



A MESSAGE FROM ANTHONY A. SCARPIANO, JR.  
*Westchester County District Attorney*

*Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr.*

Dear Friends,

Domestic Violence is the willful intimidation, physical and/or sexual assault, stalking or psychological and emotional abuse as part of a systematic pattern of power and control committed by one intimate partner against another.

Domestic Violence does not discriminate and affects individuals from every community, regardless of gender, age, socio-economic status, race or sexual orientation.

As your District Attorney, I am committed to stopping this cycle of violence and vigorously prosecuting offenders. Victims of abuse are faced with complicated emotional, psychological and financial issues when trying to remove themselves from abusive relationships and ending their relationship with their abuser. My staff in the Domestic Violence Bureau are here to listen and create a safe haven for families while guiding victims of abuse through the criminal justice system.



**Office of the District Attorney**

RICHARD J. DARONCO COURTHOUSE  
111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
White Plains, NY 10601  
(914) 995-3414  
[westchesterda.net](http://westchesterda.net)



**Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr.**  
Westchester County District Attorney

## What Forms Does Domestic Violence Take?

Domestic Violence can include assault, sexual assault, pushing, shoving, striking, yelling, emotional abuse, intimidation, efforts to obstruct breathing and other controlling and threatening behaviors.

Frequently, domestic violence occurs when relationships are ending. In these situations, risks to victims and their children are especially great. Victims should proactively report abuse and threatening behavior with respect to themselves or their children to the police immediately.

## What We Can Do To Help

The Domestic Violence Bureau investigates and prosecutes criminal cases involving abuse between family members and intimate partners. Specially-trained prosecutors and a team of domestic violence aides will work closely with you to assist you in navigating the legal system, providing you with court-related information and referring you to resources and services available to victims of domestic abuse.

**Our Domestic Violence Bureau also has bilingual services and can help you with:**

- Obtaining Court Information
- Developing a Safety Plan
- Obtaining a copy of an Order of Protection
- Referrals to Domestic Violence Shelters
- Referrals to Counseling Services

If you think you are a victim of domestic violence, seek help and call your local police department and our Office at (914) 995-3000.

## Criminal Court and Family Court

Criminal Court is an option available to all victims of domestic violence regardless of your relationship with your abuser. Cases filed in a criminal court are prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office and are brought in the name of the People of the State of New York. Criminal courts can impose a wide range of sentences, including mandatory attendance of drug, alcohol, domestic violence and anger management programs, probation and incarceration. Throughout the prosecution of the criminal case, members of the Domestic Violence Bureau stay in contact with the victim, and seek their input and keep them informed of the case proceedings.

Family Court is also available to victims of domestic violence, particularly those who are related to their abuser by blood or marriage, those formerly married and those who have children in common. A proceeding in Family Court is initiated by filing a petition. These petitions can seek orders of protection and child custody or support.

In cases of domestic violence, both Criminal and Family Courts have concurrent jurisdiction over a matter. That means that a victim can seek relief from both courts for the same incident.

Both Criminal and Family Courts have the authority to issue temporary and final orders of protection which can order abusers to stay away from the victim, refrain from harassing, stalking and assaultive conduct towards the victim and refrain from communicating with the victim.



## Where to Call for Help

---

In an emergency, always call 911

**Domestic Violence Bureau**  
Westchester County District Attorney's Office  
(914) 995-3000

**Victim's Justice Center**  
Westchester County District Attorney's Office  
(914) 995-3300

**Hope's Door (24 hour hotline)**  
(914) 747-0828 or  
(1888) 438-8700

**My Sister's Place (24 hour hotline)**  
(914) 683-1333 or  
(1800) 298-7233

**Legal Services of the Hudson Valley**  
(914) 949-1305

**Pace Women's Justice Center Family Court Legal Program**  
White Plains: (914) 995-7400  
Yonkers: (914) 231-2886

**Victim's Assistance Services of Westchester, Inc.**  
(914) 345-3113

**Westchester County Office for Women**  
(914) 995-5972

For more information, please visit our website  
[westchesterda.net](http://westchesterda.net)