

**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*

**STATE POLICE**

Homer (607) 756-5604  
Marathon (607) 849-3586

CORTLAND COUNTY SHERIFF  
(607) 758-5599

**LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS**

City of Cortland (607) 756-2811  
Village of Homer (607) 749-2022  
SUNY Cortland (607) 753-2112

**MEDICAL SERVICES**

*For Emergencies, Call 911*

**CORTLAND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

Main number: (607) 756-3500  
Emergency Room: (607) 756-3740 or  
(607) 756-3741

**SHELTER PROGRAM**

**YWCA AID TO VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE**

Hotline (24/7): (607) 756-6363 or  
1-800-336-9622 (toll free)  
Office: (607) 753-3639  
Website: [www.cortlandywca.org](http://www.cortlandywca.org)

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES (607) 753-5248  
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (607) 753-5248  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LIAISON (607) 753-5248

**HOTLINES**

*Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week*

**Local Hotlines**

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MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE (24/7):  
(607) 756-3771

**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  
(800) 799-7233  
(800) 787-3224 (TDD)

**COUNSELING SERVICES**

CORTLAND COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH  
(607) 758-6100

FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICES  
(607) 753-0234

YWCA  
(607) 753-3639 (non-emergency)

**LEGAL HELP**

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MID-NY, INC.  
111 Port Watson Street  
Cortland, NY 13045

Helpline: 1-877-777-6152 (toll-free)  
Office: (607) 428-8400  
Website: [www.lasmny.org](http://www.lasmny.org)

CORTLAND COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
(607) 753-5008

CORTLAND COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER  
(607) 753-5046

CORTLAND COUNTY PROBATION DEPT.  
(607) 753-5019

**EMERGENCY NEEDS  
(HOUSING, UTILITIES, FOOD, ETC.)**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: (607) 756-5992 ext. 134

COMMUNITY ACTION: (607) 753-6781

RED CROSS/DISASTER SERVICES: (607) 753-1182

CORTLAND 211 HELPLINE (24/7): Dial 211

**LEGAL SYSTEM**

**Criminal Court:**

**CONTACT** the police.

**CALL** YWCA Aid to Victims of Violence immediately after contacting the police.

**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 a YWCA advocate if you go to court.

**SHOW UP** in court when you are subpoenaed.

**Family Court:**

**GO** to Cortland County Family Court.

**ASK** for help from a YWCA advocate by calling their office.

**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, ask the court to assign you a free lawyer.

**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.



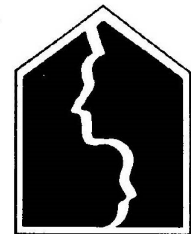
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This booklet was prepared for YWCA Aid to Victims of Violence by the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc. to provide a directory of services and general legal information for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. For more information regarding this booklet, contact the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc. at 268 Genesee Street Utica, New York 13502 (315-793-7000).

**CORTLAND 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 YWCA Aid to Victims of Violence for help making a plan to do so safely. You and your children may be able to go to a DV shelter. If you have pets, some shelters will also help you find a safe place for your pets to stay.

Whether you decide to stay or leave, you need a “safety plan.” It could save your life! Call YWCA Aid to Victims of Violence 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.

**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)

Filing for an order of protection is free.

**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.

**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 in your county. Call YWCA Aid to Victims of Violence for help. 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: 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.

You can go to [www.nyalert.com](http://www.nyalert.com) to sign up for an alert by voice or text when the abuser gets served with the order.

**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.

**Q: How can I find out when the abuser is getting out of jail (or prison)?**

**A:** You can find out when the abuser is getting out of jail or state prison by calling VINE-NY at 1-888-846-3469. You can sign up at [www.Vinelink.com](http://www.Vinelink.com) to get alerts by phone, text, email and TTY. This website can also help you sign up for alerts if the abuser is in another state.

If the abuser is in state prison in New York State, you should also call the Office of Victim Assistance at 1-800-783-6059 to sign up for alerts. You can sign up online at this website:

<http://www.doccs.ny.gov/DOCCSWebVictimNotification.aspx>

If the abuser is in federal prison, check with your local U.S. Attorney’s office to make sure you are signed up for alerts.