

## HOW TO FILE FOR PROTECTION

### IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

If you have been the victim of intimate partner violence, family violence or a stranger assault, you may file a petition for a **protective order** or a **peace order**. During business hours, you may file for a protective order in either the District Court or Circuit Court of Maryland. A petition for a peace order may only be filed in the District Court of Maryland. After hours and on weekends, you may file at the Court Commissioner's offices.

Please call the HopeWorks before you file if you would like assistance filling out the petition, or speaking to the judge about your case at your initial hearing.

#### Howard County District Court/ Multi-Service Center

3451 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21045

Open 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Mon. - Fri.

410-480-7700

(Go to Court Commissioner's office, right side entrance of the building, from 4:30 p.m. to 12 midnight Mon.- Fri.)

#### Howard County Circuit Court

8360 Court Avenue  
Ellicott City, MD 21045

Open 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Mon. - Fri.

410-313-2111

#### Court Commissioner's Satellite Station

c/o Howard County Detention Center  
7311 Old Waterloo Road

Jessup, MD 20794

Available after 4:30 p.m., Mon. - Fri. and weekends/holidays or when the courts are closed.

410-313-4740

## SAFETY TIPS

If you feel that you may need to leave your home quickly, pack a bag ahead of time and keep it at a neighbor's or another safe place.

Some items the bag should include:

- Important documents for yourself and your children such as birth certificates, passports, social security cards, health insurance information, bank account numbers, etc.
- Cash and checks
- Extra set of keys to car/house
- Paystub from abuser's paycheck
- Change of clothes for you and children
- Familiar toy/book for children

You may want to establish a code word or phrase with a neighbor or friend in the case of emergency with your abuser so that person will contact the police to come to your aid.

Be careful when taking any family vehicle or cell phone with a family service plan as your abuser/stalker may have placed or activated a tracking device.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call HopeWorks Legal Services: 410 - 997- 0304

24-Hour Helpline: 410-997-2272

Fax: 410-997-1397

E-mail: [outreach@hopeworksofhc.org](mailto:outreach@hopeworksofhc.org)

[hopeworksofhc.org](http://hopeworksofhc.org)



## Have You Experienced Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault?

*Need help understanding  
your legal options?*

- Information
- Brief Advice
- Referrals
- Consultation
- Representation
- Criminal Accompaniment

*HopeWorks of Howard County*

*The County's Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence Center*

*9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 300*

*Columbia, MD 21046*

**Ask for Legal Services : 410 - 997- 0304**

## ●●● HopeWorks Legal Services

HopeWorks of Howard County provides comprehensive services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual abuse, stalking and dating violence in our community. In addition to legal services, the agency offers 24-hour helplines, residential assistance, counseling, an abuser intervention program, a pet-safe program and free awareness and prevention education programs.

All survivors who contact HopeWorks are made aware that legal services are available at the center and are encouraged to speak with legal staff if they have any questions regarding their legal options. Legal staff members will speak confidentially with survivors and will assist them in making determinations about their best options based on individual circumstances.



Attorneys and legal advocates are available at the main office or in the Howard County courts to provide guidance to survivors who would like legal intervention. Legal staff and volunteers will assist with safety planning and accessing available resources.

## WHAT WE DO

HopeWorks' Department of Legal Services provides brief advice, information and referrals on a daily basis to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual abuse, stalking and dating violence. Individuals contact us through phone calls, appointments at the HopeWorks' office, and through our Volunteer Legal Advocacy Project in the District Court of Maryland for Howard County.

HopeWorks' staff attorneys regularly represent survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual abuse, stalking and dating violence in protective order and peace order hearings in both the District and Circuit Courts of Maryland for Howard County. Our primary focus is emergency protective order and peace order matters where there is intimate partner violence or sexual assault.

***Representation in peace and protective order cases is provided free of charge, subject to attorney availability.***

Our staff attorneys also provide consultations and limited representation in family law matters such as custody, child support and divorce. Clients who have immigration or criminal concerns are provided appropriate referrals and support and may, on occasion, be represented by HopeWorks.



Legal staff and volunteers also provide criminal accompaniments to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual abuse, stalking and dating violence and will assist them in accessing crime victims' compensation funds.



## WHO WE SERVE

HopeWorks' Department of Legal Services serves the Howard County community. If we are unable to assist a Howard County resident, we will make efforts to refer to partner agencies or pro bono attorneys who work with HopeWorks. All of our services are based on a sliding fee scale, or are free.

Our services are confidential and are provided without regard to gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or sexual orientation.

## Assistance Filing Petitions for Protection

Persons who would like assistance filing petitions for protection are encouraged to call during business hours to arrange for legal staff assistance.

It is recommended that petitioners contact the legal department as soon as possible, but no less than 2 business days prior to hearing, if they would like a HopeWorks attorney to be with them in court.