

CalWORKs Assistance for Domestic Abuse Victims

The CalWORKs program has special rules to address the needs of victims of domestic abuse. The following information explains services, benefits, and waivers offered by the CalWORKs program that may help you now:

- Because you were a victim of domestic abuse.
- Because you are still in an abusive relationship.
- Because you want to get out of an abusive situation.

Note: These services may apply even if you are timed out from CalWORKs.

Opportunity.

Options.

Empowerment.

What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse happens when an individual tries to control you or your children. Controlling includes:

- Physical violence or threats
- Sexual abuse or threats
- Verbal abuse
- Economic control
- Stalking – being followed around and threatened wherever you go
- Isolation or any other type of control, verbal or physical behavior that injures.

The person who abused you can be:

- A current or former partner, spouse, or roommate
- Someone with whom you have a child
- A relative by blood/adoption/marriage, or
- Someone who is acting on behalf of a person who is in one of the above relationships.

The trauma of domestic abuse can be past or present.

Do I need to prove I have been abused?

Your sworn statement is sufficient to establish abuse, unless the county provides you with a written response that additional verification is needed.

Additional verification includes:

- Police reports or court reports
- Written proof from a domestic abuse program, church, medical provider, or other professional who has helped you deal with the abuse.
- A statement from anyone who witnessed or otherwise knows about the abuse.
- Any other evidence supporting an abuse claim.

What help can I get?

The Department of Human Services works with other community agencies that can help you. We also have on-site social workers in our Department who can provide immediate help. They can provide an assessment to help identify CalWORKs requirements that may be waived.

What are some of the requirements that may be waived to help you?

- Additional time on CalWORKs cash aid assistance, not to exceed 6 months.
- Modifying your Welfare-to-Work Action Plan requirements (including modifying the number of hours you are required to work or participate in activities).
- Waiver of child support requirements, including establishing paternity.
- Sponsor deeming requirements.

What if I am an Undocumented Non-Citizen?

You may be able to get welfare if:

- You and/or your children are victims of domestic abuse **and**
 1. You have filed for or obtained a U-Visa.
 2. You have filed for or obtained a U-Visa on behalf of your children.

If you have not yet applied for a U-Visa, contact US Citizenship and Immigration Services (UCSIS at 1-800-375-5283) or the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-7233).

Note: If you are a Legal Permanent Resident and abused by your sponsor; contact USCIS (1-800-375-5283) for immediate help.

What Domestic Abuse services are available?

Some of the services that can help you and your children include:

- Safety planning – safe housing and a safe work environment.
- Counseling for yourself and your children.
- Substance abuse services.
- Help with court proceedings and legal needs.
- Assistance with obtaining a restraining order.
- Risk assessment.
- Domestic Violence evaluation.
- CalWORKs waiver review.
- Court accompaniment.

How do I Start to Re-Build my Life?

Call your Human Services Technician (HST) or Employment Social Service Worker (SSW).

All information you give us is confidential.



Emergencies – Call

911

***Alliance Against
Family Violence &
Sexual Assault
Hotline***

(661) 327-1091

*(661) 322-0931
(800) 273-7713*

Women’s Center-High Desert

Hotlines:

*(760) 375-7525
(760) 375-0745*

*Lake Isabella
(760) 379-2264*

*Mojave
(661) 824-2649
Ridgecrest
(760) 371-1969*

Alpha House-Women’s Shelter

Taft

(661) 763-4357

National Domestic Violence Hotline

(800) 799-7233