

### **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.

### **Will an Order of Protection Always Keep Me Safe?**

Not necessarily. Studies show that Orders of Protection lower but do not eliminate the risk of ongoing, future violence. Most abusers do obey the Order, but some do not.

It may be appropriate to consider moving to a domestic violence shelter or to a different location that is unknown to the other person. An Order of Protection can help protect you, but it is still just a piece of paper. Trust your instincts and do whatever is necessary to protect yourself.

### **Where Can I Stay?**

#### **Children and Family Center of Northwest Missouri (Maryville)**

Crisis Line 1-866-382-7867  
(available 24 hours)

#### **YWCA Women's Shelter (St. Joseph)**

Crisis Line 1-800-653-1477  
(816) 232-1225  
(available 24 hours)

### **For Additional Assistance:**

- Children and Family Center Court Advocate  
(660) 562-2320  
1-866-382-7867  
assists in completing the Petition and can help guide you through your court appearance
- Contact your private attorney
- Legal Aid of Western Missouri  
(816) 364-2325

*This pamphlet was prepared as a public service to assist victims of domestic violence. It attempts to answer many frequently asked questions. However, it is not intended to be a comprehensive statement of Missouri law. You are encouraged to contact an attorney regarding your specific situation.*

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## **HOW TO FILE FOR AN ORDER OF PROTECTION**

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