

## YOU DO NOT DESERVE TO BE ABUSED.

### If you are being abused:

Find a safe place. Stay with family, friends, or at a shelter. Use this directory to help you find any services you need. Remember, you are not alone!

### If you have an emergency:

Dial 911  
Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### If you are injured:

Go to a hospital emergency room or your doctor and tell them what happened to you.

### POLICE

**\*\*For Emergencies, Call 911\*\***

JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF (315) 788-1441

STATE POLICE (315) 782-2112

FORT DRUM

Emergency Call 911  
Non-Emergency (315) 772-7771

CITY OF WATERTOWN POLICE (315) 782-2233

### MEDICAL SERVICES

**\*\*For Emergencies, Call 911\*\***

SAMARITAN MEDICAL CENTER (315) 785-4000

CARTHAGE AREA HOSPITAL (315) 493-1000

LEWIS COUNTY HOSPITAL (315) 376-5200

RIVER HOSPITAL (315) 482-2511

S. JEFFERSON RESCUE SQUAD (315) 232-2624

### HOTLINES

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Local Hotlines

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE CENTER OF JEFFERSON

COUNTY  
(315) 782-1855 OR  
1-866-782-1855 (toll-free)

FT. DRUM VICTIM ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
(315) 955-4321

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE  
(315) 785-4516

CRISIS RESPONSE HOTLINE  
(315) 782-2327

### New York State Hotlines

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 1-800-942-6906

CHILD ABUSE 1-800-342-3720  
1-800-638-5163 (TDD)

### National Hotlines

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 1-800-799-7233  
1-800-787-3224 (TDD)

### COUNSELING & SUPPORT

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE CENTER OF JEFFERSON  
COUNTY

Hotline (24/7): (315) 782-1855 OR  
1-866-782-1855 (toll-free)

Main Office: (315) 782-1823

Website: [www.vacjc.com](http://www.vacjc.com)

Email: [victimassistancecenter@vacjc.com](mailto:victimassistancecenter@vacjc.com)

FT. DRUM VICTIM ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Hotline (24/7): (315) 955-4321  
Advocate office: (315) 772-5605 OR  
(315) 772-8934

SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER

Crisis Line (24/7) (315) 785-4516  
Mental Health Treatment (315) 779-5060  
Alcohol & Drug Treatment (315) 779-5074

CATHOLIC CHARITIES (315) 788-4330

FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES (315) 782-4483

CREDO COMMUNITY CENTER (315) 788-1530

COMMUNITY ACTION—FAMILY CENTER  
(Housing, Utility & Food Emergencies)  
(315) 782-4900

211 COMMUNITY RESOURCE HELPLINE (24/7)  
Dial 211

### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

250 Arsenal Street, Watertown NY 13601  
(315) 785-3000

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES 1-800-342-3720  
ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (315) 785-3210

### LEGAL HELP

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MID-NY, INC.  
215 Washington Street, Suite 202  
Watertown, NY 13601  
HelpLine: 1-877-777-6152 (toll-free)  
Website: [www.lasmny.org](http://www.lasmny.org)

### LEGAL SYSTEM

#### Criminal Court:

**CONTACT** the police.

**CALL** the Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County at (315) 782-1823.

**FILE** a formal complaint with a police officer. If you can, get a copy of the domestic incident report from the police.

**SEEK** the help of the Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County.

**SHOW UP** in court when subpoenaed.

#### Family Court:

**ASK** for help from an advocate at the Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County by calling (315) 782-1823.

**GO** to: Jefferson County Family Court  
163 Arsenal Street  
Watertown, New York  
(315) 785-3001

**FILE** a petition in family court with the help of your advocate.

**SHOW UP** in court for all hearing dates. If you can't afford an attorney, you may be eligible for a court appointed attorney at no cost.

#### Safety Tips

- Always carry a cell phone. Put 911 and the police on speed dial.
- Change your locks, and always keep your home and car doors locked.
- Change up your routine, and try not to go out alone (especially at night).
- Keep an emergency box with a trusted relative or friend. Include ID, copies of important documents, clothes, an extra set of keys, credit cards, money, etc.
- Give your co-workers, neighbors and friends a "code word" and a special signal (such as pulling down a certain window shade) that means "call the police."
- Get a security system and outdoor lights.
- Check out the "Stay Safe" app for your phone at: <https://personalapp.staysafeapp.com/>
- Install smoke & CO2 detectors at home.
- Make a complete "safety plan" with your local DV program, and update it often.



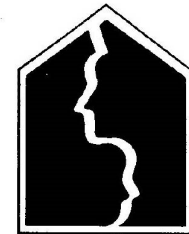
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## JEFFERSON COUNTY SERVICE DIRECTORY



**Q: What should I do if I am hit or threatened?**

**A:** In an emergency, call 911.

**Q: How can I stay safe?**

**A:** Safety first! If you decide to leave the abuser, call the Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County (VACJC) at (315) 782-1855 or 1-866-782-1855 (toll-free). They can help you make a plan to do so safely. You and your children may be able to go to a shelter. Whether you decide to stay or leave, you need a “safety plan.” It could save your life! Call VACJC for help. Update your safety plan every time your situation changes.

**Q: What is an order of protection?**

**A:** It is a court order signed by a judge. The order prohibits the abuser from threatening, abusing, or acting violently towards you. It may also require the abuser to stay away from you, your children, your home, your pets and your job. Filing for an order of protection is free.

**Q: What court do I go to?**

**A:** There are 3 different courts where you can get an order of protection:

- criminal court
- family court
- supreme court (in a divorce case)

**Q: Can I go to these courts if the abuser is in the military?**

Yes, you can get an order of protection from any of these courts. In addition, you may be able to get a military order of protection (MPO). Call the Ft. Drum Victim Advocacy Program for help at (315) 772-5605 or (315) 772-8934. Their domestic violence hotline is (315) 955-4321 (24/7).

If you are in the military, and the abuser is a civilian, you can ask for the abuser to be banned from coming on-base.

**Q: Do I have to be physically hurt?**

**A:** No. If someone is threatening you or your children by words or actions, you can ask for an order of protection.

**Q: Who can get orders of protection?**

**A:** Both men and women have equal rights to get orders of protection. You may also ask for an order of protection for your children, if they are under the age of 18. In family court, you can file on behalf of a relative by blood or marriage, if you believe he or she is in danger.

**Q: How do I get a criminal court order of protection?**

**A:** Call the police and file a criminal complaint with them. Tell the police you want an order of protection, and they will contact the District Attorney’s office. You can get a criminal court order of protection only if the abuser is arrested.

**Q: How do I get a family court order of protection?**

**A:** You can go to family court if:

- you are married to the abuser OR
- you have a child together OR
- you have a blood relationship with the abuser OR
- you have an intimate relationship with the abuser (this includes same-sex relationships)

The first step is to fill out a petition and file it with the family court clerk. Call VACJC for help, or ask for help from a VACJC advocate at the courthouse. Bring your ID. In your petition, write down what the abuser did. Be specific! If possible, include dates and times when the abuse happened. Write down what you want the judge to do to protect you and your children.

**Q: What if I’m already in court for a divorce?**

**A:** You can ask for an order of protection in supreme court, as part of your divorce case. Talk to your divorce lawyer.

**Q: How do I get a military order of protection (MPO)?**

Contact the Ft. Drum Victim Advocacy Program at (315) 772-5605 or (315) 772-8934 for help to start the process. Their domestic violence hotline is (315) 955-4321 (24/7).

If you get an MPO, it will be signed by an officer in command of the abuser. An MPO

can’t be enforced by civilian police off-base, but a soldier can be held accountable through their chain of command if they violate it.

**Q: The abuser is in the military. I’m afraid the abuser will lose his or her job if I get an order of protection. What can I do?**

In some cases, getting an MPO (or even an order of protection from a civilian court) may cause the abuser to be separated or discharged from the military. If this happens, you may qualify for financial help from the military for up to 36 months.

If you are married to the abuser, or if you are a servicemember yourself, you can ask the Ft. Drum Victim Advocacy Program to make a “restricted” report. A “restricted” report is confidential. There are some exceptions – for example, if there is a risk of immediate and severe harm, or if child abuse is involved. Just be aware that if you make a “restricted” report, it will not start the process to hold the abuser accountable.

**Q: If I’m in danger, can I get an order of protection right away?**

**A:** A judge can give you a temporary order of protection right away. To get one, you may need to go in front of the judge when you file your petition. If family court is not in session, you can get a temporary order of protection from your local criminal court or town justice.

**Q: What does an order of protection do?**

**A:** An order of protection can order the abuser not to assault you or come near your home, job, children’s school or daycare, pets, etc. It may order the abuser not to speak to you in person, by phone, mail, text, or e-mail. It may also order the abuser not to threaten you. If you live with your abuser, it can order him or her to leave the home.

A family court or supreme court order may also give you temporary custody of your children. If you want permanent custody, you must file a custody petition with the court.

NOTE: The order does not give you ownership of your home, or any property you co-own with the abuser.

**Q: How long does an order of protection last?**

**A:** A criminal court order typically lasts 1 year, but can last up to 5 years (or even longer, in extreme cases). If you have a “temporary” order, it will expire on a certain date, unless you ask the court to extend it.

A family court order typically lasts 1 to 2 years, but can last up to 5 years. You can ask the court to extend the order for a longer time, if you have good cause. If you don’t want the order anymore, you must go back to court.

**Q: What should I do with my order of protection?**

**A:** Make copies. Keep a copy at home, at work, in your car, and with a trusted relative or friend. If the order covers your children, make sure their school and daycare have a copy. Include a picture of the abuser with each copy, if you can.

**Q: Do I have to wait until I’m physically hurt to file for a violation?**

**A:** No! If the abuser does anything forbidden in the order, it’s a violation. Call the police. Then, you must decide whether to file a violation petition with family court, or go to criminal court to file a complaint, or both.

**Q: What happens when the abuser is found in violation?**

**A:** If the abuser violates a family court order, he or she could go to jail for up to 6 months or be fined. If the abuser violates a criminal court order, he or she could go to jail for up to 1 year.

If this isn’t the first time the abuser has violated a criminal court order (or if you were physically hurt, or your property was damaged) the abuser could even go to state prison. If you have an MPO, the abuser may face disciplinary action by their company commander for violating the order.

You can find out when the abuser is getting out of jail by calling VINE-NY at 1-888-846-3469. Visit [www.Vinelink.com](http://www.Vinelink.com) to sign up for alerts by phone, text, email and TTY.