

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES

## HOUSING RESOURCES

### **Virginia Williams Family Resource Center – Central intake for Families At Risk of Homelessness**

- 920 Rhode Island Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20018
- 202-526-0017

### **DC Shelter Hotline**

- 202-399-7093

### **DC SAFE – 24/7 hotline - DV Specific**

- 1-800-407-5048

### **District Alliance for Safe Housing - DV Specific**

- 202-462-3274
- info@dashdc.org

### **House of Ruth – DV Specific**

- 202-667-7001 ext. 320
- intake@houseofruth.org

### **My Sister's Place – Family Shelter - DV Specific**

- 202-540-1064

## BASIC NEEDS RESOURCES

### **A Wider Circle (Furniture)**

- 301-608-3504
- contact@awidercircle.org

### **Martha's Table (Clothing, Food)**

- 202-328-6608
- info@marthastable.org

### **Bread for the City (Clothing, Food)**

- NW Center: 1525 7th St NW, DC 20001
- 202-265-2400
- SE Center: 1700 Good Hope Road SE, DC 20020
- 202-561-8587

### **Capital Area Food Bank (Food)**

- www.capitalareafoodbank.org/find-food-assistance/
- 202-644-9807
- hungerlifeline@capitalareafoodbank.org

## Mental Health Resources

### **Access Helpline**

- 1-888-793-4357

### **Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse - DV Specific**

- 1-877-885-2232
- support@jcada.org

### **La Clinica Del Pueblo – Spanish counseling and support groups**

- 202-462-4788

### **House of Ruth – DV Specific**

- 202-667-7001 ext. 515

### **The Women's Center**

- 202-293-4580

## CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION

- www.dccourts.gov/services/crime-victims-compensation-matters
- CVCPapplications@DCSC.gov
- 202-879-4216

This program provides financial assistance and reimbursement to victims of violent crime. Compensable expenses include medical and mental health expenses, lost wages, and temporary emergency shelter and relocation.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE + FAMILY LAW LEGAL RESOURCES

### **Victim Legal Network of DC**

- 202-629-1788

### **DC Superior Court Domestic Violence Clerk's Office (for CPO matters)**

- 202-879-0157

### **DC Superior Court Family Law Self-Help Center (for custody and divorce matters)**

- 202-879-1212

### **Family Law Assistance Network**

- 202-844-5428

### **DC Bar Pro Bono Center Legal Helpline**

- 202-626-3499

## IMMIGRATION LEGAL RESOURCES

### **Ayuda (Note: fee for consultation)**

- 202-387-4848

### **Caracen (Note: fee for consultation)**

- 202-328-9799

### **Catholic Charities (Note: fee for consultation)**

- 202-350-4305 (English)
- 202-772-4325 (Espanol)

### **Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia**

- 202-628-1161

### **Bread for the City**

- 202-386-7616

## HEALTH & EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

### **Children's National Medical Center**

- 202-476-5000

### **Community of Hope**

- Office Line: 202-407-7747
- 24/7 Nurse Advice Line: 202-540-9857

### **DC Forensic Nurse Examiner's Program**

Access at MedStar Washington Hospital Center

- 110 Irving Street NW Washington, DC 20010
- 202-742-1736

### **DC Victim Hotline**

- 1-844-443-5732

# VICTIM LEGAL RIGHTS

As a domestic violence survivor, you have certain legal rights and protections granted by federal and DC laws. For example:

## CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER

You may be able to get a Civil Protection Order (CPO) if your partner or abuser physically hurt, threatened to harm you, sexually assaulted or trafficked you, destroyed your property or committed some other crime against you. You must live or work in DC, at least one incident must have occurred in DC, and you and your abuser must:

- Share a child,
- Have or have had a romantic relationship, or
- Be related (although you can obtain a CPO against a stranger or acquaintance who has sexually assaulted or stalked you).

You may ask the judge to remove your abuser from the family home or grant you temporary custody of your children. To ask a court to order your abuser to stop abusing you, you will need to file a Petition for a Civil Protection Order. After filing your Petition the court will schedule your trial date to determine whether they will grant you a Civil Protection Order for up to 2 years. If your safety or welfare is immediately endangered, you can request a Temporary Protection Order that will protect you until your hearing date.

## IMMIGRATION

You may be eligible for immigration relief regardless of the immigration status of your abuser or their willingness to help with the immigration process. If your abuser is in the U.S., you may be eligible for relief through the Violence Against Women Act, a U or T visa, or other relief option. If you fled your country because you suffered persecution based on your gender or other aspect of your identity, you may be eligible for an asylum claim.

## EMPLOYMENT

You have the right to request time off to participate in legal proceedings related to domestic violence and to request reasonable accommodations including but not limited to reassignment, a modified schedule, or the implementation of safety procedures. You are also protected from being fired from your job based on your status as a victim.

Visit the Office on Human Rights @ [www.ohr.dc.gov](http://www.ohr.dc.gov) for more information on your rights and filing a complaint.

## HOUSING

You have rights to have your abuser removed from a Section 8 voucher or lease, to break your lease early to flee violence, to have your locks changed, and to be protected against eviction for experiencing a crime of domestic violence. You are also protected from discrimination based on your status as a victim.

## TAX RELIEF & GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

You may be eligible for tax relief (e.g., Innocent Spouse Waiver) if your spouse forced you to file a false tax form or filed without your knowledge. You are protected from discrimination based on your status as a victim by the DC Human Rights Act and cannot be denied access to government benefits, services, or programs because you are a victim. As a victim of a crime, you may have the right to crime victim compensation.

For more information or to file an application, visit: [www.dccourts.gov/services/crime-victims-compensation-matters](http://www.dccourts.gov/services/crime-victims-compensation-matters).

## CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOUR ABUSER

If you decide to pursue criminal charges against your abuser, you have rights. This includes the right to be present at all proceedings, the right to provide your opinion on any plea bargain, the right to give a statement about the impact of the crime, and the right to have your privacy protected.

Talk to the prosecutor or visit: [ovsjg.dc.gov/page/crime-victims-legal-rights](http://ovsjg.dc.gov/page/crime-victims-legal-rights) for more information.

## SAFETY PLANNING - TIPS TO HELP YOU TAKE CARE

In emergencies and through stressful times, it can be difficult to think and react clearly. Creating a safety plan in advance will ensure you have a system in place when you need it.

- 1. Have a Support System** – stay connected to family and friends and connect to an advocacy organization you trust.
- 2. Code Word** – establish code words with people you trust to signal you're not safe and need help. Plan in advance what they should do if you tell them the code word.
- 3. Important Documents** – gather important documents: ID's, social security cards, health insurance cards, immigration documents, birth certificate, Custody Order, Protection Order. Take pictures and make copies of them and give them to trusted relatives and friends.
- 4. Pack a Bag** – If possible, prepare a bag with any essential items – documents, medication, car keys, cell phone, extra charger, list of phone numbers of people you trust, change of clothing.
- 5. Exit Plan** – create an exit plan ahead of time: identify friends or relatives you trust and who could support your needs. If necessary, familiarize yourself with shelter options.
- 6. After you Leave** – Vary your usual routine in order to avoid being followed. If you've moved, take steps to keep your address confidential. Reach out to an advocate to discuss planning.

**DC VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT**  
(202) 425-7573 | [clinic@dcvlp.org](mailto:clinic@dcvlp.org)