



- Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc.
- Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, Inc.
- Another Way, Inc.
- CASA-Community Action Stops Abuse
- Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies, Inc.
- Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association
- Dawn Center of Hernando County
- Domestic Abuse Council, Inc.
- Domestic Abuse Shelter, Inc.
- Family Life Center
- Favor House of Northwest Florida, Inc.
- Harbor House, Inc.
- Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties, Inc.
- Help Now of Osceola County, Inc.
- Hope Family Services, Inc.
- Hubbard House, Inc.
- Lee Conlee House
- Martha's House, Inc.
- Miami-Dade Advocates for Victims
- Micah's Place
- Ocala Domestic Violence/
Sexual Assault Center
- Peace River Domestic Violence Center
- Peaceful Paths
- Quigley House, Inc.
- Refuge House, Inc.
- Safehouse of Seminole County
- Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center
- SafeSpace, Inc.
- Safety Shelter of St. John's
County (Betty Griffin House)
- Salvation Army Brevard County
Domestic Violence Program
- Salvation Army Domestic Violence
and Rape Crisis Program of Panama City
- Salvation Army Domestic Violence
Program of West Pasco County
- Serene Harbor, Inc.
- Shelter for Abused Women & Children, Inc.
- Shelter House, Inc.
- Sunrise of Pasco County, Inc.
- The Haven of R.C.S.
- The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.
- Victim Response, Inc.
The Lodge
- Vivid Visions
- Women In Distress of Broward County
- YWCA of Palm Beach County
Harmony House Program

March 1, 2010

To the Clerk of the Supreme Court:

In Florida, courts may enforce violations of injunctions for protection against domestic violence through a civil or criminal contempt proceeding, or the state attorney may prosecute the violation as a criminal violation. *See s. 741.30(9)(a) and s. 741.31, Fla. Stat. (2009).* Florida law contemplates that each state attorney office will have a dedicated domestic violence unit responsible for prosecutions of violations of injunctions for protection when the perpetrator is arrested, or if the court appoints a prosecutor in a criminal contempt proceeding when there is no arrest. However, recent, severe funding cuts have resulted in a lack of resources for most state attorneys' offices to maintain dedicated domestic violence units, and the ability of the state attorney to prosecute and accept appointment in contempt proceedings for injunction violations has decreased dramatically.

Absent an arrest, the victim of domestic violence may report a violation to the court, and prepare an affidavit in support of the violation. If the state attorney does not have the resources to prosecute the violation or accept appointment in a criminal contempt proceeding, the court may conduct the criminal contempt hearing on its own. Although this process places the burden on the victim, and may result in a delay in enforcement, in an increasing number of cases this is the only way for a court to enforce the injunction and hold the batterer accountable.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Carr
President/CEO