

LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES (750 ILCS 60/304)

When responding to a domestic violence call, law enforcement officers are required by the Illinois Domestic Violence Act to use all reasonable means to prevent further abuse, neglect or exploitation, including:

- Arrest the abuser when there is enough evidence to believe a crime has been committed. The officer need not have witnessed the crime, as long as there is cause to believe that the abuse has occurred (for example, the victims statement, physical injuries, witnesses, damage to property, risk assessment form)
- Provide the victim with information on his or her rights under the Order of Protection Information Act and ways to keep safe along with your badge number and name. (Safety Plan cards)
- Provide or arrange transportation for the victim and her children to a hospital or a safe place
- Accompany the victim back to her home after she has left to provide protection while personal belongings are being collected.

HOW TO HELP

Work actively with a battered woman to provide her with information, resources and support. There are many programs in Illinois that provide counseling and support to battered women. Introduce her to a domestic violence program in her area.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

A Safe Place/Lake County Crisis Center

(847) 249-4450

Turning Point – McHenry County

(815) 338-8081 or After Hours (800) 892-8900

Lake County State's Attorney's Office

(847) 377-3000

National Domestic Violence Hotline

(800) 799-7233

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

When collecting evidence ask yourself the question:
**CAN I PROVE THE CASE
WITHOUT THE VICTIM'S PARTICIPATION?**

EVIDENCE COLLECTION

1. PHOTOS OF VICTIM INJURIES
2. FOLLOW-UP PHOTOS OF INJURIES
3. 911 TAPES/PRINTOUTS
4. MEDICAL RECORDS
5. PARAMEDIC RECORDS
6. TORN CLOTHING/BLOOD EVIDENCE
7. DAMAGED FURNITURE
8. WEAPONS
9. EMPLOYER RECORDS
10. CELL/LANDLINE RECORDS/ANSWERING MACHINE/VOICEMAIL RECORDINGS
11. E-MAILS AND TEXTS (HARDCOPY/PICTURE)
12. LETTERS FROM DEFENDANT
13. DIAGRAM OF SCENE
14. DIAGRAM OF VICTIM
15. PHOTO OF DEFENDANT
16. INTERVIEW CHILDREN/TAKE PHOTOS
17. SIGNED STATEMENTS FROM VICTIM AND OFFENDER
18. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RISK ASSESSMENT FORM (LAKE COUNTY)
19. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT FORM ALONG WITH WRITTEN REPORT (LAKE COUNTY)

These are 19 areas of evidence in domestic violence cases that do not involve the testimony of the victim. This information was provided by the Lake County State's Attorney's Office.

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