

## Illinois Domestic Violence Act Information Sheet

Rockford Police Department

**Domestic Violence is a crime.** Any person who hits, chokes/strangles, kicks, threatens, harasses, or interferes with the personal liberty of another family or household member has broken the Illinois domestic violence law.

In Illinois, a **family or household member** includes:

- Family who are/were related by blood or marriage.
- People who are or used to be married.
- People who share/or used to share a home or other dwelling.
- People who have/or believe they have a child in common.
- People who have/or believe they have a blood relationship through a child.
- People who are dating or used to date, including same sex couples.
- People with disabilities and their personal assistants, and caregivers.

### Law Enforcement Response

Law Enforcement should try to prevent further abuse by:

- Arresting the abuser when appropriate and completing a police report.
- Seize and inventory weapons used to commit the crime.
- Provide or arrange transportation to medical facility, shelter or safe place.
- Accompanying you back to your home to get personal belongings.
- Offer immediate and adequate information on procedures/relief available, one referral to an accessible service agency, and information on seeking emergency orders of protection.
- Provide you with reporting officer's name and badge number.
- Explain the importance of saving evidence, such as damaged clothing or property, and taking photos of injuries or damage.

### If an Abuser Contacts You after an Arrest

- If the abuser was charged with a crime and you or another victim is a family or household member, that abuser was likely ordered **not have contact with you for at least 72 hours. Additional restrictions may be set as a condition of bond.** If the abuser contacts you soon after the arrest, call the police, additional charges may follow.
- If the abuser is attempting to contact you by phone from jail, you may request to have your **phone number(s) blocked** by going to the [www.inmates.winnebago sheriff.com](http://www.inmates.winnebago sheriff.com) click on the icon "Jail Page" and then the icon "Block Inmate Calls".
- To receive notifications regarding court dates and when an abuser may be released from jail call 866-566-8439 or visit [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com) to register with the Illinois Automated Victim Notification System (AVN).

### Orders of Protection

An order of protection is a court order, which restricts someone who has abused a **family or household member**. You may also request an order of protection on behalf of someone who cannot because of age, health or disability. An order of protection may:

- Prohibit an abuser from continuing threats and abuse (abuse includes physical abuse, harassment, intimidation, stalking, etc.);
- Order abuser out of a shared home or residence;
- Order abuser to stay away from you and other protected persons by the order, your place of work, school or other specific locations;
- May give you temporary physical possession of children, prohibit child abduction, order child exchange and/or supervised visitation services;
- Require abuser to attend counseling;
- Require abuser to turn weapons/FOID card over to law enforcement.

### How to File an Order of Protection

You have options. For more information or assistance in filing:

- Advocates are available at the **Rockford Family Peace Center**, open M-F, 8am-5pm. Call **779-348-7600**. Childcare for ages 0-17 is available while on site free of charge, and an Emergency Order of Protection can be filed and heard from the Center without going to the courthouse.
- Advocates are available at the **Domestic Violence Assistance Center (DVAC)**, located in the Winnebago County Courthouse, open M-F, 8am-5pm. Call **815-516-2440**.
- You can file an Order of Protection remotely. More information is available online at [illinois17th.com](http://illinois17th.com).

### Violation of an Order of Protection

If the abuser violates any part of the order, contact law enforcement and file a police report. Preserve and provide any evidence including, witness information, emails, text messages, call logs, videos, photographs, etc.

**Remedies Renewing Lives – 24-hour hotline – 815-962-6102**

**Rockford Family Peace Center— 779-348-7600**

**Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling – 24-hour hotline – 815-636-9811**

Victim's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Officer Name/Badge #: \_\_\_\_\_

Case #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_