

What is the role of the State's Attorney's Office?

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office created a Domestic Violence Division to focus exclusively on domestic violence related crimes.

- Prosecutes criminal cases of domestic violence
- Staff of specially trained prosecutors, investigators and victim-witness specialists
- Provides a consistent and coordinated response through vertical prosecution on identified cases.

What is Evidence-Based Prosecution?

The preferred way to prosecute a domestic violence case is with the input of the abused person. Prosecutors and investigators always try to obtain the cooperation of the victim. However, many victims choose not to testify against the abuser. When the facts are strong enough to win the case without the testimony of the victim, an evidence-based prosecution may be used if it fulfills the goals of treating the victim with dignity and ensuring her/his safety.

How does an Order of Protection Work?

An order of protection, issued by a judge, specifies the level of contact or non-contact, if any, that a party may have with another. Failure to comply with criminally enforceable remedies of an order of protection will result in an arrest. Such criminally enforceable remedies include:

- Prohibiting abuse, neglect, or exploitation;
- Granting exclusive possession of residence;
- Prohibiting contact by the abuser, sometimes called a "stay-away order";
- Prohibiting the abuser from entering a residence while under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and
- Prohibiting the abuser from possessing a gun.

Obtaining an Order of Protection

Residents of Chicago may obtain Orders of Protection at Domestic Violence Court located at 555 W. Harrison, on the 1st Floor. For additional information call (312) 325-9200.

What Courtroom?	When?	What's Necessary?
In a Criminal Courtroom with charges attached	8:30a.m. - 1:30p.m. Monday - Friday	Victim is required to make a case report with a police officer and complaints have been filed or will be filed at the time the order of protection is obtained.
In a Civil Courtroom with NO criminal charge attached	8:30a.m. - 3:00p.m. Monday - Friday	

What resources are available to help victims?

The City of Chicago Domestic Violence Help Line:

1-877-TO-END-DV
1-877-863-6338 or
1-877-863-6339 (TTY)

The City of Chicago Domestic Violence Help Line offers a variety of domestic violence referrals to victims, based on their individual needs. The Help Line is toll-free, confidential, multi-lingual and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Trained staff members known as VIRAs (Victim Information and Referral Advocates) provide support, information and referrals for shelter, legal services and counseling.

What Can You Do?

- If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, CALL 9-1-1
- Contact the Domestic Violence Program to schedule a presentation on domestic violence for your community, neighbors, co-workers or faith-based group
- Join your local Domestic Violence Subcommittee. Each of Chicago's twenty-five police districts has a Domestic Violence Subcommittee that works to educate their community on domestic violence issues by planning and scheduling outreach events and trainings. The Subcommittees are made up of domestic violence service agencies, faith groups, community groups, police personnel, and concerned citizens. Call your local Community Policing Office today and get involved in addressing domestic violence in your community.

The Internet

For more information, and to link with your local Community Policing Office, visit the Chicago Police Department Link at:

www.chicagopolice.org and www.cityofchicago.org/police



For more information or to schedule presentations contact the Domestic Violence Operations Coordinator at: (312) 745-6340 or fax a request to (312) 745-6856.



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domestic violence

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chicago's Response to Domestic Violence



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Taking on Domestic Violence in Chicago

Domestic violence is a unique crime in that the offender often lives in the same home as the victim. Historically, domestic violence was considered a private family matter and police intervention often consisted of advising the abuser to “cool off” or to “take a walk.” Beginning in the 1970s, this attitude began to change and now domestic violence is recognized as a serious crime against the individual and society. As such, Chicago Police Department members treat domestic violence incidents in the same professional manner as all other crimes and requests for police service - by providing immediate, effective assistance and protection for victims and witnesses.

Strengthening Our Response

The Chicago Police Department seeks to reduce the incidence and severity of domestic violence in our communities through a coordinated partnership involving law enforcement, domestic violence service providers, prosecutors and the community. This cooperative endeavor, known as the “Chicago Response” protocol, involves the Chicago Police Department, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and the Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence. By strengthening our response, we are increasing our ability not only to respond effectively to these crimes, but also to work on the prevention of domestic violence. The Chicago Police Department's (CPD) response has extended beyond the first responding officer, involving a coordinated effort between various CPD units, external organizations, and City agencies. This effort includes:

- District based Domestic Violence Liaison Officers
- District Advisory Council (DAC) Subcommittees on Domestic Violence
- Domestic Violence Detectives
- Domestic Violence Operations Coordinator
- City of Chicago's Domestic Violence Help Line
- Domestic Incident Notice

All of our efforts are designed to send a clear message to victims and their abusers that these crimes will not be tolerated. With a strong message, societal attitudes toward domestic violence will continue to change, so that domestic violence is viewed as the crime it is, not as a private family matter.

The Illinois Domestic Violence Act (IDVA)

The Illinois Domestic Violence Act (IDVA) was enacted in 1982, amended in 1986 and again in 1993. It provides special protection under the law for victims of domestic violence.

Who is protected by the Illinois Domestic Violence Act (IDVA)?

- Spouses/former spouses
- Parents
- Children/stepchildren
- Other persons related by blood or by present or prior marriage
- Persons who share or formerly shared a common dwelling
- Persons who have or allegedly have a blood relationship through a child
- Persons of the same sex or opposite sex who have or have had a dating or engagement relationship
- Persons with disabilities and their personal assistants or caregivers

The Chicago Police Department's Domestic Violence Response Team

In addition to the police officer who initially responds to a call for service, the Chicago Police Department has established a team of other officers and community members to assist the victims of domestic violence and ensure effective enforcement of domestic violence laws.

Domestic Violence Liaison Officer (DVLO)

The DVLO is the key to a coordinated police/community response to domestic violence.

- A sworn officer assigned in each of Chicago's twenty-five police districts.
- Works out of the Community Policing Office and facilitates police/community domestic violence partnerships and problem solving at the district level.
- Keeps abreast of changes in domestic violence laws and serves as a district-based resource on domestic violence issues for field officers and the community.

The District Advisory Council (DAC) Domestic Violence Subcommittee

This subcommittee provides the foundation by which the police/community partnership can come together and begin targeted problem solving on the issue of domestic violence as it exists within the district.

- The Domestic Violence Liaison Officer serves as the district representative.
- City-wide, there are presently 25 DAC Subcommittees on domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Detectives

The Detective Division is responsible for the follow-up investigation of all domestic related crimes. In each of the five Chicago Police Department's Detective Division Areas, the Special Victim's Unit (SVU) is charged with strengthening that Division's response to domestic violence and to identify those victims who are at greatest risk for family violence.

Domestic Violence Operations Coordinator (DVOC)

The DVOC is a supervisory member who heads the Department's Domestic Violence Program and who is:

- Charged with improving the Department's response to victims of domestic violence
- Manages a comprehensive, uniform intervention strategy;
- Collaborates with other City, criminal justice and community-based agencies; and,
- Assists in the development of training curricula and materials for the Department.

The Chief Operations Research Analyst for Domestic Violence

The Chief Operations Research Analyst (CORA) is a grant funded position. This position primarily provides domestic violence data to the Chicago Police Department for use in a variety of reports, both internal and external, and also provides data and analyses for policy discussions affecting the Department's response to domestic violence. External requests for domestic violence statistics also are processed by the CORA and do not contain any victim identifying information. The CORA participates in various Chicago Police Department and inter-agency efforts to analyze, respond to, and reduce domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Training Technician

The Training Technician similarly is a grant-funded position which provides community outreach on domestic violence issues at beat meetings and local community groups. The technician provides trainings both in English and Spanish and can arrange for presentations in other languages.

What must the Police Officer do?

Under the Illinois Domestic Violence Act, the responding officers (the officers assigned to answer the call for service) must take certain actions. These include:

- Arresting the abuser where appropriate;
- Advising the victim of the importance of seeking medical attention and preserving evidence;
- Arranging or providing the victim and any dependents with transportation to a medical facility or place of safety;
- Making a police report of any allegation or incident of abuse;
- Inventorying any weapons used to commit the abuse;
- Informing the victim of the right to request that a criminal proceeding be initiated where appropriate;
- Providing the victim the officer's name and star number and information about available relief, including referral to an accessible service agency.

Domestic Incident Notice (DIN)

The Domestic Incident Notice is a Chicago Police Department form that provides victims of domestic violence with the following information: a summary of their rights under the Illinois Domestic Violence Act; procedures and legal remedies available to them; information on how to obtain an order of protection and how to contact the Domestic Violence Help Line. It also provides the victims with a Records Division or RD number (if a report is taken) and the names and star numbers of the responding officers. The Domestic Incident Notice is also available in Spanish, Polish and Braille.

Will the abuser be arrested?

For domestic violence crimes, as in all situations, arrests are only made when there is probable cause to make the arrest. Probable cause exists when facts and circumstances are sufficient to lead a reasonable person to believe that a crime is or has occurred,

The Chicago Police Department has a mandatory arrest policy for two violations: Violation of an Order of Protection and Violation of Bail Bond. When a person is arrested for any domestic-related crime, one of the conditions of his release from custody (i.e., bail bond) is to remain away from the residence and the victim for 72 hours. Failure to comply will result in an arrest.

How does the Police Officer determine the “predominant aggressor”?

As in all preliminary investigations, the responding officer will examine the totality of the circumstances in order to determine which party is the predominant aggressor.

Among the indications the officer will scrutinize are:

- The severity and extent of injuries suffered;
- Whether there are self-defense wounds, such as bite marks or scratches, visible on the predominant aggressor;
- Any history of domestic violence between the parties involved;
- Other physical evidence on the scene (broken furniture, weapons, etc.); and,
- Statements from witnesses.