

Information for Victims of Domestic Abuse

NOTE: The information provided by Legal Aid of Nebraska is for informational purposes only. You should not rely solely upon this information in regard to you and your unique circumstances. You should always consult with an attorney regarding the laws and your rights. As the COVID-19 public health situation changes and evolves, different branches of our government will continue to issue new laws and regulations. While Legal Aid of Nebraska strives to keep the information on this page up to date, the information provided here may change on a day-to-day basis.

What if I need to obtain protection from domestic abuse, sexual abuse, elder abuse or harassment?

Courts are still accepting applications for protection orders. Some courthouses have limited public access, so please check with your local courthouse to see if an appointment is required. A list of resources for victims of domestic violence is found below.

Important note: Please consider speaking with an attorney or with a domestic violence advocate before you request a protection order. Advocates can also help you with filling out a protection order. It is important to have a safety plan in place in case the court does not enter an emergency order. You can read more about safety planning [here](#). You can find out more about the court process by reading Legal Aid's Protection Order Handbook [here](#), or visiting the Nebraska Supreme Court website [here](#).

A court hearing has been set on my request for a domestic abuse protection order, harassment protection or order, or sexual assault protection order, can I call Legal Aid?

Yes. A court hearing can be set because the other party requested a hearing, or, the court can set a hearing on its own, called an order to show cause. If you receive a notice or order from the court setting your protection order request for a hearing, contact Legal Aid of Nebraska for assistance. You can apply for assistance from Legal Aid by calling 1 (877) 250-2016. If you are working with a domestic violence advocate, your advocate can also help you apply for Legal Aid.

You can find more information about court hearings, including if you are showing signs of illness or have or may have been exposed to COVID-19, [See Information for Families prepared by Legal Aid available on Legal Aid's website.](#)

What if I have lost my job?

If you have lost your job, have had to take time off from work because you are sick or need to care for a family member, have had to take an unpaid leave of absence, you may be able to apply for Unemployment Benefits. The Nebraska Department of Labor has uploaded an FAQ regarding employment and COVID-19, which you can find [here](#). For more information on how to apply for unemployment benefits, visit the [Department of Labor's Unemployment Insurance](#)

[Benefits page.](#) There is also information for employees prepared by Legal Aid available on Legal Aid's website.

Keep in mind that Nebraska Unemployment law has special protections for victims of domestic violence. Under Nebraska law, good cause for leaving employment includes situations in which a person has made all reasonable attempts to preserve employment, but must leave for the necessity of escaping abuse at the place of employment or other types of domestic abuse between household members.

Do my children need to continue going back and forth between parents pursuant to the Parenting Time Schedule?

See Information for Families prepared by Legal Aid available on Legal Aid's website.

Resources for Victims of Abuse

Please visit <https://brighthorizonsne.org/contact/nebraska-programs/> for a complete list of local domestic and sexual violence advocacy programs in your area. Below are some additional resources:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	1-800-273-8255 https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/
National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-7233 https://www.thehotline.org/help/
Adult Protective Services Hotline	1-800-652-1999 http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Adult-Protective-Services.aspx
Nebraska Coalition To End Sexual And Domestic Violence	1-402-476-6256 https://www.nebraskacoalition.org/get_help/
Rape, Abuse And Incest National Network	1-800-656-HOPE https://www.rainn.org/
National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline	1-866-331-9474 https://www.loveisrespect.org/
National Human Trafficking Hotline	1-888-373-7888 http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Human-Trafficking-Resources.aspx

