

Ways of Getting Protection

Filing Criminal Charges

You can file a complaint with your District Justice (Magistrate) against the person who hurt you. Filing a complaint will usually require that you testify at a hearing.

If the police have witnessed recent evidence of abuse, they may also file a complaint. You may have to testify as a witness for the police.

If the abuser is found guilty of assaulting you, he or she may be jailed, fined, or both. The abuser may also be given a suspended sentence. This means that he or she will not go to jail this time, but he or she may not go to jail this time, but if he or she assaults you again, he or she may.

Protection From Abuse Order (PFA)

A PFA is a special type of restraining order which is available to victims of domestic violence. This is a court order telling the abuser not to harm the victim. Anyone who has been assaulted or threatened with bodily harm by a family or household member, or a former family or household member, may apply for a PFA.

The Most Important Thing is to Protect Yourself

You do not deserve physical abuse. If you are in danger, leave the home. You also have the right to call the police. Never be ashamed to ask friends or family for a place to stay. If you are in danger and have nowhere to turn, Community Action's Crossroads House may provide shelter for up to 30 days.

THERE IS HELP FOR YOU