

Case #

Worker:

Phone:

Fax:

TDD:

FAMILY VIOLENCE REFERRAL

This information is available in other forms to people with disabilities by calling your county worker. For TDD users, contact your county worker through the Minnesota Relay at 711 or 1-800-627-3529. For the Speech-to-Speech Relay, call 1-877-627-3848.

Purpose:

This form tells victims of domestic abuse how to get help.

Help for Domestic Abuse:

- If you or someone in your home is a victim of domestic abuse the **county can help you.**

If you want to know more or want to stop abuse you can talk to your worker or contact:

Agency: See list on page 5		Telephone	
Street address			
City		State	ZIP

- **Some of the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) rules do not apply to domestic abuse victims.** You must tell us about the abuse and have a special employment plan that includes activities to help keep your family safe. Please talk to your worker or an advocate if you want to know about this.
- If you have used 60 months of MFIP you may be able to get more months. Please talk to your worker or an advocate if you want to know about this.
- You can also call the **national domestic violence hot line at 1-800-799-7233 or Legal Aid at 1-888-354-5522.**

Non-citizens:

If you are not a United States Citizen, but are married to a United States citizen or a legal permanent resident, and you are a victim of domestic abuse you may be able to get help to get permanent residency. Tell your worker if you think you are one of these people. If you qualify, your worker will tell you how to get legal help.

Contact the agency below for help getting permanent residence status.

Agency: Oficina Legal	Telephone: 651-641-1011
Agency: Centro Legal	Telephone: (651) 642-1890

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFORMATION

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is what someone says or does to make you feel afraid or to control you. The following are examples of domestic violence:

- Swearing or screaming at you
- Threatening to hurt you or others you care about
- Calling you names
- Not letting you leave your house
- Blaming you for everything that goes wrong
- Forcing you to have sex
- Choking, grabbing, punching or kicking you
- Smashing or breaking things

What services are available to victims of domestic violence?

Toll-free Hotlines have counselors who provide services, such as:

- Crisis counseling
- Safety Planning
- Assistance with finding shelter
- Referral to other organizations such as legal services
- Support groups
- Advocacy with the police.

If you are in danger from domestic violence and need help, call the National Domestic Abuse Hotline at (800) 799-7233, (TTY/TDD: (800) 787-3224) or the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women at (800) 289-6177. The Minnesota Domestic Violence Crisis phone number is (800) 223-1111.

What are domestic violence waivers?

If you are eligible for public assistance and you experience domestic violence, certain program requirements may be temporarily waived, meaning they may not apply in your situation.

Waivers are available for eligible public assistance applicants who apply for the following programs: Food support (FS), General Assistance (GA), General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC), Diversionary Work Program (DWP, Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Medical Assistance (MA) and MinnesotaCare.

Waivers of Food Support Program Rules

This brochure must be given to all households that apply for Food Support, whose available assets are less than \$7,000, and whose gross income is less than Food Support Program limits. The value of vehicles/cars is not used when determining your eligibility for Food Support.

Waivers of DWP/MFIP rules

The Diversionary Work Program and the MFIP Family Investment Program has a Family Violence Waiver for people who are victims of domestic violence. If you or your child is a victim of past or

current domestic violence, you may be able to get a Family Violence Waiver. With a DWP waiver you may not need to follow all employment rules. With an MFIP waiver you will not have to follow these MFIP rules:

- You may not need to follow all employment rules
- You will be exempt from the 60-month welfare time limit while you have this waiver.

To get a Family violence Waiver you must do these things:

1. Tell you county worker you want an MFIP Family Violence Waiver.
2. Show that the violence occurred by giving your county worker any of these items:
 - Medical records
 - A statement from a battered women's advocate or a sexual assault advocate
 - A statement from a professional – like a doctor, nurse, clergy, counselor, social worker – who you told about the abuse.
 - A statement from someone – like a neighbor, family member or co-worker – who knows about the abuse
 - Photos of injuries or damage to your property
 - A policy report
 - A copy of a restraining order (order for protection or harassment order)
3. Develop and follow an employment plan that includes activities to keep you safe.

If you need help getting any of these items, talk to a domestic violence advocate or your county worker.

What is an employment plan?

Your employment plan is developed with a person trained in domestic violence prevention and a job counselor or a county worker. The plan will take your situation into account and include activities to help you become employed. The plan will:

- Make the safety of you and your children a priority
- Include only work and training activities if they are safe for you and your children.
- Be sure you really can meet the goals in your employment plan before you agree to it.

The employment plan does not guarantee your safety. When an abuser chooses to abuse, sometimes you cannot stop the abuse no matter what you do. Only you know what you can do. Only you know how dangerous your abuser is. If you need to change the plan or cannot follow it, contact your county worker as soon as possible.

Other important things to know:

- If you do not follow the plan, you may be sanctioned. This means your DWP or MFIP grant may be reduced or closed.
- If you have questions about the DWP or MFIP Family Violence Waiver, call the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women at (800) 289-6177 (this is not a crisis number). If you are having a crisis, call: (651) 646 0994.
- If you are denied a waiver, or if your waiver is canceled, you can appeal. You may be able to get legal advice or help with an appeal from your local Legal Aid office. Call (888) 354-5522.

How do I appeal?

If you do not agree with the action the county takes on your application, tell your county worker. Ask the worker to explain the reasons for the action. You may see the policy manuals, rules or laws that give the reasons for the action. If you still do not agree, you may appeal. Your county worker will help you ask for an appeal hearing or contact: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Appeals Office, PO Box 64941, St. Paul, MN 55164-0941. Phone numbers: Metro (651) 431-3600 (voice), Outstate: (800) 657-3510.

You should bring any facts to the hearing that will help you explain why you do not agree. You may bring a friend or a lawyer. If you want a lawyer, ask your worker for information about free legal services. You may bring people to the hearing to give information about the facts. After you and the county have talked about your case, the Human Services judge will decide the case. You will get the decision in the mail. If you are still not satisfied, you have 30 days to appeal to the state district court.

Your right to privacy

Most of the time, the facts asked for by the human service office are called "private". This means that you may see facts about yourself, but they are not open to the public. Certain other government agencies may use them too. You have the right to question what you think is wrong in your file. For more facts about data privacy, ask your county worker or write the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

If you have questions

For Questions about the MFIP Domestic Violence Waiver contact the human services office in your county. For TTY/TDD service, all the Minnesota Relay at 711 or (800) 627-3529 and ask them to call your county human services office. For the Speech-to-Speech Relay, call (877) 627-3848.

Your right to file a complaint

If you feel the county or the Minnesota Department of Human services treated you differently in the handling of a public assistance application or payment because of race, color, or national origin, political beliefs, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation,, public assistance status, age or disability (including access to buildings or programs), you may file a complaint with one or more of these agencies:

Minnesota Department of Human Services, Office for Equal Opportunity, PO Box 64997, St. Paul, MN 55164-0997. Phone: (651) 431-3040 (voice), (651) 431-3041 (TTY/TDD)

Minnesota Department of Human Rights, 190 East 5th Street, Suite 700, St. Paul, MN 55101. Phones: (800) 657-3704 (voice), (651) 296-1283 (TTY/TDD)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, Region V, 233 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 240, Chicago, IL 60601. Phone (312) 886-2359 (voice), (312) 353-5693 (TTY/TDD)

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W. Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410. Phone (202) 720-5964 (voice or TTY/TDD)

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AGENCIES THAT ASSIST WITH THE FAMILY VIOLENCE WAIVER

Many of the agencies serve a specific population and have limited staff/office hours.

Call to make an appointment

= Agency assists women* = Agency assists men

SHELTERS

Alexandra House	#	763-780-2330
Ann Pierce Rogers	#	651-768-0216
Casa de Esperanza	#	651-772-1611
Central Minnesota Task Force for Battered Women	#	1-800-950-2203
Cornerstone	#	952-884-0376
Eagles Nest	#	651-222-5836
Harriet Tubman	#	612-825-0000
Hill Home	#	651-770-0777
Home Free	#	763-559-4945
Lewis House	#	651-452-7288
Sojourner/Hopkins Project	#	952-933-7422
The Women's Center	#	651-385-8600
Asian Women United/House of Peace	#	612-724-8823

PHONE NUMBERS

Missions Inc Programs

763-559-9008

LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

Brian Coyle Center	#	612-338-5282
Cornerstone Intervention (South Suburbs Only)	* #	952-884-0376
Harriet Tubman Legal Advocacy	#	612-673-2244
Hennepin County Domestic Abuse Service Center	*#	612-348-5073
Home Free Community Programs (NW Hennepin County)	#	612-545-7080
Minneapolis Intervention Project	*#	612-673-3526
Project Peace (Crystal, Brooklyn Center, Maple Grove, Robbinsdale) 24 hour crisis # is 763-536-1850)	*#	763-533-0733
Sojourner Community Advocates (West Suburbs)	*#	952-935-1004
Sojourner Intervention (Hopkins, Minnetonka, St Louis Park)	#	952-933-7422
Women Of Nations	#	651-222-5836

COUNSELING AND REFERRAL

African American Family Services	#	612-871-7878
Community-University Health Care Center (CUHCC) (Asian Families Only)	#	612-638-0700
Division Of Indian Worker (Native American Women, Men, Children)	*#	612-722-8722
Domestic Abuse Project	#	612-874-7063
Eastside Neighborhood Services	*#	612-781-6011
Men's Center	*	612-822-5892
Outfront Minnesota	*#	612-822-0127
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center	*#	612-374-4342
Sexual Violence Program (University of Minnesota, Mpls)	*#	612-626-9111
Women's Advocates	#	651-227-8284

IMMIGRATION PROGRAMS

Centro Legal-Latino		651-642-1890
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