



# PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CITIZEN INFORMATION BULLETIN #1 DOMESTIC ABUSE

1. It is the policy of the Philadelphia Police Department to treat every act of domestic violence as a criminal offense that merits a strong and swift police response in the same manner as all other requests for police assistance. Regardless of the extent of the victim's injuries, the nature of the victim/offender relationship, or the victim's reluctance to cooperate with responding officers, all sworn personnel responding to calls regarding domestic abuse or violence will render every necessary assistance to the victim(s) and make arrests where warranted.
2. In cases alleging domestic abuse or violence, the first officer on the scene will advise the victim or complainant of the proper procedure for seeking a petition for relief from abuse.
3. Procedure For Seeking Petitions From The Courts.
  - A. A person may file a petition seeking relief from abuse with the Court of Common Pleas at the Family Court Domestic Violence Unit located at 34 South 11th Street, Room 242 or by contacting a private attorney. Further information or assistance may be obtained by contacting the Women Against Abuse Legal Center at (215) 686-7082 or call the Women Against Abuse 24-hour hotline at (215) 386-7777.
  - B. In emergency situations occurring before 8:00 AM and after 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, on weekends, and legal holidays and any other times when the Common Pleas Court is closed, petitions may be filed at the Emergency Filing Site, Room B-3, Criminal Justice Center, 13th and Filbert Streets.
4. Without a protection order from the courts police may not arrest a person unless first observing a recent physical injury to the victim or other evidence. (Examples of such evidence would include statements from another party, or signs of a recent struggle: such as damaged furniture, etc.)
5. Police will assist complainant in serving emergency protection orders when requested to do so.
6. The safety of the complainant and all parties involved will be of paramount importance when addressing domestic abuse cases.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

### 24-HOUR HOTLINES:

- Women Against Abuse***.....(215) 386-7777
- Intake and screening for shelter at Women Against Abuse
- Bilingual Domestic Violence Project***.....(215) 739-9999 (English)
- Crisis Counseling.....(215) 235-9992 (Spanish)
  - Referrals for Women Against Abuse Shelter
  - Ongoing group and individual counseling for victims of domestic violence
  - Court advocacy
- Women In Transition***.....(215) 751-1111
- Crisis Counseling
  - Referrals for shelter
  - Counseling for victims of domestic violence/counseling for same sex domestic violence
  - Ongoing group and individual counseling for victims of domestic violence
- Congresso de Latinos Unidos***.....(215) 978-1174
- Crisis Counseling
  - Referrals for shelter
  - Counseling for survivors of sexual assault
  - Hospital and court accompaniment

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### OTHER PHONE NUMBERS (NOT 24 HOURS)

- Philadelphia Legal Assistance***..... (215) 981-3800
- Women Against Abuse Legal Center***..... (215) 686-7082
- Women's Law Project***..... (215) 928-9801
- \*Menergy***..... (215) 242-2235
- Program for Abusive Men

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### TO FILE FOR A PROTECTION FROM ABUSE ORDER (PFA)

Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM: 34 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

***IN AN EMERGENCY, AT ALL OTHER TIMES:*** Criminal Justice Center, 1301 Filbert Street

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