

Type of law:
CRIMINAL LAW
FAMILY LAW

DOMESTIC ABUSE



A 2022 ALBERTA GUIDE TO THE LAW

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GENERAL

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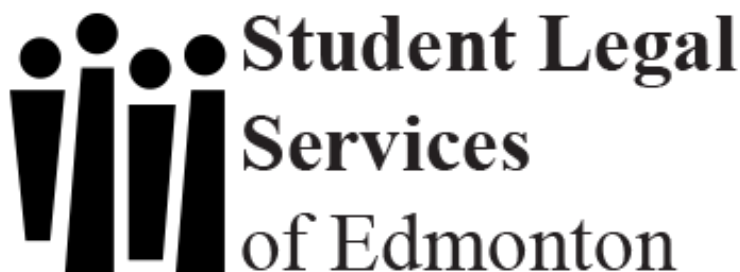


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DOMESTIC ABUSE



WHAT IS ABUSE?

Abuse can take many forms:

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Verbal behaviour that injures your security and/or personal dignity:

- insults and put-downs
- threatening to harm you, your loved ones, pets, or belongings
- isolating you from others
- threatening to 'out' you as a member of a sexual minority group
- threats to have you deported/jeopardize your immigration status

SEXUAL ABUSE

It is abusive and illegal for anyone, including your spouse or partner, to force you to have sex, or perform sexual acts, that you do not consent to.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

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

FINANCIAL ABUSE

Managing 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 may be committing a crime, even if that person is your spouse, partner, or someone else that you are close to.

DOMESTIC ABUSE CAN BE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING OFFENCES UNDER THE CRIMINAL CODE:

S. 265

Assault: the intentional application of direct or indirect force against another person without their consent; an attempt or threat to apply force to another person that causes that person to believe force will be applied; or accosting or impeding a person or begging while openly carrying a weapon or something that appears to be a weapon.

S. 271

Sexual Assault: assault where the force/touch is of a sexual nature. Instances of sexual assault committed against people under the age of 16 or committed by those in a position of trust or authority over the victim may be classified differently and carry different penalties.

S. 264

Stalking: in legal terms this is called criminal harassment, and it causes someone to fear for their own, or another person's safety. This can take many forms, even beyond what people usually think of as stalking.

S. 264.1

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

S. 279(2)

Forcible Confinement: confining, forcibly seizing, or imprisoning someone. This includes forcing someone to stay in bed or a chair for a period of time.



If any of these apply to your relationship, you may want to get the police involved as soon as possible to ensure you are protected.



GETTING THE POLICE INVOLVED



If you do not feel that you can call the police, or would like a support service to talk to, you can contact:

- 24-hour Family Violence Information Line at 780-310-1818
- The Support Network 24-hour distress line at 780-482-4357
- The Edmonton Sexual Assault Centre 24-hour crisis line at 780-423-4121


GETTING THE POLICE INVOLVED:

It is a good idea to contact the police during an assault or as soon as possible afterwards. If you are in immediate danger, call 911 (or the emergency number for your area). If you cannot call right away, you can talk to the police when it is safe to do so.

If you are not in immediate danger, report to the regular police line at 780-423-4567

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

- your life is in danger
- you are injured
- there are weapons involved
- there are drugs or alcohol involved
- there are children or others in the home
- there is a history of violence
- you have an Emergency Protection Order (EPO), Queen's Bench Protection Order (QBPO), restraining order, or peace bond against your abuser. (you may want to show a copy of it to the police)

 **It is important that you give the police complete and correct information so they can work to protect you.**

LAYING A CRIMINAL CHARGE:

The police can decide to lay a criminal charge if they have **reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a crime took place.**

- They may decide to arrest your abuser and take them into custody.
- Usually, 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** while the charge is deferred.
- **If the arrested person is released, you can ask that conditions be placed on their release** prohibiting that person from contacting you.
- The police have set guidelines for notifying victims of an accused's release.



The police or Crown Prosecutor will usually notify you when the accused has been released.

- If the police **decide not to keep the accused in custody**, but do still **charge them with assault**, they will be given an **Appearance Notice** instructing them to report for a **first court appearance and possibly for fingerprint identification**.
- If this happens, you can **find out the conditions of the release**.
 - You can do so by **contacting the police (780-423-4567) or the Crown Prosecutor's office (780-422-1111)**,
- It is important for the police to be made aware of any breach of conditions, such as the accused contacting you when there is a condition prohibiting them not to do so.

If the police decide that there is **not enough evidence to charge the accused**, you can ask that the decision be reviewed by the officer's supervisor or you can "**lay a private information**" against them. This is discussed later on page **x**



THE FIRST CRIMINAL COURT APPEARANCE (DOCKET COURT)



If charges are laid against the accused, they will make a first appearance in court to enter a plea to the charge(s): guilty or not guilty. They may also ask for more time before they enter a plea.



ACCUSED PLEADS GUILTY

If the accused pleads guilty, they will either be sentenced that day or the judge may set another court date for sentencing.



ACCUSED PLEADS NOT GUILTY

A trial date will be set. The trial date could be months after the first appearance, depending on how busy your local courts are. It is also possible that the accused may ask for an adjournment (another court date in the future) if they have not obtained legal advice yet.

ACCUSED IN CUSTODY?

If the accused 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 may be required to report to a Probation Officer.
- Failure to comply may result in additional charges being laid against the accused (ex. Breach of Probation).



THE TRIAL



If the accused pleads not guilty, there will be a trial to decide whether or not the accused is guilty of a criminal offence.

- You may be **served with a subpoena to appear in court** as a witness for the Crown Prosecutor
- **Once you are subpoenaed, you must appear in court;** there are potentially serious consequences if you do not show up (unless you have a VERY good reason).
- **If you think that attending court could be a problem, you can phone the Prosecutor's office and let them know ASAP.** They may be able to make arrangements to accommodate you.



If you would like help and support preparing to be a witness, you can contact the **John Howard Victim Assistance Program at 780-422-0721**

WHEN YOU ARRIVE TO THE COURTROOM

Arrive a half hour early to your court appearance. You will enter the courthouse and go through airport-like security. Check to see the accused's name electronically displayed or on paper outside the courtroom. **When your matter is called, go to the front of the courtroom and sit at one of the tables. Check in with the court clerk** before court begins.

- When you arrive, **you should also report to the Prosecutor** so that they know 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 you can stay in the courtroom after you give your testimony.

 **You can ask what kind of questions to expect from the Prosecutor and the defence lawyer.**

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

When testifying, you will be questioned by the lawyers or, in some cases, the person representing themselves. **Try to answer these questions to the best of your ability because you will swear an oath or affirm that you will tell the truth.** It is important that you remain silent in court at all times, except when you are on the witness stand, or otherwise asked to speak.

- If you do **not understand a question**, ask that the question be **explained to you before you answer**
- If you **do not know the answer to a question**, you can just say you **do not know**.
- If you **do not agree with a suggestion that is made during questioning**, you can say so.
- Your abuser may testify. Even if you completely disagree with their answers, you cannot speak during their testimony.

VERDICTS

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



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 a Victim's Impact Statement, information concerning the investigation, and court support.

These organizations also help children who have been subpoenaed as witnesses. Generally, this will only occur if they were an eyewitness to the victim of abuse and there is no other way to prove the charges.



Criminal Assault Charges

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 (780-427-7868) and tell them you want to "lay a private information" for assault.

- The 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, they 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.



Peace Bonds

A peace bond is a court order that requires someone to obey any conditions that the court places in the order. Conditions may include forbidding someone from having any contact with you and sometimes requiring the accused to attend counselling sessions

- In situations where your family or friends have also been harassed, they may be included on the peace bond.
- The peace bond can be granted for a maximum of 12 months.

If the accused 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.



A violation of a peace bond is a criminal offence. Once informed of the breach, the police can decide whether to lay a charge.

You can get a peace bond in much the same way that you lay a private information. You do not need a lawyer or the police to get a peace bond, but you can consult either for help applying for a peace bond.

- In Edmonton, start by calling the Provincial Court- Criminal Division Clerk's Office (780-427-7868) 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 forward the information to the Crown Prosecutor's Office.
 - The Justice of the Peace will set a court date and your abuser will be served with a summons to appear in court.
- The applicant will have to appear and provide testimony and reason for their fear.
- 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 in your abuser's absence.

If you live in Alberta, but outside 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.



Restraining Orders

A restraining order is a court order that commands someone to stay away from you and stop contact. A restraining order can be attached to another action like a divorce or a civil action for assault or it can be ordered on its own.

- Restraining orders may be granted without telling the abuser about 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 (abuser) 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.



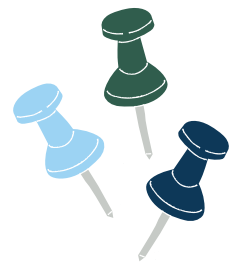
It is highly recommended that you consult a lawyer, since your restraining order must be very carefully worded to make sure that you get the protection that you need.

Restraining Orders cont.

A restraining order could be a helpful option if you are ineligible for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO) or Queen's Bench Protection Order (QBPO).

Restraining Orders vs. EPO or QBPO	
Both restraining orders and EPO/ QBPOs have the power to command an individual to halt contact and prevent them from going to your home or place you go often. The differences between different orders can be confusing. The similarities and differences are outlined below and are based on the Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta's materials.	
Both restraining orders and EPO/QBPOs can be made available in emergencies, without notice to the abuser.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">EPOs can be acquired 24/7Without notice restraining orders can be acquired during normal court orders.	
Restraining Orders	EPO or QBPO
Protect against <u>anyone</u> (relationship does not matter)	Only protects from family members and family violence. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Does not include a partner you do not live with, unless there is a child together.Family violence does not cover emotional abuse.
Not able to order the abuser to move out a location where they have the right to live, even if you also live there too.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Can provide you with exclusive possession of the family home, even if your name is not on the title/lease.Can provide the police with the authority to remove an abuser from your family home.

Important things you may want to include in your restraining order:



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.
- Alternatively, there can be a meters restriction (ex. must be 100 metres from the claimant). This is important where someone has a job without a fixed work address.
- You may also want to order to prohibit your abuser from contacting you by telephone, mail, or email.

If your abuser is going to have visitation rights with your children, the times they are able to see the children should be clearly laid out in a separate parenting order. As well, you may want the order to say that if your abuser is intoxicated when they see the kids, you have the right to deny the visit.

A restraining order does not have a specified time limit. Restraining orders are typically valid for one year, but can be for longer, or permanently. It is a good idea to 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.



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Protection Orders (from the Protection Against Family Violence Act)

These orders can offer the most protection. They are similar to peace bonds and restraining orders, but provide additional protections. A breach of either an EPO or a QBPO is an indictable offence and the police should be contacted immediately.



Emergency Protection Orders (EPO)

An EPO can prevent a family member from contacting you and other family members, prevent a family member from being near your home, work, or school, remove a family member from your home, and order that weapons belonging to the abuser be seized by the police.

To apply for an EPO:

- A family member must have committed family violence
- You have grounds to believe that the family member will continue with the family violence
- The circumstances are serious enough to warrant a court order immediately to protect you and your family.

An application for an EPO can be made at any time of the day or night and an EPO can be granted immediately at no cost.

Legal Aid of Alberta offers the **Emergency Protection Order Program**, where a lawyer will assist you in obtaining an EPO at no cost. There are also no financial eligibility requirements to receive assistance. The program can be accessed at the EPO office in the court house, or by calling **780-422-9222**.



Emergency Protection Orders (EPO) cont.

A review hearing must take place within 9 working days after an order is granted, at which time the order may be ended or confirmed. An EPO can be granted in the absence of criminal charges being laid and the police are still free to lay charges at any time.

Sometimes at the review hearing for an EPO, the court will cancel an EPO and grant a QBPO order instead.

EPO's are for immediate and serious circumstances. You may not meet the requirements for an EPO, but could still be entitled to a Queen's Bench Protection Order.

Queen's Bench Protection Order (QBPO)

A QBPO may result from a review of an EPO. A QBPO may also be applied for directly in the Court of Queen's Bench. **A person may appear without a lawyer; however, it may be helpful to get a lawyer.**



A QBPO is similar to an EPO, but may also:

1. Require that the abuser reimburse the survivor for any financial losses resulting from the abuse;
2. Instruct that property not be divided if it otherwise would be;
3. Instruct the abuser to post a bond to ensure compliance with terms
4. Require that either party attend counselling; and
5. Require temporary possession of specified personal property (ex. keys, bank cards, vehicle, etc.)



A QBPO can be ordered for up to one year and may be extended if necessary. As with EPO's you must apply for an extension before the QBPO expires.

Warrant Permitting Entry (WPE)

A WPE allows a person, such as the police, to enter the premises named in the warrant with the purpose of searching for or assisting a family member and removing them from the home with the family member's consent.

A judge may issue a WPE when satisfied that there are reasonable and probably grounds to believe that:

1. the person providing the information under oath has been refused access to a family member
2. the family member may have been the subject of family violence; and
3. the family member will be found at the place to be searched

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 without a court order if they have the legal right to be there. For instance, if your abuser owns the home or is on the rental agreement, then they have the legal right to live in that home even if you are also an owner, renter, or lessee.

However, you may be able to get an Exclusive Possession Order for the home. **Exclusive Possession Orders grant an individual the right to live in the family home and order others living there to leave.**

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 from unwanted contact anywhere in Alberta.



Family home

- property that you or your partner owns/rents AND
- the location where you have lived with your partner AND
- a house, dwelling, mobile home, condo, suite or living quarters

Acquiring an Exclusive Possession Order

The legal procedures involved in acquiring these orders can be complicated. **There may be a \$250 fee for starting the court action.**

- After you and your lawyer make an application for an Exclusive Possession Order, your partner will be notified of the court hearing and they will be allowed 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.

When granting the Exclusive Possession Order the court will consider:

- availability of other accommodations for both parties
- needs of the children
- financial circumstances of each of the parties
- the conduct of the two parties (if relevant), and
- the balance of convenience

Acquiring an Exclusive Possession Order can be difficult. When applying you must prove that the Family Property Act guidelines have been met and there is good reason for the order (ex. not simply wishing them to move out of the house).

Note: If you are living on a reserve, you cannot get an Exclusive Possession Order. This is because the property on a reserve is controlled by Band Council, under the Indian Act.



Civil Actions

You can sue your abuser in 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 may be able to bring a claim yourself in provincial court if you are asking for \$50,000 or less.



You should contact a lawyer to discuss this option as soon as possible, as there are time limits on bringing forward a civil action.

You can visit Civil Claims Duty Counsel (CCDC) at the courthouse and speak to a volunteer lawyer for free for approximately 30 minutes. **The duty counsel lawyer can provide advice, procedural information, or help completing forms.**

- CCDC is served on a first-come-first-serve, so it is recommended that you arrive early to have the best chance of being able to see a lawyer.
- The program desk is outside of Courtroom 262, on the second floor of the Provincial Court of Alberta in Edmonton.
- **CCDC hours are Tuesday 10 am - 2 pm, Wednesday 12 pm - 4 pm, and Thursday 9 am - 4 pm.**



Victim of Crime Assistance

The Victims of Crime Financial Benefits program was discontinued on June 26, 2020. **However, victims can still pursue financial support from the Government of Alberta. You may be eligible for:**

- Emergency crime victim assistance
- Counselling
- Court attendance expense reimbursement

You may be eligible for financial support if:

- you were the victim of a serious offence that occurred in Alberta
- the incident was reported to the police within a reasonable time, and
- the application is submitted within 45 days of the incident

You may also be eligible for serious injury benefits which are given for serious injuries or death suffered as a result of the crime.

You can find out more about Victims of Crime Assistance:



Call: Crime and Trauma-Informed Support Services at 780-421-2217



Mail:

**Victims of Crime Assistance Program
10th Floor, 10365 97 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3W7**



**Email:
victimsofcrime@gov.ab.ca**

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. You may want to get financial support from your abuser.



See our pamphlet: "Divorce & Division of Family Property" and "Child Support" and "Child Welfare" for more information on parent obligations and rights.

WHO CAN I CALL FOR MORE HELP OR INFORMATION



REPORTING ABUSE:

Edmonton Police Services

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 780-423-4567 (or #377 from an Edmonton mobile phone)

911 is for emergencies only. An emergency includes life threatening situations requiring the police, fire, or ambulance OR if a crime is currently in progress. Otherwise contact the Edmonton Police Service through the non-emergency line.

Child Abuse Hotline

Toll Free: 1-800-387-KIDS (5437)

If you are concerned for the safety or wellbeing of a child in Alberta, this is a 24/7 hotline that allows you to speak with a caseworker for free at any time.

LEGAL RESOURCES:

Edmonton Community Legal Centre (ECLC)

Ph: 780-702-1725

Web: www.eclc.ca

Telus House, South Tower
Second Floor, 10020-100 Ave
Edmonton, AB T5J 0N3

Edmonton Community Legal Centre (ECLC) provides legal services for low-income Albertans in certain areas of family and civil law. These services include free information, referrals, and legal education. ECLC may be able to provide legal advice if you meet their eligibility criteria. Legal information can be found on their website, as well as the time, dates, and locations of their public legal education programs. Additionally, ECLC has a fee waiver program if your income falls within their guidelines.

Edmonton Crown Prosecutor's Office

Ph: 780-422-1111

6th Floor, J.E. Brownlee Building
10365-97th Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3W7

Email:

edmontonprosecutions@gov.ab.ca

The lawyers representing the government when your abuser is being charged criminally. You can contact them if you have questions about being a witness, making a witness impact statement, etc.

Emergency Protection Order Program

Ph: 780-422-9222

If you are in danger or have been assaulted, call 911. If it is after business hours, call the EPS non-emergency line at #377.

The Emergency Protection Order Program is for those who have been the recipient of family violence and are seeking immediate protection from further harm. This free program will provide help with risk assessments and safety plans, information, and a lawyer for the purpose of obtaining an Emergency Protection Order (EPO). This lawyer is not being provided to assist you with anything beyond the EPO.

Edmonton Resolution Support Centre

Ph: 780-415-0404

**8th Floor John E Brownlee Building
10365 97 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 3W7**

Edmonton Resolution Support Services provides various services to assist individuals dealing with a family or civil matter. They have numerous free services, such as Family Court Counsellors, Family Mediation, Child Protection and Intervention Mediation, Civil Mediation, and assistance on Court Forms and Orders.

Lawyer Referral Services

Toll Free: 1-800-661-1095

The Lawyer Referral Services can connect you with lawyers who can help with your issue. When you call, you will be asked to describe the nature of your problem to the operator. He or she will then provide you with the contact information for up to three lawyers who may be able to assist you. When contacting these referred lawyers, make sure to let them know that you were referred through the Lawyer Referral Service. The first half hour of your conversation will be free so you can discuss your situation and explore options for the next steps.

NOTE: This free half-hour is more for consultation and brief advice and is not intended for the lawyer to provide free work.

Legal Aid Society of Alberta

**#600 10320 102 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5J 4A1**

**Toll Free Ph: 1-866-845-3425
Ph: 780-427-7575
Web: www.legalaid.ab.ca**

The Legal Aid Society of Alberta functions to assist low-income Albertans with certain types of legal matters. Assistance is provided through information, referrals, advice, and/or representation, depending on what your matter is and which eligibility guidelines you meet.



Provincial Court Clerks- Criminal

Ph: 780-427-7868

The Provincial Court Criminal Clerks are able to assist in providing information for Provincial Court Criminal matters regarding judicial procedures, court appearances, trial dates, adjournments, outstanding warrants, summons, subpoenas, witness fees, and payment of fines. It is not their role to provide you with legal advice. The criminal division does not handle traffic matters

Student Legal Services: Family Law Project

Ph: 780-492-8244

11036 88 Ave
Edmonton, AB T6G 0Z2

Student Legal Services have caseworkers, who are law students and who can provide legal information on various topics in family, civil, or criminal law. The caseworkers are also able to act as your agent in certain matters. These caseworkers are able to provide free assistance and will work on your matter under the guidance of an advising lawyer. Keep in mind that the services available are subject to eligibility criteria, except for legal information and referrals.

ASSISTANCE & INFORMATION:

Changing Together: A Centre for Immigrant Women

Ph: 780-421-0175

Email: info@changingtogether.com

McCauley School Building, 3rd Floor
9538 107 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5H 0T7

Help for immigrant women with various services . If you are an immigrant woman in an abusive situation, this organization may be able to help (for example: information about deportation, Canadian law, safety planning, and other family support services).

Family Violence 24-Hour Info Line

Toll Free: 310-1818

This Family Violence Info Line provides callers with an opportunity to speak with trained staff regarding their situation and options. Note: if there is immediate danger, call 911.

John Howard Society, Edmonton (EJHS)

Ph: 780-428-7590

Suite 401, 10010 105 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 1C4

EJHS provides programs for the at-risk populations as well as those who are impacted by violence. These programs cover several areas, such as housing, employment, support, finance, and victim assistance. EJHS can provide assistance and support through the court process.



John Howard Family Violence Prevention Centre

Ph: 780-423-1635

Suite 401, 10010 105 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5J 1C4

For anyone affected by family violence or an abusive relationship, this service provides education & information; ongoing emotional support; advocacy and/or referrals to other community agencies.

Victim Services

Ph: 780-421-2217

Email: vsu@edmontonpolice.ca

The Edmonton Police Service Victim Services Unit (VSU) provides support, referrals, and information to victims of crime and tragedy. This service can help with applications for financial benefits for victims of violent crime, assist an individual formulate a victim impact statement for the court, and provide various other support functions for victims.

COUNSELLING & SUPPORT:

Aboriginal Counselling Services of Alberta

Ph: 780-448-0378

Free programs & counselling for individuals & families intended to break the cycle of family violence. These services are available to men, women, and adolescents. Some of the programs offered include: Circle of Safety Family Violence Program, Men's Circles, Partner Safety Checks, Women and Children's Circles, Healing Anger programs, as well as various other mental health and family programs.

Assessment & Short Term Counselling Services (City of Edmonton)

Ph: 780-496-4777

Free short-term individual counseling & family violence support groups facilitated by a social worker. Privately discuss your concerns and identify the best-fitting supports.

Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (SACE)

24 Hour Crisis Line:

24-Hour Crisis Line

1-780-423-4121

Ph: 780-423-4102

Confidential support for anyone experiencing or affected by sexual violence, or anyone supporting someone affected by sexual violence. The crisis line is available 24/7, 365 days a year.



The Family Centre, Edmonton

Ph: 780-900-6423

**#20, 9912 106 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 1C5**

The Family Centre provides subsidized counselling services, parenting workshops, and therapy sessions. They also offer translation services, family support services, and a safe visitation site for parents with supervised access to their children.

Momentum Walk-in Counselling

Ph: 780-757-0900

**Suite 706 5241 Calgary Trail NW
Edmonton, AB T6H 5G8**

Drop-in counselling session offered on a sliding scale (possibly free, depending on your income), designed to be a one-time experience. You can expect to leave the session with a lot of tools and community resources so that you are in a better position to transform your life.

Support Network 24-Hour Distress Line

Ph: 780-482-4357

**Rural Distress Line:
1-800-232-7288**

The Distress Line provides confidential, non-judgmental and short-term crisis intervention, emotional support, and resources to people in crisis or distress. If you are feeling overwhelmed, experiencing abuse, or contemplating suicide, you can call this number at any time and someone will be there to listen and talk to you.

YMCA Counselling Centre

Ph: 780-970-6501

**Empire Building #400, 10080 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5J 1V9**

**Email:
counselling@ywcaedm.org**

Counselling for individuals offered on a sliding scale (depending on your income) for healing from family violence, addiction, trauma, and a variety of other issues.

Lives in Transition (LIT)

Ph: 780-482-4357

**Email:
gethelp@litinc.ca**

Lives in Transition is a 6 month program for women who had been in domestic violence relationships. The program aims to assist women in returning to the workforce or attain higher education. Additionally, the program looks to ensure women learn of multiple other programs available as well as their rights, such as with housing and employment.



SHELTERS:

Hope Mission Emergency

Ph: 780-422-2018

9908 106 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5H 0N6

In addition to meals being served at this main location, Hope Mission also provides a 24/7 intox shelter for men and women who are intoxicated, 24/7 shelter for women, and overnight shelter services for youth (16-24 y/o). During the winter, this location provides emergency overnight shelters for men. Separate shelter areas available for men, women, couples, and youth. Open at 8 pm.

Lurana Shelter Society

24 Hour Crisis Line: 780-424-5875

The Lurana Shelter Society provides child care, emergency shelter and support, and outreach services. They aim to provide multi-faceted supports for women and children, who have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence, transition away from the violent environment and into a more stable, safe, and health environment.

A Safe Place (Sherwood Park)

24 Hour Crisis Line: 780-464-7233
Toll Free: 1-877-252-7233

PO Box 3282
Sherwood Park, AB T8H 2T2

A shelter and support for abused women and their children, including free transportation (from Edmonton, Sherwood Park, & Fort Saskatchewan) to the shelter. You can stay at the shelter for up to 21 days. Food is also provided.

SAGE Seniors Safe House

24 Hour Crisis Line: 780-454-8888
Ph: 780-702-1520

Emergency temporary housing (up to 60 days) for men and women over 60 years of age who are leaving abusive situations. The abuse does NOT need to be physical-- abuse can be financial, emotional, physical, neglect, or sexual. Your stay in the safe house includes all meals and toiletries.

WIN House

24 Hour Crisis Line: 780-479-0058

WIN House is an emergency shelter for women and children seeking to leave a domestic violence situation. They also provide programming to help women become better equipped in stabilizing the changes in their life and strengthen them against various challenges they may encounter.



SECOND STAGE SHELTERS:

La Salle Residence

Ph: 780-424-5875

**PO Box 1135 STN Main
Edmonton, AB T5J 2M1**

A second stage shelter (transitional housing for up to a year) & support for women and their children who have left abuse and are transitioning from a front-line crisis agency. The shelter provides support and counselling to women and their children. Residents are expected to pay a basic monthly rent.

WINGS of Providence

Ph: 780-426-4985

**PO Box 32141
Edmonton, AB T6K 4C2**

WINGS offers a second-stage shelter and affordable housing for women with children who have experienced family violence. The shelter is available for longer-term stays. WINGS also provides support and programs that help with domestic abuse.

NOTES