

Have you suffered injury in your home or elsewhere caused by a spouse, someone you dated, or someone you were once in a relationship with?

Are you being followed or are you receiving unwanted and harassing texts, emails or phone calls, and are those actions upsetting you?

Are you living in fear of being injured, sexually assaulted, or threatened in the future?



If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," then you are a survivor and may be experiencing one or more of the following acts against you:

- Domestic Violence
- Dating Violence
- Sexual Violence
- Stalking

For Your Protection

The Florida laws against Domestic, Dating and Sexual Violence, and Stalking may protect you from being hurt or harassed.

Peace River Center is staffed with a Florida licensed lawyer who is available to speak with you for free about how these laws may protect you.

Your conversations with the Injunction for Protection attorney and/or certified domestic violence center staff will be confidential and private.



For Your Information

An injunction is a court order that can give you legal protection from the person who is abusing you. It may include an order that:

- Commands the abuser to stay away from and have no contact with you.
- Awards you temporary exclusive use of the house you both share.
- Prevents the abuser from entering your home, school or place of employment.
- Awards you temporary custody of your minor children.
- Requires the abuser to pay temporary support to you and your minor children if the abuser is the parent.
- Directs the abuser to attend a Batterer's Intervention Program.



It Is Up To You

If you are eligible and you decide to seek a civil injunction for protection, the Injunction for Protection Attorney will go to court and represent you for free. You also have the right to hire an attorney of your choice to represent you when seeking an injunction for protection, or you can file for an injunction without the help of an attorney. You do not have to use an Injunction for Protection Attorney to obtain an injunction for protection.

For purposes of obtaining an injunction, Florida law protects victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Violence and Stalking, and defines them as follows:

- **Domestic Violence** includes any assault, battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, kidnapping or any other crime resulting in a physical injury caused by a spouse, former spouse, person related by blood or marriage, person who you are living together with as a family or have lived with as a family, or person with whom you have a child in common.
- **Dating Violence** is violence between individuals who have or have had a continuing and significant relationship of romantic or intimate nature. The relationship must have existed within the past six months.
- **Sexual Violence** includes any one incident of sexual battery, a lewd or lascivious act committed on or in the presence of a person under 16 years of age, luring or enticing a child, or any other forcible felony where a sexual act is committed or attempted.
- **Stalking** means the repeated following, harassment, or cyberstalking of one person by another. Cyberstalk means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person and causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose.

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Se Habla Español



Victim Services

24-Hour Domestic Violence
Hotline Hardee/Highlands
Counties: 863.386.1167

24-Hour Domestic Violence
Hotline Polk County:
863.413.2700

24-Hour Sexual Assault
Helpline: 863.413.2707

It is the policy of Peace River Center to provide equal opportunity in employment and the provision of services to all persons without regard to race, color, creed, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, religion, veteran status, disability, genetic information or genetic identity or other protected classifications.

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Civil Injunctions for Protection

