



Independence House, Inc.

Cape Cod's leading resource, counseling and advocacy center to address and prevent domestic and sexual violence.

Promoting safe and healthy relationships.

SAFEPLAN, Civil Legal Advocacy

Independence House staffs state-certified, civil legal court advocates who offer assistance to victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking and are seeking relief from abuse and harassment.

Safety Assistance For Every Person Leaving Abuse Now (SAFEPLAN) advocates offer:

- Safety assessment
- Crisis intervention
- Information on legal rights and options
- Assistance with abuse prevention and harassment prevention orders
- Personalized safety planning
- Referrals to agencies that provide supportive services
- Assistance with victim's compensation

SAFEPLAN advocates are available in Barnstable Probate and Barnstable, Falmouth and Orleans District Courts.



All services are free and confidential.

The Independence House SAFEPLAN Program is funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA).

24-hour Hotline: 800-439-6507

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You may request an Abuse Prevention (209A) Restraining Order if:

1. You and your abuser are or were married, Or residing together in the same household, Or in a substantive dating or engagement relationship, Or related by blood or marriage, Or you have a child in common;
2. and, you are suffering from abuse because your abuser has:
 - harmed or attempted to harm you physically, Or put you in fear of imminent serious physical harm, Or caused you to engage in sexual relations involuntarily by using force, threat or duress;
3. and, you currently live within the geographical area of the court in which you filed the complaint, Or used to live within the geographical area of the court in which you filed the complaint, but you left to avoid abuse.

You may request a Harassment Prevention Order (258E) if :

1. You are suffering from harassment because:
 - A. someone has committed 3 or more acts:
 - i. That were willful and malicious. 'Malicious' means characterized by cruelty; hostility or revenge.
 - ii. and were aimed at you.
 - iii. and were intended to cause you fear, intimidation, abuse or damage to property. "Abuse" means causing or attempting to cause physical harm, or causing fear of imminent serious physical harm.
 - iv. and did in fact cause you fear, intimidation, abuse or damage to property.
 - B. Or, someone has caused at least once to engage in sexual relations involuntarily by using force, threat or duress;
 - C. Or, someone has committed against you at least once an act that violates the statutes of indecent assault and battery, rape, assault with intent to rape, enticing a child, criminal stalking, criminal harassment or drugging for sexual intercourse.
2. and, you currently live within the geographical area of the court in which you file the complaint.

Independence House also offers Domestic Violence Services

Sexual Violence Services
Child Witness to Violence Services
Teen Services
Prevention, Education & Outreach
Housing Services
Safe Home Services