

Applications can be made by anyone who has been violated. These include:

- Persons who are and have been married to each other.
- Common law spouses or former common law spouses.
- Intimate partners who lived or have lived together.
- Differently abled children and persons.
- Applications can also be made on behalf of persons by a parent, a social worker, guardians, and a police officer.
- A child between 16 and 18 years of age can make an application on his/her own behalf.
- A child who is under 16 years of age provided that the court is satisfied that the child is of sufficient learning.

Agency	Address	Telephone
Help & Shelter	D'Urban Park, Homestretch Avenue, Georgetown	225-4731 227-3454 227-8353
Ministry of Social Protection	1 Cornhill & Water Street & Lamaha and East Street	227-4319 225-6212 220-2354
Child Protection Agency	Broad & Charles Street, Charlestown	227-0979 227-4420 227-4082 225-1257
Guyana Legal Aid	Charlotte & King Street	225-9238 225-9246 225-6896
Essequibo Legal Aid	RDC Compound, Anna Regina	771-4007/8
West Coast Berbice Legal Aid	RDC Compound, Fort Wellington	232-0952 232-0953
Berbice Legal Aid	RDC Compound, New Amsterdam	333-5254
Red Thread	72 Adelaide & Princess Street, Charlestown	227-7010 223-6254

Gender-Based Violence & You

Know Your Rights: Get an Order



Gender-based violence (GBV): Any harmful act perpetrated against a person's will and based on socially ascribed differences such as gender.

Acts of GBV violate universal human constitutional rights. In Guyana, the Domestic Violence Act 1996 and the Sexual Offences Act 2010 are two laws that protect and preserve the rights of all persons affected by GBV.

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Abuse can include:

- Not allowing a person to handle his/her own things or property
- Blackmailing
- Watching over the person in a way which is threatening
- Not allowing the person to eat or sleep well
- Manipulating children
- Causing the person emotional agony
- Verbal abuse—"cussing out," screaming, humiliating
- Threatening with physical harm or violence
- Breaking things or damaging things which are important to the person
- Making the person scared or afraid of physical or psychological harm
- Hiding things belonging to the person
- Watching over the house, work place, school or anywhere the person goes for daily business
- Making unwelcome advances

Through the Magistrates Court, an Order can be granted. It is a document that prevent the abuser from harming the survivor and children. It is meant to restrain the abuser. If the abuser harms the survivor in spite of the Order, the abuser can be arrested without a warrant and fined or imprisoned.

There are three types of Orders:

① Protection

A protection order protects the victim and the victim's child/children from a violent person. The duration of the protection order is decided by the court.

② Occupation

An occupation order gives the right to the victim and the victim's child/children to live in the family home while an abuser must leave.

③ Tenancy

A tenancy order gives the right to the victim and the victim's child/children to live in a rented house while the abuser must leave.

Q: Where do I apply for a Protection Order?

A: You may make an application for a protection order, occupation order, or a tenancy order at the Magistrate's Court. You do not need an attorney to make the application for you.

Q: How long will the orders last?

A: The protection order may last for such period as specified by the court.

Q: Do these orders affect anyone's ownership of property?

A: No. These orders do not affect a person's right to ownership of property.

Q: Can I get any monetary order for my support and/or my children's support or compensation for injuries?

A: Yes, you can. The court may order that the abusive person provide financial support for the maintenance of a child.