

# INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT  
NORTH LAS VEGAS CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
2332 Las Vegas Boulevard, North  
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030**

**Domestic Violence Detective  
702-633-2100 ext. 2537**

**Victim Advocate  
702-633-2100 ext. 2545**

# Understanding the Court System

- A defendant may be arrested, cited or summoned to appear in court. Not all defendants are eligible to be released on bail, and may need to remain in custody until their court hearing.
- An **arraignment** is the first hearing the defendant will have. The hearing is set for an entry of plea [guilty, not guilty, or no contest]. You will not be required to be in court for this hearing, but you may attend any/all hearings.
- If the defendant pleads not guilty, a **pretrial hearing** will be scheduled. The hearing will provide the prosecutor, the defendant and/or the defendant's attorney an opportunity to resolve the case without setting a trial. Note, more than one pretrial hearing may be necessary to review case evidence or speak with victims/witnesses.
- Cases can proceed to **trial** if the prosecutor and the defendant are not able to resolve the matter. A Deputy City Attorney will prosecute the case on behalf of the City [not the victim herself/himself]. The City will subpoena witnesses, victims and police officers as deemed appropriate by the prosecutor. After hearing all testimony, and reviewing the evidence, a judge will adjudicate the defendant guilty or not guilty.
- If the defendant is found guilty, the judge will listen to the **sentencing** recommendations provided by the prosecutor and defendant or defendant's attorney, and rule accordingly. Victims/witnesses have the opportunity to provide a Victim Impact Statement at the sentencing stage, detailing how the crime(s) have affected them and/or their families.

## Police Partnership

The City Attorney's Office works in collaboration with the NLV Police Department to effectively prosecute cases. As the victim of a crime, you have important information an officer will need. Your assistance during the officer's investigation can help in holding perpetrators accountable and securing critical case information. In addition, as the victim of a crime, you may also request the assistance of a victim/witness advocate to provide support and assistance.

**North Las Vegas Police Department**  
**Victim Services Program**  
**(702) 633-1751 (bilingual)**  
**(702) 633-1017, ext. 5084**

# Victim/Witness Assistance

The Victim/Witness Program within the North Las Vegas City Attorney's Office was created to promote victim safety and enhance offender accountability. The Unit is comprised of a North Las Vegas Police Detective and a Victim Advocate. The team works diligently to provide victims with assistance and seeks to promote awareness in our communities. Our office can provide referrals/resources to the following:

- Safe shelter
- Legal assistance
- Help in filling out protective order paperwork
- Access to other resources:
  - Housing
  - Social Services
  - Education
  - Counseling
  - Employment
  - Medical treatment
- Court Accompaniment
- Assistance filing for Violent Crimes Compensation
- Safety Planning
- Interpreting
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petition information

## Local Assistance Programs

**Protection Orders** - The forms you need to obtain a protective order are available at the Family Violence Intervention Program office, online, or through your local advocacy program. It is not necessary to have an attorney to obtain a protective order, but you may consult an attorney if you choose.

You can learn more about how the Family Violence Intervention Program can assist you in filing a protection order by calling/visiting in person:

**Family Violence Intervention Program**  
**601 N. Pecos, Suite ADG – 450**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada 89101**  
**Phone: (702) 455-3400**

**Victim Compensation** - The State of Nevada has a Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Program, which can provide compensation to victims who have been physically or emotionally injured in a violent crime.

Such compensation might include medical care for your injuries, crime victim related-counseling, and more. You can find out how to apply by contacting the Program at:

**Victims of Crime Program**  
**2200 S. Rancho, Suite 130**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada 89102**  
**Phone: (702) 486-2740**

# **You Can Help To Protect Yourself**

- Find out about shelters and safe houses BEFORE you need them.
- Have photos taken of your injuries; you can use them later.
- Keep money, important papers, clothes, car keys and other essential items in a safe place.
- Teach your children to use the telephone to contact the police in case of an emergency.
- Meet with an advocate from a shelter or other program designed to help and make a safety plan. Practice this plan with your children.

## **It's Not Your Fault!**

- You did NOT cause the abuse.
- No one has the right to abuse you.
- Know that most children raised with abuse learn to use violence as one way to control others by using power and force.
- Know that relationships based on fear, power and control are abusive.
- Know that others understand why you would want to stay and that leaving a relationship is not easy.