

### **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence (DV) is much more common than we believe. It affects rich and poor, young and old. Today, however, there is help for victims of DV. The law provides for protection orders, law enforcement officers are trained to assist victims, prosecutors seek to hold those who commit acts of DV accountable, and advocates provide information and assistance to the victim.

However, the first step is for the victim to begin the process of holding the person accountable for their actions. This pamphlet explains the process that protects and assists DV victims, and answers frequently asked questions.

### **Domestic Violence Assistance**

Under Missouri law victims of abuse can seek assistance and protection. Abuse includes assault, battery, coercion, harassment, sexual assault and stalking. Protection Orders are available to protect victims of abuse and those receiving threats of abuse.

### **How Do I Fill Out the Petition?**

- ✓ Write NEATLY
- ✓ Fill it out COMPLETELY
- ✓ Explain the IMMEDIATE and PRESENT DANGER to you
- ✓ Describe IN DETAIL how, when and where the abuse happened, including all INJURIES suffered

### **What Do I Do If I Am a DV Victim?**

Immediately seek safety and call 911. You may be eligible for a civil Order of Protection and the incident may also result in the prosecutor filing criminal charges against the person. Law enforcement officers, court personnel and/or the Court Advocate can assist you in filing for an Order of Protection.

### **Where Do I Obtain a Petition?**

Nodaway County Circuit Clerk's Office,  
303 North Market, Maryville (660) 582-5431

Nodaway County Sheriff's Dept.  
404 North Vine, Maryville  
(660) 582-7451

Maryville Public Safety Dept.  
222 East Third Street, Maryville  
(660) 562-3209

Northwest Campus Safety Dept.  
Northwest Missouri State University  
(660) 562-1254

St. Francis Hospital  
Emergency Room  
(660) 562-2600

Children and Family Center  
Court Advocate  
Patricia Jacobs  
(660) 562-2320  
1-866-382-7867

### **What Happens After I File?**

The Petition will be reviewed by the Judge. Based solely on your Petition, the Judge may issue an immediate Order of Protection against your abuser.

In that case, the Order of Protection remains in effect until a full hearing is held when the Judge will hear testimony from you and from your abuser to determine if a full Order should be granted. If you need assistance, the Court Advocate, Patricia Jacobs, (660) 562-2320, may be able to assist you during this process, including being with you at the Court hearing for moral support.

Even if the Judge did not issue the emergency Order, he will still schedule your case for a full hearing and hear testimony. He can issue a full Order of Protection, even if he did not issue an emergency order based on your Petition.

### **What About Filing Criminal Charges?**

In addition to the Judge issuing a civil Order of Protection, the Prosecuting Attorney MAY be able to also file criminal charges against your abuser for their actions. The prosecutor will make that decision based on the statement you provided to law enforcement officers and the information they obtain during their investigation into your case. While these are separate actions, the Prosecuting Attorney seeks to file criminal charges in every situation when the law and facts allow.