



**You are not alone.**

We believe in your strength and courage as a survivor. 180 offers hope and support as you overcome domestic violence and sexual assault. Our caring and experienced counselors will listen, discuss your options, and provide resources to guide you.

**You can have a fresh start.**

You are not to blame for your experience of abuse. You and your family deserve to live your life free of fear and full of promise. Together, we'll create your pathway to safety, healing, and independence.

**We can begin together.**

We are here for you when you're ready. Our comprehensive support services are free and confidential, including 24/7 hotlines, counseling, legal advocacy, emergency safe house, and art, play, drama & music therapy for children.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:**

Call (888) 843-9262

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE:**

Call (888) 264-7273

**DEAF & HARD OF HEARING:**

Text (732) 977-2832

**2NDFLOOR® YOUTH HELPLINE:**

Call or Text (888) 222-2228

**FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER**

at the Monmouth County Superior Court,  
Freehold, NJ  
(732) 264-4360 ext. 4667, 5000 and 4668

**MAIN HEADQUARTERS**

1 Bethany Road  
Building 3, Suite 42  
Hazlet, NJ 07730  
(732) 264-4111  
Fax: (732) 264-8655



180 Turning Lives Around, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and receives financial support from individuals, government and civic agencies, faith-based organizations, corporations, and foundations. Gifts to 180 are tax-deductible to the full extent possible under IRS regulations. Visit [www.180nj.org](http://www.180nj.org) for more information about our funders and how you can support 180.

**180** Turning  
Lives  
Around



**Understanding  
Family Court  
Procedures**

**180NJ.ORG**



## The Family Court Advocates

A knowledgeable and experienced staff is available to provide consultation on restraining orders, information about court procedures, and client accompaniment through the Monmouth County Family Court Process.

## What is Domestic Violence?

A pattern of abusive behavior used to establish or maintain power and control over a person, including a partner, stranger, or family member. Under the law, domestic violence includes physical, emotional, mental, and sexual abuse, and is considered to be any crime involving risk of death or serious bodily injury to a person protected under the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act," and:

- **Assault**
- **Burglary**
- **Contempt of a Domestic Order**
- **Cyber Harassment**
- **Criminal: Coercion, Mischief\*, Restraint, Sexual Conduct or Trespassing**
- **False Imprisonment**
- **Harassment\*\***
- **Homicide**
- **Kidnapping**
- **Lewdness**
- **Robbery**
- **Sexual Assault**
- **Stalking**
- **Terroristic Threats\*\*\***

*\*Criminal Mischief: Damaging, Breaking, or Destroying Personal Property. Purposely or Recklessly Causing Damage to Property to Endanger Another Person.*

*\*\*Harassment: Shoving, Pushing, or Other Offensive Touching. Name-Calling and/or Language Used to Alarm, Offend, or Annoy. Purposely Intimidating Behavior to Instill Fear or Alarm.*

*\*\*\*Terroristic Threats: Threatening Physical Violence or Death to Cause Fear and/or Dictating the Victim's Behavior.*

## Restraining Orders

**What is a Restraining Order?** A court order signed by a judge telling the defendant (accused) to have no further contact with the plaintiff (victim) in person, by phone, by mail, or through electronic devices. A temporary order is issued ex parte, or on the plaintiff's sworn testimony only. A final hearing will be held within ten days to allow the accused to defend themselves. Survivors of all forms of domestic violence are entitled to help and protection.

**What reliefs will it grant?** Exclusive possession of the residence, temporary custody of your children with a visitation schedule, emergency child support and housing/living expenses, court-ordered substance abuse evaluations and/or risk assessments, and Batterer's Intervention Program.

**Who can apply for one?** Those who have been the target of domestic violence when the following two conditions apply:

1. You are dating, married, divorced, have a child with, or are currently or formerly residing with the accused.
2. The accused is 18 years of age or older unless you have a child in common.

**Where do I apply?**

**Weekdays 8:30am - 4:30pm:**

The Domestic Violence Unit of the Family Division, Superior Court, Freehold, NJ.

**Weekdays after 4:30pm, Weekends & Holidays:**

Any NJ Police Department. A judge is on-call to take testimony over the phone.

**When does the Order take effect?**

The defendant cannot be held accountable for violating/disobeying the Restraining Order until they have been served the appropriate paperwork by local law enforcement, which makes the Order enforceable.

**Never attempt to serve the defendant yourself.**

**What will the defendant know after receiving the Order?**

- Your allegations against them.
- What restrictions have been placed on them.
- The date and time of the final hearing.

**What do I need to bring to the final hearing?**

Any documentation regarding the domestic violence incident, including:

- Eyewitnesses to the Incident: The individual must come in person. Written or taped testimony is not admissible.
- Admissible Evidence: Including defendant's letters, answering machine or voicemail recordings, cards, printed e-mails and/or text messages, and photos of injuries or property damage.
- Receipts or Documentation: You may ask for compensation for any medical expenses and/or property damage you incurred.

A judge will decide if there is jurisdiction to grant you a restraining order. If you are afraid or believe you are in danger, you should not hesitate to ask for protection.

## Sexual Violence Protective Orders

**What is sexual violence?**

Sexual contact committed by force or without a person's consent caused solely by a perpetrator's decision to commit the offense. It is never the victim's fault or a result of their behavior or clothing. It can include being touched, forced to touch someone else, or to watch them touch themselves. It is a crime that can affect the whole family, including the victim's spouse, partner, parents, and other close relatives or friends.

**The Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act (SASPA)**

SASPA provides victims of sexual violence the ability to apply for a protective order against their perpetrator within Family Court. 180's Sexual Violence Court Advocate is available to support the victim or parent/guardian through the initial filing, proceedings, and the final protection order hearing.

**What is a Sexual Violence Protective Order?**

A court order signed by a judge telling the defendant (accused) to have no further contact with the plaintiff (victim) in person, by phone, by mail, or through electronic devices. A temporary order is issued ex parte, or on the plaintiff's sworn testimony only. A final hearing will be held within ten days to allow the accused to defend themselves. The protection order is a civil document and may be applied for without filing criminal charges or regardless of the disposition of any charges if filed. A violation of the protection order is a criminal offense.

**What reliefs will it grant?**

The legal document forbids the perpetrator from contacting the victim in-person, by phone, mail, e-mail, text, social media, or through a third party or electronic device, seeing the victim by entering the home, place of employment or school, and committing sexual violence against the victim or parent/guardian.

**Who can apply for one?**

Anyone who is a victim of non-consensual sexual contact or penetration, lewdness, or any attempt at such contact, and anyone who is the victim of these acts:

- Who is not eligible for a restraining order as a victim of domestic violence.
- Who's perpetrator is at least 18 years old.

**Where do I apply?**

A temporary protective order under SASPA can only be filed within the Family Division of the Superior Court. Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm.

