

## Illinois Domestic Violence Information

Joliet Police Department

Officer's Name & Star #	Police Report #	Date	Time

### Victim Information

Domestic Violence is a crime. Any person who hits, chokes, kicks, threatens, harasses, or interferes with the personal liberty of another "family or household member" has broken the law. According to Illinois law "family or household members" are defined as persons who:

1. are related by blood or by present or prior marriage;
2. share or formerly shared a common dwelling;
3. have or allegedly have a child in common;
4. are of the opposite sex or of the same sex who have or have had a dating or engagement relationship;
5. share or allegedly share a blood relationship through a child;
6. are disabled and battered by their personal assistants.

### Law Enforcement Officers are to use all reasonable means to prevent further abuse, including:

1. arranging for or transporting the victims to a medical facility or shelter or place of safety and/or accompanying the victim back to the residence to get belongings.
2. arresting the abuser where appropriate and completing a police report on all bonafide incidents;
3. advising the victim of his or her right to an order of protection and the importance of preserving evidence, such as, damaged clothing and property and photographs of injuries or damage;

### Orders of Protection

An Order of Protection is a court order available to "family or household members" prohibiting the abuser from certain activities or ordering the abuser to take certain actions. An Order of Protection may include, but is not limited to;

1. prohibiting an abuser from continued threats and abuse;  
ABUSE includes physical abuse, harassment, intimidation, interference with personal liberty or willful deprivation, not including the reasonable direction of a minor child by a parent or person acting in place of a parent.
2. barring an abuser temporarily from the home and ordering the abuser to stay away from the victim's place of employment, school etc ... ;
3. ordering the abuser to pay child support, medical costs and legal expenses;
4. awarding temporary child custody and prohibiting child abduction and requiring abuser to undergo counseling.
5. ordering the abuser out of the home while they are using drugs or alcohol.
6. requiring the abuser to turn weapons over to local law enforcement; and/or prohibit abuser from other actions.

### To obtain an Order of Protection you may do any of the following:

1. contact Groundwork, a nearby domestic violence program, and ask for assistance; (#729-1228)
2. go to the County Circuit Clerks office and request the necessary paperwork;
3. ask your attorney to file a petition in civil court;
4. request an Order in conjunction with divorce proceedings; or
5. request an Order during the course of a criminal prosecution.

*Note: Each judicial circuit is required by law to have one judge available at all times to order emergency orders of protection.*

If an Order of Protection is violated the abuser has committed a Class A Misdemeanor and should be arrested. A second or subsequent offense is a Class 4 felony. In addition to any other sentencing alternatives, for any second conviction within five years of a previous conviction, the offender must be sentenced to a minimum of 48 consecutive hours of imprisonment. You may seek an Order of Protection on behalf of someone who cannot because of age, health, or disability.

### Criminal Charges and Bail Bond Provisions

If an arrest has not been made and you wish to seek criminal charges against your abuser, bring all relevant information, including the police report number and this form, to your local states attorney. It may be helpful to first contact Groundwork so they can help you through the system.

When a person is charged with a criminal offense and the victim is a "family or household member", unless otherwise provided by the court, the abuser will be prohibited from contacting or communicating with the victim and from entering or remaining at the victim's residence for a minimum of 72 hours. If a defendant/abuser violates these restrictions, you should call the police immediately. The defendant can be charged with an additional offense, violation of a bail bond, which is a Class A Misdemeanor.

Groundwork-Joliet  
Shelter & Crisis Line  
(815) 729-1228

Chicagoland DV Helpline  
1-877-863-6338

National Hotline (24 Hour Multilingual)  
1-800-799-SAFE  
1-800-787-3224 TTY

Mutual Ground Hotline -- Kendall County 1-630-897-0080

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