

OUR SERVICES

-  **CRISIS HOTLINE (24/7):** (800) 474-6031
-  **EMERGENCY SHELTER** for those needing refuge from domestic or sexual violence
-  **SUPPORT GROUPS**
-  **COUNSELING** - individual, group & family
-  **MEDICAL ADVOCACY**
-  **LEGAL ADVOCACY**
-  **TRANSPORTATION** to court proceedings and other community resources
-  **REFERRALS** to community resources

“Freedom House fulfills my dream of offering a safe haven to all. Quiet comfort — from chaos, violence, fear, and threats — is now a reality for anyone who seeks it.”

Nedda Simon
Freedom House Founder



Nedda Simon
Founder 1983

Rest here a while,
then take from this place
hope and serenity
with you always.



OUR MISSION

Freedom House provides compassionate, confidential, free services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as awareness and prevention education to the community.

OUR VISION

Freedom House envisions a world free of sexual assault and domestic violence.



FREEDOM HOUSE
is a Gender-Neutral /
All-Inclusive Agency.



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LEGAL ADVOCACY

Assisting Victims of
Domestic Violence, Sexual
Violence, and Stalking



**FREEDOM
HOUSE**

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services

www.freedomhouseillinois.org

24-HOUR HOTLINE

(800) 474-6031

LEGAL ADVOCACY



3 TYPES OF PROTECTIVE ORDERS

ORDER OF PROTECTION (OP)

An Order of Protection is a legal document available to victims of domestic or sexual violence. This court order, signed by a judge, prohibits a person from committing further acts of violence, harassment, or stalking.

What does an Order of Protection do?

An Order of Protection can prevent physical and sexual abuse, harassment, intimidation of a dependent, interference with personal liberty, or willful deprivation.

Who can be protected?

A "family or household member" can be protected, according to Illinois Domestic Violence Laws. This category includes: spouse, ex-spouse, roommate, parent, children, a person in a dating relationship, a person related by blood or marriage, or people who have a child in common.

CIVIL NO-CONTACT ORDER (CNCO)

Protects victims of rape, sexual assault, or sexual abuse from the perpetrator. The Order can also be used to protect victims' family and rape crisis center workers. The victims do not need to have a relationship with the perpetrator to qualify.

STALKING NO-CONTACT ORDER (SNCO)

For a victim of stalking who does not have a relationship with the perpetrator. Stalking is defined as "Any person who is the victim of a course of conduct that causes the victim to fear for his or her safety or the safety of another person or to suffer emotional distress."



WHAT IS THE VICTIM'S ECONOMIC SECURITY & SAFETY ACT? (VESSA)

VESSA allows an employee who is a victim of domestic or sexual violence to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave from work. Talk to your Advocate for more information about your rights.

WHAT IS THE CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION ACT?

The Illinois Crime Victims Compensation Act provides eligible victims of violent crime with up to \$27,000 in financial assistance for certain out-of-pocket expenses resulting from the crime. To be eligible for compensation, you MUST report to law enforcement within 72 hours of the crime or within 7 days for sexual assaults. The Compensation Program may reimburse for the following expenses and caps or limits may apply: medical/hospital/dental expenses, counseling, loss of earnings, loss of tuition, replacement costs, relocation, funeral/burial expenses and transportation to and from medical and counseling treatment facilities.

TIPS & RIGHTS

TIPS FOR COURT APPEARANCES

- 1 Be courteous and well-dressed.
- 2 Be punctual and allow time for delays.
- 3 Be attentive while in the courtroom.
- 4 Maintain composure and remain calm.
- 5 Address court personnel with respect.

YOUR RIGHTS

You have rights that include:

- To be protected
- To be informed about your case
- To be present in court
- To request compensation
- To receive equal treatment