection right away. To get one, you may need to appear in front of the judge when you go to file your paperwork. If family court is not in session, you can get a temporary order of protection from your local criminal court or town justice.

Q: What does an order of protection do?

A: An order of protection can order a person not to assault you, appear at your home, place of work, children's daycare center, etc. It may order someone not to approach you, speak to you in person, by telephone, letter, or email. The order may order someone not to threaten you. The order may also protect your children from the same types of abuse you are protected from. If you live with your abuser, it can order him to leave the home. The order may also give you temporary custody of your children. If you want permanent custody, you must file custody paperwork.

Q: What can an order of protection not do?

A: If custody of your children is at issue, an order of protection only gives you custody for as long as the order is valid. You need to file separate custody paperwork. The order does not give you ownership of your home or any property you co-own with the abuser.

Q: How long does an order of protection last?

A: Every order of protection has an expiration date. In family court, an order typically lasts two years, but can last up to five years. In criminal court, an order typically lasts one year, but can last up to five years. "Temporary" orders are in effect until the specified date, but can be extended by the Court. If, at any time,

you no longer want the order, you must return to Court.

Q: What should I do with an order of protection?

A: Make copies. Make sure you have a copy at home, work, in your car, etc. If the order covers your children, make sure their school and daycare have a copy.

Q: Do I have to wait until I am physically abused to file a violation petition?

A: No! If the abuser does anything that is forbidden in the order, it is considered a violation, no matter what county or state it occurs in.

Q: What should I do if the abuser is violating my order of protection?

A: Call the police. Then you must decide whether you want to file a violation petition with family court or go to criminal court to file a complaint. If you still do not feel safe, ask an advocate to help you prepare a Personal Safety Plan.

Q: What happens when the abuser is found in violation of an order of protection?

A: If the abuser violated an order from family court, he or she could be jailed for up to six months or fined. If the abuser violated an order from criminal court, he or she could be jailed for up to one year. If this is not the first time the abuser violated a criminal court order or if you suffered physical injury or significant property damage, he or she will receive a more severe sentence and could possibly go to state prison. You can find out when the abuser is going to be released from jail by calling Victim Information and Notification Everyday at **1-800-VINE-4NY**.