

# Domestic Abuse



## **Domestic Violence is a Crime**

Domestic Abuse is an act of physical harm, or the threat of immediate physical harm by someone who is a family or household member. Also included are persons who **are** or **were** in a dating relationship.

### **As a Victim or Domestic Abuse You Have Certain Rights:**

1. You have the right to request that charges be filed.
2. You have the right to request protection from any harm or threat of harm arising out of your cooperation with law enforcement and the prosecution efforts as far as the facilities that are available, and the right to be provided information on the level of protection available.
3. You have the right to be informed of financial assistance and other social services available as a result of being a victim, including information on how to apply for the assistance and services.
4. You have the right to file a petition for a protective order; or when the domestic abuse occurs when the court is not open for business, to request the police department to complete an emergency temporary protective order.

## How are Criminal Charges Filed?

If an officer that is called to the scene observes evidence of physical abuse that has occurred within the last 72 hours, that officer may arrest that offender – even if you don't want the offender arrested.

If the offender is not arrested at the scene, a police report will be completed and as a result, be charged and arrested.

## How Do I File For A Protective Order?

The Cleveland County Court Clerk has applications for protective orders. Remember, you do not need a police report to file for a protective order.



## Remember...

Domestic abuse rarely affects just you. There are many other victims affected...

If anyone tries to tell you that you are hurting the defendant, **remember that is not true**. If the defendant hurt you, and will probably hurt you again, you have the right to protect yourself and the lives of your loved ones. Anything that happens with the defendant's case is because of what the defendant did to you. These are the consequences of the defendant's actions.

## Helpful Numbers

**Noble Police Department 872-9231**

**Women's Resource Center 364-9424**

**Cleveland Co. District Attorney 321-8268**

**Battered Women's Shelter 360-0590**

**Cleveland Co. Victim Witness Center 573-1316**

**Child Abuse Hotline**

**800-522-3511**

**Cleveland Co. Child Welfare Services 360-4400**

