

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND...

...Women

- Nearly one-third report being abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point during their lives.
- An estimated 2.1 million women experience 5.3 million incidents of physical assault, intimate partner rape and stalking annually.

...Health Care

- Victims of domestic violence account for 22-35% of all women seeking emergency medical care.
- Costs of direct medical and mental healthcare services for victims amount to \$4.1 billion each year.

...Housing

- Domestic violence is a major cause of homelessness for women and children.
- Battered women often remain in abusive homes or return to their batterers when viable options for permanent housing cannot be found.

...The Workplace

- Lost productivity due to domestic violence equals \$727.8 million annually, with almost 8 million paid workdays lost each year.
- 74% of employed battered women were harassed while at work.

...Children

- Child abuse occurs in up to 70% of families that experience domestic violence.
- Men who witness domestic violence as children are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children as those who do not witness domestic violence.

...The Law

- Research shows that legal assistance to obtain an Order of Protection is the only service that decreases the likelihood that women will be battered.
- Only about one-half of domestic violence incidents are reported to police.

Get to Know

LAAW...
and
STOP ABUSE.

Crisis Line
314-664-6699
or
800-527-1460

Donation Information
314-664-7780

Volunteer Information
314-664-8399

P.O. Box 63249
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**Legal Advocates
for
Abused Women**

*Dedicated to helping
victims of abuse in
times of crisis*

LEGAL ADVOCATES FOR ABUSED WOMEN

Legal Advocates for Abused Women is dedicated to helping victims of abuse in times of crisis.

LAAW is the **only** domestic violence organization in the St. Louis area that partners with law enforcement and criminal and civil court systems to break the cycle of violence at the earliest possible stage. LAAW serves St. Louis City and the counties of St. Louis, St. Charles, Jefferson, Warren, Lincoln and Franklin.

LAAW was founded in 1986 by the National Council of Jewish Women, St. Louis Section and Legal Services of Eastern Missouri. Following a planned spin-off in 1995, LAAW obtained 501(c)3 status and became an independent, not-for-profit domestic violence organization.

LAAW'S DIRECT SERVICE PARTNERS

St. Louis City Family Court
St. Louis County Family Court
St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department
St. Louis County Police Department
City of Chesterfield
Catholic Legal Assistance Ministry
St. Louis University School of Law
Washington University School of Law

LAAW SERVICES

Police Partnerships

Immediate crisis response for victims reporting domestic violence incidents to the police.

Domestic Violence Intervention Partnership— DVIP City

Partnership with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department to provide immediate response to all domestic violence cases referred by district officers and detectives of the Domestic Abuse Response Team.

Domestic Violence Intervention Partnership— DVIP County

Partnership with the St. Louis County Police Department to provide immediate response to all domestic violence cases referred by the detectives of the Family Crime Unit.

Court Collaborations

Information, crisis intervention, support & free legal representation for victims seeking legal remedies to abuse.

Court Order of Protection Assistance Project— COPA City

On-site partnership with the St. Louis City Civil Courts to provide legal information and crisis support to victims filing for Orders of Protection.

Court Order of Protection Assistance Project— COPA County

On-site partnership with the St. Louis County Family Court to provide legal information and crisis support to victims filing for Orders of Protection.

Courts, Advocacy and Police Services— CAPS

On-site partnership with the St. Louis City Family Court to provide legal information and crisis support to victims receiving services through the Family Court. Similar services provided to victims referred by the St. Louis County Family Court as needed.

LAAW SERVICES

Legal Programs

Addresses the needs of battered women who are poor and underserved by providing extensive services that combine expertise in domestic violence issues and remedies that are free-of-charge.

Legal Help Line

Legal Advocates provide safety planning, crisis support, legal information, and critical legal and social service referrals to any caller regardless of their geographic location. Advocates also conduct intakes for callers seeking free legal representation.

Free Legal Representation

LAAW staff and volunteer attorneys provide free legal representation at Order of Protection hearings for low-income victims of domestic violence within LAAW's seven-county service area.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Information about the dynamics of domestic violence, the Adult Abuse Act and Orders of Protection, legal options and resources. Community outreach is available to victims, attorneys, court personnel, law enforcement officers, and any other group requesting information.

Extensive distribution of LAAW materials including The OP Booklet and The Adult Abuse Trifolds in English, Bosnian, Spanish, Mandarin and Vietnamese.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LAAW relies on community volunteers to further its mission. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Direct Services to Victims
- Public Relations
- Special Events
- Development & Fundraising
- Office Assistance

For more information, call (314) 664-8399.