

Are you living with domestic violence?

If this is an emergency or you are afraid for your life, call **911** or your local police service.

You can also contact the Victim Support Line at 1-888-579-2888, (416-314-2447 in the Greater Toronto Area.) Help is available in French and English.

Emergency two-hour consultation with a lawyer

If you are experiencing domestic violence, and are in need of immediate help, you can get a two hour consultation with a lawyer through the Family Violence Authorization Program. Advice on immigration and refugee matters is also available. The program is offered through some shelters and community legal clinics. Call Legal Aid Ontario at **1-800-668-8258** for more information.

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence or abuse can include hitting, pushing, slapping, insults and put-downs, repeated phone calls or visits to your home. It could also include threats to harm you, your children, other family members or pets. Domestic abuse includes physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse and fear. Abuse from your partner or spouse may include any of these examples.

Legal aid services

Legal Aid Ontario is committed to helping people who are experiencing domestic violence or abuse. Call us toll-free at **1-800-668-8258** to find out how we can help. If you are experiencing domestic violence, crisis or abuse, you may want to share information with us about your situation because:

- If there is an immediate risk to your safety or the safety of your children, we will do our best to see that you are looked after quickly.
- Your information about the abuse can help us as we talk with you about your legal issue. If you share this information with us, we can better understand your legal needs. You will not be asked a lot of personal questions about the abuse.
- We will give you information about other services that can help you.

You can choose whether or not you want to tell us about domestic abuse you have experienced. Although we would like you to share this information with us, you do not have to. If you choose not to, we will still discuss with you whether or not you qualify to receive legal aid services.

Please note: Any information that you give to Legal Aid Ontario will be kept private, unless you give us permission to share the information with someone like a staff member at a shelter for abused women or other counsellor.

Disponible en français



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