



Defining Abuse:

Domestic abuse is about power and control, humiliation and dominance. It can be physical, like hitting; or psychological, like threatening or damaging property. It is done by family or household members.

Abuse in intimate relationships is very common. It happens to all kinds of people, from all backgrounds.

Abuse is done without concern for the physical or psychological well being of the victim. Abusers disregard the consequence of the violence to the victim.

In abusive relationships, regardless of the form of abuse that occurs, the incidents of abuse are recurrent and often escalate in severity and frequency.

In Palau, you have a legal right to be free from physical harm, abuse and threats in your personal life. If you live in fear for your personal safety or the safety of others, you should know what actions you can take and what legal remedies are available to you. This brochure is designed to help you to understand the legal protection that is available for victims of domestic abuse.

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Palau Judiciary
P.O. Box 248
Koror, Republic of Palau 96940
Phone: (680) 488-2607/4979/3331
Fax: (680) 488-2708
Website: palausupremecourt.net

Some of the information on this brochure was taken from
www.womanspace.org and the Rutgers Law School Domestic
Violence Project

FAMILY PROTECTION ACT

DOMESTIC ABUSE RESTRAINING ORDERS AND PROTECTIVE ORDERS INFORMATION



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(Revised)

THE FAMILY PROTECTION ACT

Domestic Abuse Restraining Orders and Protective Orders

Does This Law Apply to My Situation?

The law applies if you are subjected to domestic abuse by a spouse, former spouse, person you are dating or have dated, person who you have a child in common with, a parent, child, family member, or person jointly residing or formerly residing in the same place you live.

How Do I Know if I am a Victim of Domestic Abuse Under the Law?

You are a victim of domestic abuse if you have experienced:

- Beatings or physical attacks such as kicking, slapping, punching, hair pulling or strangulation;
- Threats that make you fear serious injury to yourself or your children;
- Threats that make you fear for your life;
- Imprisonment within your own home or at another location;
- Forced sexual contact or rape under threats of harm to yourself or someone you care about;
- Disturbance or alarm because of lewd or shocking behavior;

- Damage to your personal property;
- Forced entry into your home, with or without a weapon;
- Threats with a weapon such as a gun or knife;
- Repeated verbal humiliation and attacks;

How Can I Protect Myself?

Basic Safety Planning Guide—If you are a victim of domestic abuse or are afraid that you may be harmed, you should prepare a plan to keep yourself and your children safe. Take time now to think about your circumstances so that if you find yourself in a threatening situation, you and your children can leave safely and quickly without panic and confusion. Consider your resources, financial and otherwise, and have access to important documents like passports and permits as well as contact information for friends and relatives.

For Immediate Protection—Call **911** or **775-5407** for Police Domestic Violence Coordinator.

Obtain A Restraining/Protective Order—a restraining order is a Court Order intended to protect you from further harm from someone who has hurt you; keep an abuser away from you or from harassing you; or keep the abuser from the scene of the abuse, which may include your home, place of work or apartment.



It is a civil order and it does not give the respondent (abuser) a criminal record.

How Do I File a Restraining Order?

From Mondays through Fridays, except holidays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. you can go the Clerk of Courts at the Judiciary complex in Medallai, Koror and apply for the order. A clerk will help provide the necessary paperwork for filing. You will NOT be charged a fee.

The Victims of Crimes Assistance (VOCA) office and the Ministry of Health & Human Services (MHHS) Family Services Unit can also provide the necessary paperwork and assist in preparing the paperwork for filing.

If it is AFTER REGULAR WORKING HOURS, contact the following numbers:

775-8622 (VOCA) * 775-2273 (Family Health) *** 775-2607 (Marshals) or 775-4044 (FPA Clerk)**

Safety After Obtaining a Restraining Order

- Keep a copy of the order on you at all times. Inform your employer, your children's school, day care or baby-sitters as well as trusted neighbors and relatives.
- Change the locks on your doors immediately.
- Discuss a safety plan with your children.
- Call the police immediately of a violation.