

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A CRIME

Domestic abuse harms is a terrible everyone in our community – victims, children, friends, family, employers, and service providers. No one deserves to be hit. No one deserves to be abused. People who batter their partner are committing a crime.

Minnesota citizens are guaranteed certain rights as victims or witnesses to crime.

These rights include:

- Rights of notification
- Participation
- Protection from harm

There are services offered through the state, county, and non-profit channels to help you know your rights and to advocate on your behalf.



### Criminal Justice Intervention Program

P.O. Box 367  
Saint Cloud, MN 56302-0367

Criminal Justice Intervention Advocates monitor defendant's progress through court.

For more information about court proceedings or OFP's please call a Criminal Justice Intervention Advocate.

**320.253.6900**  
**1.866.223.1111**

Access to ASL interpreting on line

General Electronic Mail Address-  
**info@annamaries.org**

For more information visit our website  
**Http://www.annamaries.org**

Anna Marie's Alliance is funded in part by the  
United Way of Central Minnesota



## Know Your Rights

Providing safety and  
shelter today...

Violence free  
communities  
tomorrow



**320.253.6900**  
TTY 320.258.3321

## DOMESTIC ABUSE IS A CRIME

### Your Rights

#### **Rights of Notification**

As a victim of a crime, you have the right to be notified of plea bargain agreements; changes in court schedules; date, time, and place of sentencing; release of offender from jail, prison or institution; and what your rights are as a crime victim.

#### **Participation Rights**

You have the right to inform the court of the impact a crime has on your life at pre-trial and sentencing. You have the right to object to a plea bargain, to request a speedy trial, to bring a supportive person to a pre-trial hearing, to attend sentencing and give written objections to a sentence.

#### **Protection From Harm Rights**

Tampering with a witness is against the law. Report the incident to police.

Witnesses do not have to give their addresses in court.

Employers may not discipline or dismiss victims or witnesses who are called to court to testify or for testifying.

Judges issue No Contact Orders to protect victims. Report violations of No Contact orders to the police.



### WHAT AN ORDER FOR PROTECTION CAN DO FOR YOU

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An OFP is a restraining order that allows you to specify the type and extent of contact you do or do not wish to have with a current or former intimate partner who is abusing you. You can also request specifics about child visitation, restitution for damages, and third party contact, property issues, and child support. An OFP cannot guarantee your safety. It can create harsher penalties under the law if your abuser persists in hurting, threatening or stalking you, and it gives officers the responsibility to arrest someone before you are assaulted again.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO GET AN ORDER FOR PROTECTION

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You can pick up forms at your local courthouse or contact Anna Marie's Alliance to schedule an appointment to have an advocate assist you in filling them out. Forms can be notarized free of charge at Anna Marie's or the courthouse. If the Judge signs the Order, your abuser will be served with a temporary order (*ex parte*) which is good until the hearing date if there is a hearing. Anna Marie's Alliance advocates can accompany you to the hearing. We can not act as attorneys, but we can provide you with support and information. The burden of proof is on the petitioner. The judge will determine whether to sign the final order, and usually makes it effective for up to one year.