

FINANCIAL REIMBURSEMENT

Under California law, you have the right to file a civil suit for losses suffered as a result of the abuse, including medical expenses, lost wages, counseling charges, and other expenses for injuries sustained and damage to property and any other related expenses incurred by you or an agency that shelters you. For more information regarding financial reimbursement, call the Victim Center.

For information about the California Victim's Compensation program, contact:1-800-777-9229.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IS A CRIME

Forced sexual contact by a person who is known to you, including your spouse, is against the law. The prospect of facing the legal process and having to repeat the story of what happened to you may feel like too much. Victims who do report, however, often feel stronger knowing that they are taking action. By doing so, you acknowledge that what happened to you was wrong. Investigation into the crime will involve an examination and follow-up care. Call Rape Trauma Services for more information.

What to do following a sexual assault:

- ✓ Do not wash, douche or change clothes.
- ✓ Immediately contact local law enforcement.
- ✓ Obtain immediate emergency treatment.
- ✓ Do not clean the house if the attack occurred there.
- ✓ Call the local rape crisis center.

LEAVING PLANS

Develop a safety plan before you leave the relationship. The abuser may view your leaving the relationship as a loss of control over you which may lead to more violence. Call one of the hotlines listed in this brochure for assistance.

24 HOUR HOTLINES:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT A SHELTER AND OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES, YOU MAY CONTACT:

- Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse
(Spanish & English, counseling and shelter)
(650) 312-8515
(800) 300-1080
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
(800) 799-7233 (SAFE)
- Rape Trauma Services
(650) 692-7273

RESTRAINING ORDER ASSISTANCE:

- Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse
CORA Legal Hotline (650) 259-1855
- Bay Area Legal Aid (hotline)
(800) 551-5594

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:

- Victim Advocates
Redwood City (650) 599-7330
South San Francisco (650) 877-5797

HELP WITH IMMIGRATION ISSUES:

- International Institute of San Francisco
(San Mateo) (650) 780-7530
- Catholic Charities
San Francisco (415) 406-2360
San Jose (408) 468-0100

FINANCIAL COMPENSATION:

- Victim Center (650) 877-5494

This pamphlet was prepared and published by Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA). It has been made available to you through a partnership with South San Francisco Police Department.



Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Domestic Violence Resource Guide

If you are a victim of domestic violence/abuse, you are not alone and you do not have to suffer in silence. Contact one of the agencies listed on the back of this pamphlet for support, information and assistance.



**South San Francisco Police Department
33 Arroyo Drive, Suite C
South San Francisco, California 94080
(650) 877- 8900**

Emergency.....911

Case # _____

Officer Name & Badge # _____

Date: _____

**NOTICE TO:
Victims of Domestic Violence
Penal Code Sections 13701
Victims of Sexual Assault
Penal Code Section 264.2a**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A CRIME

You do not deserve to be hit, pushed, shoved, threatened, forced to have sex against your will, or be abused in any way, regardless of the abuser's relationship to you.

INTERVENTION

Without some type of intervention, violent behavior usually does not stop. In fact, it often gets more frequent and severe. Children who witness domestic violence are greatly affected and may be harmed emotionally and developmentally.

LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE.

Officers responding to a "911" call will take a statement from you to find out what has happened. The officer will decide if there is enough reason (probable cause) to make an arrest. It is important to tell the officer if the suspect has abused you in the past, or has threatened you and you believe that the abuse will continue after the officer leaves.

Warning: Even if the suspect was arrested and taken to jail, he/she may be released at any time. The San Mateo County Personal Victim Notification Program gives victims phone calls before the release of the arrested offender.

Citation and Release: Depending on the severity of the violence and whether or not there is past history of assaults, the officer may make a misdemeanor arrest. The officer may cite (write a ticket with an order to appear in court on a certain date) and release the suspect instead of taking him/her to jail.

Private Person's Arrest: Sometimes the officer does not make any arrest. You have the right to ask for a "private person's arrest," and the officer may be able to take the person to jail.

You have the right to have a domestic violence counselor and/or a support person present at any follow-up interview by law enforcement, district attorney, or defense attorney. It is your responsibility to have these parties present on your behalf.

EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE ORDERS

If you feel in danger from the abuser, even if he/she has been arrested, you can ask the officer for an Emergency Protective Order.

Tell the officer why you are afraid of the abuser. An Emergency Protective Order is good for 5 court days and can be issued 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Note: Sometimes bruises take time to appear. Make sure to call the police if you notice injuries in the hours or days following the assault so that they can take photographs of the injuries.

RESTRAINING ORDERS

You have the right to go the Superior Court in Redwood City or South San Francisco to file a restraining order for your protection at no cost. Temporary Restraining Orders (TRO) may be good for up to three years. The judge may issue orders that:

- ✓ *Restrain the attacker from abusing you, other family members;*
- ✓ *Require the attacker to leave the household;*
- ✓ *Prevent the attacker from entering your residence, school, business, or place of employment;*
- ✓ *Award custody of or visitation with minor children to you or the other parent;*
- ✓ *Restrain the attacker from molesting or interfering with minor children in the custody of the victim.*
- ✓ *Require the person not granted custody to pay support of minor children if the person has a legal obligation to do so;*
- ✓ *Require the abuser to make specific debt payments coming due while the order is in effect.*
- ✓ *Direct that either parties participate in counseling.*

Assistance: If you need assistance on how to file a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), call your attorney, one of the agencies listed on the back of this pamphlet, or go to the Superior Court and file the papers. Offices of the Superior Court are located at 400 County Center, Redwood City(650/363-4711) & 1050 Old Mission Road, South San Francisco (650/877-5704). The TRO is **free of charge**.

PLAN FOR YOUR SAFETY WHEN FILING A RESTRAINING ORDER

Many abusers obey restraining orders, but some do not. Threats of retaliation for your leaving the relationship should always be taken seriously.

- ✓ *Call for information about a safe shelter;*
- ✓ *Do not go places where you know the abuser might be or have access to, for example a parent's or friend's home;*
- ✓ *Secure your home by changing locks, installing a deadbolt and securing windows;*
- ✓ *Never allow the abuser to come into your home "just to visit together as a family";*
- ✓ *Consider changing your telephone number;*
- ✓ *The order is a very powerful way for you to set a boundary of safety. However, it will be "just a piece of paper" unless you enforce it by reporting EVERY violation (no matter how minor) to the police*

CRIMINAL CHARGES

The District Attorney (D.A.) may file criminal charges against the person who hurt you, or you may ask the D.A. to file a criminal complaint. It is impossible for you to "drop the charges," because it is the D.A. who files them, not you. Call the Victim Advocate at the D.A.'s office for more information.

FEAR OF DEPORTATION

Police officers are not immigration agents. You have the right to ask for help from the police without being afraid of deportation. Call the immigration assistance numbers listed on the back of this pamphlet for more information.

No one deserves to be abused.

It can happen to anyone.

Help is available.