

Legal Aid of NC and Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative (DVPI) • P.O. Box 26087 • Raleigh, NC 27611 • 919-856-2142
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LEGAL AID NC



www.legalaidnc.org

*“Victims of domestic violence will not permanently leave an abusive situation unless they know their children will be safe and well taken care of.... **Victims have a greatly diminished chance** of getting the statutorily available ancillary relief (such as temporary custody, visitation and child support) in a 50(b) hearing **without a lawyer at their side.**”*

-George R. Hausen, Jr., Esq.
Executive Director, Legal Aid of North Carolina

Legal Aid provides the stability that victims must have to break the cycle of violence for themselves and their children.

- ◆ **Victims get a higher percentage of “civil stay orders” with legal representation.** Most civil stay (away) orders work, which means that more victims and their families have opportunity to remove themselves from the violence.
- ◆ **Without a lawyer, domestic violence victims typically don’t get temporary custody or visitation** [which are statutorily available in a 50(b) hearing]. Otherwise, children often get stuck in the middle and used as a pretext for ongoing abuse.

◆ **Legal Aid of NC attorneys are vital support partners for community DV shelters.** LANC programs have developed referral protocol (letters of agreement with DV programs) for direct legal assistance; identify, train, mentor, co-counsel and supervise *pro bono* attorneys; develop legal clinics for shelter clients and staff, and work in partnership with all service providers (including law enforcement and court personnel).

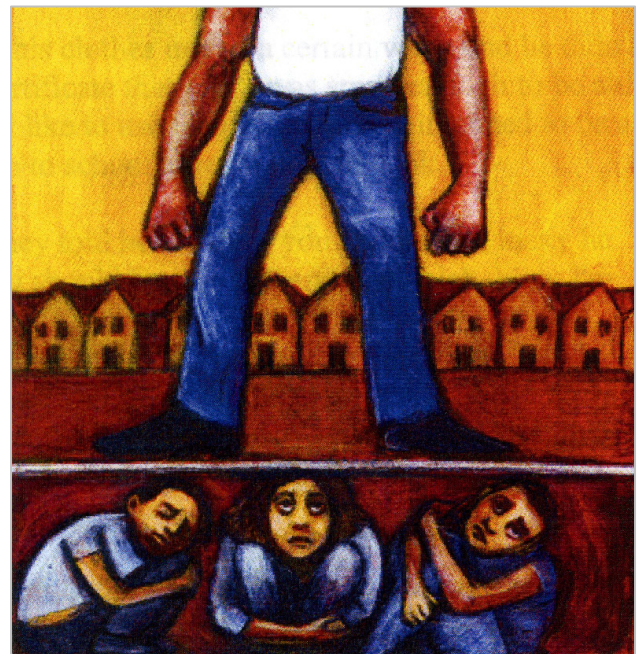
◆ **The Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative (DVPI)** is a specialized, statewide project of Legal Aid of NC that represents victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking throughout the state through trained attorneys and advocates.

◆ **The DVPI includes contract attorneys, *pro bono* attorneys and volunteers,** who are dedicated to providing legal representation to victims of domestic violence and their families.

◆ **The DVPI collaborates with more than 60 nonprofit and governmental organizations** across North Carolina.

◆ **The DVPI recognizes the unique challenges facing battered immigrants** and has formed the Battered Immigrant Project (BIP) to ensure that DVPI staff and others in the legal community at-large are properly trained and educated on matters concerning immigrant law and cultural sensitivity.

◆ **The DVPI has a national reputation** for addressing domestic violence on a statewide level; DVPI has been invited to make presentations throughout the country.



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
ABUSES EVERYONE.**

**WE CAN HELP.
CALL US.**

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