

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a serious problem in our society today. Victims and abusers of domestic violence come from all walks of life. It touches the blue collar worker, the middle class and the poor. Domestic violence also touches Children, teens, young adults, adults, same-sex couples and the elderly. Most domestic violence goes undetected or is not reported. Most victims of domestic violence are afraid to come forward, they are afraid of retaliation from the abuser for reporting the domestic violence and others are ashamed to admit they are victims of domestic violence. Other victims of domestic violence believe it's a one time event and it want happen again. In most cases domestic violence occurs more then once and the only way to stop the violence is with intervention. To stop the epidemic of violence, the Carlisle Police Department works close with the community and other groups to assist with the abused of domestic violence.

In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Domestic violence occurs when there is abuse between:

- A Household member.
- Any person in or where in a dating relationship.
- Any person whom are or were formally married.
- Any persons whom have a child together or
- Are related by blood or Marriage.

Abuse Occurs when any of the above persons:

- 1, Attempts to cause physical harm
- 2, Causes physical harm
- 3, Places another in fear of physical harm or
- 4, Causes another to engage involuntarily in sexual relations by force, threat or duress.

WHAT IS A 209A ORDER?

An Abuse Prevention Order, called a "209A Order," or a "protective order," or "restraining order," is a civil court order intended to provide protection from physical or sexual harm caused by force or threat of harm from a family or household member. You can obtain an order against:

- a spouse or former spouse
- A present or former household member
- a relative by blood or a present or former relative by marriage
- the parent of your minor child
- a person with whom you have or had a substantial dating relationship.

Restraining order can be obtained in two different manners

A 209A Order can be obtained in any District Court, Superior Court , or Probate and Family Court in Massachusetts. Most court hours are from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The district court for Carlisle is located on Walden St. in Concord. To get a restraining order at concord court you must go to the clerks officer whom will then put you in touch with the victim witness advocate. This person will go over your case and instruct you on what needs to be done and what will happen at each stage.

An emergency 209A Order can be obtained through any police department after court hours, on weekends and holidays. An emergency restraining order is done by sitting down with an officer and filling out the restraining order. After filling out the paper work an officer will call an on call judge. The judge will then issue the temporary restraining order. Most temporary restraining orders expired at the end of the next day court is open. To extend the restraining order one must appear before the court and ask for extension. The victim witness advocate with help you with this process.

When obtaining an order you will be asked what you want the restraining order for? You are not limit to anyone of the below items.

- Not to abuse the plaintiff
- You are ordered to not to contact the Plaintiff
- You are ordered to immediately leave and stay away from the plaintiffs residence.
- You are ordered to stay away from the plaintiffs workplace.
- You may get custody of the children and order the defendant to have no contact with them.
- Support may also be grant.
- Have abuser surrender all firearms and licenses for guns.

The assistants program is through DVVAP (Domestic, Violence, Victim, Assistance, Program)

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| <i>D V V A P</i> Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program | Toll-free Warmline (888) 991 - 4639 Phone (978) 318 - 3421 Fax (978) 369 - 8420 P.O. Box 1556 Concord, MA 01742 |
| <i>If this is an Emergency dial 911 or you local Police Department - Hotlines</i> | |
| <u>Important - Web Safety Guide</u> | |

.. Serves Victims of domestic violence in a way that respects their dignity and choices while promoting their safety.

- > Trains community volunteers to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence
- > Provides crisis intervention, risk assessment and safety planning to people living with domestic violence
- > Creates bridges between families and local services

... Is a Unique Community Collaboration Model among central Middlesex police departments and non-profit agencies.

- > Acton, Carlisle, Concord & Maynard Police Departments & Domestic Violence Services of Central Middlesex

... Empowers Communities to recognize & address the dynamics of domestic violence & to support victims' efforts in attaining violence-free lives.

- > Participates in local community response efforts to create and strengthen safety in the central Middlesex region
- > A member of several roundtables to address domestic violence through education, outreach & special projects