

---

---

# **A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING**

## **DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

version: 2011

---

---

### **GENERAL**

All information is provided for general knowledge purposes only and is not meant as a replacement for professional legal advice. If you have a personal legal question that requires legal advice, please consult a lawyer.

### **COPYRIGHT**

Copyright 2011, Student Legal Services of Edmonton. All rights reserved. Copying any material, in whole or in part, is prohibited unless prior consent has been obtained. Some material may be subject to copyright from an outside source and thus there may be different restrictions on the reproduction of this material.

### **LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

Student Legal Services of Edmonton is not liable for any loss or damage caused by an individual's reliance on information or material obtained from Student Legal Services of Edmonton. By accessing the information, individual's agree that any usage is at their own risk.

### **INFORMATIONS AND OPINIONS**

In some instances, information obtained by Student Legal Services of Edmonton may have been provided by outside sources. Even with the high standards set by Student Legal Services of Edmonton, we accept no responsibility for the accuracy and reliability of the material. Opinions and Informations provided by third parties does not represent that of Student Legal Services of Edmonton.

**DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

WHAT IS ABUSE? . . . . . 3

    Emotional Abuse. . . . . 3

    Sexual Abuse. . . . . 3

    Physical Abuse. . . . . 3

    Financial Abuse. . . . . 3

DOMESTIC ABUSE IS AGAINST THE LAW. . . . . 3

    Assault. . . . . 4

    Sexual Assault. . . . . 4

    Stalking. . . . . 4

    Uttering Threats. . . . . 4

    Forcible Confinement. . . . . 4

THE FIRST CRIMINAL COURT APPEARANCE  
(DOCKET COURT). . . . . 6

THE TRIAL. . . . . 6

    What if I'm an immigrant or a newcomer to Canada  
    . . . . . 8

YOUR LEGAL OPTIONS. . . . . 8

    Criminal Assault Charges (private informations)  
    . . . . . 8

    Peace Bonds . . . . . 9

    Restraining Orders . . . . . 10

    Protection Orders (Protection Against Family Violence Act)  
    . . . . . 11

    Your Home and an Exclusive Possession Order  
    . . . . . 12

    Civil Actions . . . . . 14

    Victim Compensation . . . . . 14

FAMILY LAW ISSUES. . . . . 14

FINDING THE RESOURCES YOU NEED. . . . . 15

REFERRAL NUMBERS. . . . . 18

## **A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

### **WHAT IS ABUSE?**

Abuse can take many forms:

#### **1. Emotional Abuse**

Verbal behaviour that injures your security and/or personal dignity. This can include: insults and put-downs; threatening harm to you, your loved ones, pets, or belongings; isolating you from others; threatening to 'out' you as a member of a sexual minority group.

#### **2. Sexual Abuse**

It is abusive, and illegal, for anyone—including your spouse or common-law partner—to force you to have sex, or perform sexual acts, against your will.

#### **3. Physical Abuse**

Any form of hostile, non-consensual physical contact, including pinching and pushing, is considered physical abuse, and is a crime.

#### **4. Financial Abuse**

Using control of the household money to exert control over you. This can include forcing you to beg for money.

### **DOMESTIC ABUSE IS AGAINST THE LAW**

Any person who abuses you is committing a crime even if that person is your spouse, partner or someone else that you are close to. The police can get involved when someone commits, or is threatening to commit a crime. The following are offences under the Criminal Code:

## **A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

#### **1. Assault:**

Intentionally applying force without that person's consent, or threatening to do so when the person making the threat has the power to in fact apply force. Injury is not required.

#### **2. Sexual Assault:**

Is assault where the force or touch is of a sexual nature; unwanted sexual contact.

#### **3. Stalking:**

In legal terms this is called criminal harassment, and it causes someone to fear for their own, or another person's safety.

#### **4. Uttering Threats:**

Threatening to cause death or bodily harm, or to damage/destroy property. This also includes threatening injury to your pet.

#### **5. Forcible Confinement:**

Confining, forcibly seizing or imprisoning someone. This includes forcing someone to stay in bed or a chair for long periods of time.

If any of these apply to your relationship, you should get the police involved as soon as possible to make sure that you are protected.

During an assault, or as soon as possible afterward, you should call the police. If you are in immediate danger, call 911 (or the emergency number for your area). If you can't call right away, you can talk to the police when it is safe for you to do so.

When you talk to the police, you should give them as much information as possible. They need to know if:

- a. Your life is in danger
- b. You are injured
- c. There are weapons involved
- d. There are drugs or alcohol involved
- e. There are children or others in the home

## A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

---

- f. There is a history of violence
- g. You have an Emergency Protection Order (EPO), Queen's Bench Protection Order (QBPO), restraining order or peace bond against your abuser

It is important that you give the police complete, factual information so that they can work to protect you. The police will probably want to know the details of the violence and any injuries that you have suffered. If you already have an EPO, QBPO, peace bond or restraining order against the person who assaulted you, you should show a copy of it to the police.

The police can decide to lay a criminal charge if they have reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a crime took place. This just means that they must think that your abuser committed a crime against you. They may decide to arrest your abuser and take him/her into custody. Within 24 hours of the arrest, an arrested person has the right to a bail hearing. At the bail hearing, a judge or justice of the peace will decide if it is safe for the arrested person to be released until the next court date. If the arrested person is released, you can tell the police that you are afraid of your abuser and ask that conditions be placed on their release prohibiting that person from contacting you. The police have recently set guidelines for notifying victims of an accused's release. It is important that you know that the police or Crown Prosecutor **only** notify you when they believe you are at a high risk.

If the police decide not to arrest your abuser but do still charge him or her with assault, he or she will be given an Appearance Notice instructing the abuser to report for fingerprints and the first court appearance on certain dates. If this happens, you should inform yourself as to the conditions of release. You can do so by contacting the police or the Crown Prosecutor's office. You should inform the police immediately of any breach of release conditions,

## A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

---

such as the abuser having contact with you when there is a condition for him/her not to do so.

If the police decide that there is not enough evidence to charge your abuser at all, you can ask that the decision be reviewed by the officer's supervisor or you can "lay a private information" against him/her. This is discussed later in this pamphlet under Your Legal Options - Criminal Assault Charges. You may also choose to pursue your remedy in civil court with a QBPO.

### THE FIRST CRIMINAL COURT APPEARANCE (DOCKET COURT)

If charges are laid against your abuser, he or she will make a first appearance in court to enter a plea to the charge(s). If your abuser pleads guilty, he or she will either be sentenced that day or the judge may ask for a pre-sentence report and another court date will be set for sentencing. If your abuser decides to plead not guilty, a trial date will be set. The trial date could be weeks or months after the first appearance, depending on how busy your local courts are. It is also possible that your abuser may ask for an adjournment at the first appearance if he or she has not obtained legal advice yet. If your abuser has been held in custody, the first appearance may also include an application for Judicial Interim Release (i.e., bail) and the judge will have to decide if it is safe to release the individual. If released, the accused will likely be ordered to have no contact with you and report to a Probation Officer. Failure to comply may result in charges being laid against the accused (Breach of Probation).

### THE TRIAL

If your abuser decides to plead not guilty, there will be a trial to allow a judge to decide whether or not your abuser is guilty of a criminal offence. You may be served with a subpoena to appear in

## **A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

court as a witness for the Crown Prosecutor. Once you are subpoenaed you must appear in court and there are serious consequences if you do not show up, unless you have a very good reason. If you think that attending court on the set date could be a problem for you, phone the Prosecutor's office and let them know as soon as possible. They may be able to make arrangements to accommodate you and, if not, you will still have time to make your own arrangements to be in court.

When you get to the courtroom on the day of the trial you should report to the Prosecutor so that he or she knows you are there. At that time you can also ask the Prosecutor any questions you have about what will happen in court and what you should do. You may want to ask where to wait until you are called into court and whether or not you can stay in the courtroom after you have given your own testimony. Also, you can ask what kind of questions you might expect from the Prosecutor and the defence lawyer.

If you do not understand a question, ask that the question be explained to you before you answer it. If you do not know the answer to a question, just say that you do not know. It is important that you remain silent in court at all times, except when you are on the witness stand. Your abuser may testify and, even if you completely disagree with his or her answers, you cannot speak during his or her testimony. You may want to bring friends or family members with you to court for support.

The Victim Services Unit of the Edmonton Police Service and Edmonton John Howard Society's Victims' Assistance Program can assist victims of crime by providing assistance with completing a Victim's Impact Statement, information concerning the investigation, and court support. These organizations also help children who have been subpoenaed as witnesses. This will generally only occur if he/she was an eyewitness to or victim of the abuse and there is no other way to prove the charges.

## **A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

If your abuser is found guilty he/she will be sentenced, possible sentences include jail time, fines and probation. If your abuser is found not guilty, he or she will be free to go and the case is over. It is possible that the decision made in court will be appealed by either the Prosecutor or your abuser. Notice of appeal must be served within 30 days of sentencing.

### **1. What if I'm an immigrant or a newcomer to Canada?**

If a sponsored immigrant has to leave his/her sponsor due to abuse, he/she will not be automatically deported. A victim that has permanent resident status will not be deported for leaving an abusive sponsor. Changing Together: A Centre for Immigrant Women may be able to provide further information and assistance. If you are an immigrant or newcomer you should consult a lawyer for advice on how to protect yourself from deportation.

#### Changing Together: A Centre for Immigrant Women

3rd Floor, 10010 - 105 Street

Edmonton, Alberta

T5J 1C4

Phone: (780) 421-0175

[www.changingtogether.com](http://www.changingtogether.com)

An immigrant that is convicted of an indictable criminal offence, such as assault, is in danger of deportation.

## **YOUR LEGAL OPTIONS**

You have many legal options to consider if you are being abused.

### **1. Criminal Assault Charges (private informations)**

If the police have decided not to press charges against your abuser, you can press charges yourself. To do so, call the Provincial Court - Criminal Division Clerk's Office and tell them that you want to "lay a private information" for assault. The

## **A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

Clerk's Office will set up an appointment for you to speak to a Justice of the Peace. During that meeting, you will get to tell your side of the story and the Justice of the Peace will decide whether there are reasonable and probable grounds to lay a charge of assault. If the Justice of the Peace allows you to proceed, he or she will forward your complaint to the Crown Prosecutor's Office. The Prosecutor's Office will then decide if there is enough evidence to go ahead with the charge in court. It is essential that everything told to the Justice of the Peace is honest and accurate.

### **2. Peace Bonds**

A peace bond is a court order that requires someone to obey any conditions that the court places on the order. Conditions may include forbidding someone from having any contact with you and requiring the abuser to attend counselling sessions. If your abuser is charged with a criminal offence and you are frightened for your own safety, or the safety of your children or property, you may want to speak to the Crown Prosecutor about applying for a peace bond. In situations where your family or friends have also been harassed, they may be included on the peace bond. The bond can be granted for a maximum of 12 months. A violation of a peace bond is a criminal offence— the police must be informed of the breach and they will decide whether or not to lay a charge.

You can get a peace bond in much the same way that you lay a private information and you do not need a lawyer to get a peace bond. In Edmonton, start by calling the Provincial Court - Criminal Division Clerk's Office and tell them that you need to make an appointment with a Justice of the Peace to request a peace bond. The Justice of the Peace will take down the details of your complaint and will forward the information to the Crown Prosecutor's Office to be dealt with if there are grounds for a peace bond. The Justice of the Peace will set a court date and your abuser will be served with a summons to appear in court. If your abuser does not show up in court on the set date after being served with a summons, the peace bond might be issued *ex*

## **A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

*parte*, in your abuser's absence. If you live in Alberta but outside of Edmonton, you will need to go to the police station first where they will give you a file number to take to the Justice of the Peace.

### **3. Restraining Orders**

A restraining order is issued from civil court, rather than criminal court like a peace bond, and you may need a lawyer to help you get a restraining order. A restraining order can be attached to another action like a divorce or a civil action for assault, or you can ask for a restraining order alone.

Restraining orders may be granted without notice to the abuser of the hearing. However, the Respondent (abuser) must be served with a copy of the order and there is an automatic review of the order within two weeks at the Court of Queen's Bench. The Respondent and you will likely have to be present at this hearing. At this hearing, the Judge will decide if the order will remain in effect.

It is highly recommended that you consult a lawyer as your restraining order must be very carefully worded to make sure that you get the protection that you need.

Some important things to remember include:

- a. The order should say that the police 'shall' make an arrest if your abuser does not follow the conditions in the restraining order, not that the police 'may' make an arrest. You want to make sure that the police will have the authority to make an arrest if the order is being violated.
- b. Make sure that the restraining order mentions all of the places that your abuser could try to contact you, like your home, your place of work, and anywhere else you spend time on a consistent basis. If your order also prohibits your abuser from seeing your children, make sure that their schools and/or daycares are listed as well. You may

## **A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

also want your order to prohibit your abuser from contacting you by telephone, mail or email.

- c. If your abuser is going to have visitation rights with your children, the times that he or she is able to see the children should be clearly laid out in the order. As well, you may want the order to say that if your abuser is intoxicated when he or she comes to see the kids, you have the right to deny the visit.

A restraining order does not have a specified time limit, you may ask for however long you believe will be necessary (1-6 months is common) and it may be extended, if necessary. You should keep a copy of your order with you at all times so that you can show it to the police if the order is violated. In addition, the restraining order should be registered with the police and given a case number. This will enable the police to have immediate access to the order's provisions. Breaching a restraining order may include arrest and criminal charges or a finding of civil contempt.

### **4. Protection Orders (Protection Against Family Violence Act)**

These orders offer the most protection. They are similar to peace bonds and restraining orders; however, they provide additional protections that the others cannot offer. A breach of either an EPO or a QBPO is an indictable offence and the police should be contacted immediately.

#### **a. Emergency Protection Orders (EPO)**

A claimant, Children's Service Worker, or a member of the police can apply for an EPO at any time of the day or night when an application is made before a Justice of the Peace—and can get this order immediately. The police can only apply with the consent of the victim. A review hearing must take place within 9 working days, at which time the order may be terminated or confirmed. An EPO can be granted in the absence of criminal

## **A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

charges being laid—and the police are still free to lay charges at any time. If the police or a Children's Services worker sends you away and tells you to apply for an EPO, you must reconsider whether or not there is an **emergency**. In this case, you may be better to apply for a QBPO (with or without notice).

#### **b. Queen's Bench Protection Orders (QBPO)**

A review of an EPO may result in a QBPO. A QBPO may also be applied for by direct application to the Court of Queen's Bench. A person may appear in court without a lawyer; however, it is advisable to get a lawyer. It is similar to an EPO, but a QBPO may also:

- i. Require that the abuser reimburse the victim for any financial losses resulting from the abuse;
- ii. Instruct that property not be dealt with;
- iii. Instruct the abuser to post a bond to ensure compliance with terms;
- iv. Require that either party attend counselling; and
- v. Require temporary possession of specified personal property (i.e., keys, bank cards, vehicle, etc.).

A QBPO can be ordered for up to one year—and may be extended, if necessary. You must apply for an extension before the QBPO expires.

### **5. Your Home and an Exclusive Possession Order**

If you decide that you want to leave your abusive relationship, you may want your abuser to move out of your home. The police cannot force your abuser to leave the home if he or she has the legal right to be there. For instance, if your abuser owns the home or is on the lease/rental agreement, he or she has the legal right to live in that home—even if you are also an owner, renter or lessee and no longer want your abuser to live there. The police will help you to get to a safe place, like a shelter or the home of a friend. The police can also escort you back to your home to pick up your personal belongings and anything that you need for your

## **A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

children. You will not be allowed to take anything that is owned by both you and your abuser.

You can get an Exclusive Possession Order for either a home that you own or that you rent together, and your order may also give you possession of the furniture in the home and the family vehicle under some circumstances. An Exclusive Possession Order requires one partner to leave the family home and prohibits him or her from entering the home or being near the premises. Even if you have an Exclusive Possession Order, you may still want to get a restraining order because the Exclusive Possession Order only protects you in and around the home, whereas a restraining order can be used to protect you away from your home anywhere in Alberta from unwanted contact of any kind.

The legal procedures involved in acquiring these orders can be complicated and the courts prefer to see people represented by lawyers. After you and your lawyer make an application for an Exclusive Possession Order, your partner will be notified that a court hearing will take place and he or she will be given an opportunity to oppose the order. In rare cases where there appears to be an immediate threat of violence, the court may make the order without notice of a hearing being given to the abusive spouse. In deciding whether or not to grant an Exclusive Possession Order, the court will consider: availability of other accommodations for both parties, needs of the children, financial circumstances of each of the spouses, and the conduct of the two spouses (if the court finds that it is relevant). It is unlikely that you will be able to get an Exclusive Possession Order if you do not have children that will be remaining with you and there has not been any violence.

If you invite your spouse to the house you will be inducing a breach of the order and the police may not enforce it. You should keep a copy of the order on you at all times.

## **A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

Note: If you are living on a reserve, you cannot get an Exclusive Possession Order. Property on a reserve is controlled by Band Council, pursuant to the Indian Act.

### **6. Civil Actions**

You can sue your abuser, no matter who they are, with a civil action for assault. You may be able to get money from your abuser to compensate you for the harm you have suffered. You should contact a lawyer as soon as possible to discuss this option, as there are time limits on bringing a civil action. You may also be able to bring a claim yourself if the claim is under \$25,000. Contact the Provincial Court-Civil Division to get more information about the process.

### **7. Victim Compensation**

The Victims of Crime-Financial Benefits Program compensates victims of violent crimes for the financial losses directly incurred as a result of the crime (i.e., not pain and suffering or disfigurement). You may be eligible if the crime and injury occurred in Alberta, is reported to the police within a reasonable time, and an application is submitted within one year of injury. You must be willing to cooperate fully with the police investigations, and any inquiries of the compensation board. You must also provide documentation (receipts, pay stubs, etc.) substantiating your claim.

If the abuser has been charged with a crime, you may want to speak to the Crown Prosecutor about applying for a Restitution Order. The Victim Services Unit of the Edmonton Police Service will be able to assist victims with the process.

## **FAMILY LAW ISSUES**

Leaving a relationship often means that you have to think about some family law issues. You may be concerned about what will happen with your children and property, and may want to get

## **A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

maintenance from your abuser. If you have children and you are the guardian of those children, you have the **responsibility** to take them out of violent situations. It is considered a form of abuse to allow your children to witness family violence.

You should deal with parenting issues as soon as possible. You are required to allow any other guardians of the child to exercise their right to access. Basically, this means that other guardians have the right to have contact with the child. You will probably want to make an application for a parenting order to have access provisions set out in an order—or prohibited—if you feel that your abuser is also a threat to your children. Contact Family Court Services to get more information about the process. If you are planning on getting a divorce, you will want to speak to a lawyer about getting an Interim Custody and Access Order in conjunction with the divorce.

You should also be making arrangements and getting court-ordered child maintenance as soon as possible. A court order will make it easier to enforce the maintenance agreement through the Maintenance Enforcement Program should any disagreement arise in the future. Contact the Family Law Information Centre to get more information about the process.

Student Legal Services of Edmonton has pamphlets that may be useful for you. You can get copies of the pamphlets by contacting Student Legal Services of Edmonton at (780) 492-2226. You can also download them using the PDF link at the top of the page.

### **FINDING THE RESOURCES YOU NEED**

There are a number of community-based programs that enable those in abusive situations to get the assistance they require. Some of the organizations and the services they provide are:

## **A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

### Edmonton Community Services

(780) 496-4777

Offers individual counselling and support groups for victims of abuse, an opportunity to speak to a professional social worker about developing a safety plan and connecting people with required resources. Childcare is provided at no cost.

### Drop-in Support Group for Women In/out of Abusive/violent Intimate Relationships

(780) 496-4939 or 496-4777

Offers a free drop-in support group for women who are experiencing abuse in their intimate relationships. Free childcare is provided.

### Counselling Centre (YWCA)

(780) 423-YWCA (423-9922) ext. 222---

<http://www.ywcaofedmonton.org>

Offers individual, child and family counselling and support groups. Fees are determined on a sliding scale and subsidies are available. All children's groups are provided free of charge.

### Hope Mission Women's Centre

(780) 429-1329---[www.hopemission.com](http://www.hopemission.com)

Offers a safe and structured environment that helps women move towards recovery from abusive and addictive behaviours. The program offers accommodation for women and their children based on referral or approval to program.

### Family Violence Prevention Centre - Edmonton John Howard Society

(780) 423-1635 or 428-7590---[www.johnhoward.org](http://www.johnhoward.org)

Offers assistance to people who have recently left or are currently in an abusive relationship by connecting them to community resources and offering outreach support. The Centre also offers a furniture/moving assistance program that delivers furniture

**A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

donations to people leaving abusive relationships and helps to move household items.

**A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

**REFERRAL NUMBERS**

**Assistance Programs**

- Victims Programs: Public Security Division. . . . . (780) 427-3460
- Changing Together: A Centre for Immigrant Women (780) 421-0175
- Edmonton Sexual Assault Centre. . . . . (780) 423-4102
- Crisis Line (24 hr). . . . . (780) 423-4121
- Family Violence Prevention Centre - Edmonton John Howard Society  
..... (780) 423-1635
- Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (780) 479-8195  
toll free 1-877-471-2171
- Alberta Mental Health Board Help Line . . toll free 1-877-303-2642
- Support Network Crisis Line. . . . . (780) 482-4357
- Salvation Army Crisis Line . . . . . (780) 429-0230
- Native Counselling Services of Alberta . . . . . (780) 451-4002
- Victims' Assistance Program - Edmonton John Howard Society (780) 422-0721
- Victims of Crime - Financial Benefits Program  
..... dial 310-0000 then dial (780) 427-7217
- Victim Services Unit - Edmonton Police Service . (780) 421-2760

**Legal Resources**

- Crown Prosecutor's Office (Edmonton) . . . . . (780) 422-1111
- Family Law Information Centre . . . . . (780) 415-0404
- Family Court Services. . . . . (780) 427-8343
- Lawyer Referral Service. . . . . 1-800-661-01095
- Legal Aid Society ([www.legalaid.ab.ca](http://www.legalaid.ab.ca)). . . . . (780) 427-7575
- Maintenance Enforcement Program . . . . . (780) 422-5554
- Hearing Impaired . . . . . 1-800-232-7215
- Provincial Court - Criminal Division, Clerk's Office .(780) 427-7863
- Provincial Court – Family and Youth Division. . . . . (780) 538-2743
- Student Legal Services of Edmonton . . . . . (780) 492-2226  
([www.slsedmonton.com](http://www.slsedmonton.com))

**A GUIDE TO THE LAW IN ALBERTA REGARDING DOMESTIC  
ABUSE AND YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**

---

Emergency Protection Order Program. . . . . (780) 422-9222

**Shelters**

A Safe House (Sherwood Park). . . . (Crisis Line) (780) 464-7233  
Edmonton Women's Shelter (WIS House), 24 hr (780) 479-0058  
Edmonton Seniors Safe Housing. . . . . (780) 702-1520  
Lurana Shelter. . . . . (Crisis Line) (780) 424-5875

**Second Stage Shelters**

La Salle Residence . . . . . (780) 482-2190  
Wings of Providence. . . . . (780) 426-4985