

Useful Telephone Numbers

Women's Centre for Change 04-228 0342
Biro Bantuan Guaman 04-262 3563
Legal Advisory Centre 04-261 7451

POLICE DEPARTMENTS

- Penang (Headquarters) 04-261 5522
- Jelutong 04-282 5922
- Bayan Lepas 04-643 0311
- Pulau Tikus 04-261 5522
- Sungai Nibong 04-643 0222
- Paya Terubong 04-826 0516
- Butterworth 04-332 2222
- Bukit Mertajam 04-538 2222
- Petani Road 04-229 2222

WELFARE OFFICES

Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat
Daerah Timur Laut
Kompleks Masyarakat Penyayang
Jalan Utama, 10400 Pulau Pinang
Tel: 04-226 4531 / 227 7413

Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat
Daerah Barat Daya
No: 4-2-1, Kompleks Balik Pulau
Jalan Quah Sin Kheng, 11000 Balik Pulau
Pulau Pinang • Tel: 04-866 8442

Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat
Daerah Seberang Perai Utara
12000 Butterworth • Tel: 04-331 3455

Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat
Daerah Seberang Perai Tengah
99 Jalan Bunga Raya, 14000 Bukit Mertajam
Tel: 04-538 2584

Pejabat Kebajikan Masyarakat
Daerah Seberang Perai Selatan, Kompleks
Pejabat-Pejabat Kerajaan, 14200 Sungai Jawi,
S.P.S. • Tel: 04-582 1798

WOMEN'S CENTRE FOR CHANGE

can help you by:

**Giving you and
your children a
safe place to stay**

**Providing counselling
and legal advice**

**Assisting you to
get an IPO**

*WCC Services are
Free and Confidential*



**Pusat Kesedaran Wanita
(Women's Centre for Change)**

24-D Jalan Jones
10250 Pulau Pinang, Malaysia
Tel: 04-228 0342

Tel / Fax: 04-228 5784
E-mail: wccpen@po.jaring.my
Website:
www.wccpenang.org



**WOMEN'S CENTRE
FOR CHANGE**

The Women's Centre for
Change ("WCC") is doing a
series of pamphlets to equip
you with more knowledge
of your legal rights.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT

YOUR RIGHT TO SAFETY

No One Deserves To Be Abused

Pusat Kesedaran Wanita (Women's Centre for Change)

Formerly known as Women's Crisis Centre

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What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is abuse committed against you by someone in your family. Domestic violence includes slapping, kicking, choking, hitting your head against the wall, forced sex or sexual acts, threatening to hurt you, and making you feel small, stupid or worthless.

Domestic violence is common. It is most often committed by men against women and children, but can happen to anyone. People who commit domestic violence are trying to control the person being abused. **No one deserves to be abused. Domestic violence is wrong.**

What is the Domestic Violence Act (DVA)?

The DVA is a set of laws passed in 1994. The DVA recognizes that domestic violence is a serious social problem that must be stopped. It is not a private family matter.

The DVA protects immediate family members, including spouses, ex-spouses, children (including adopted children), adults with mental or physical disabilities, and any other person considered part of the family. The DVA applies to everyone, including Muslims.

What type of violence does the DVA cover?

Although domestic violence comes in many forms, the law only recognises the following as domestic violence: acts that cause physical injury, make you fear physical injury, confine you, damage property to upset you, or force you to do something that you can legally refuse to do.

How Can the DVA Help You?

You can make a complaint about the domestic violence. If you do not feel safe at home, you and your children can seek shelter at the Women's Centre for Change (WCC). If you need to collect your things, a welfare officer or police officer can go with you to your home.

You can apply to the court for help. The court can give you an Interim Protection Order (IPO) which protects you from further violence. If you are taking care of someone who is being abused (like a child or a disabled person), you can apply for an IPO for them. If the offender violates the IPO, he can be punished by the court.

How to Get an IPO :

• MEDICAL HELP

If you are injured, go to the nearest government hospital. Ask for your medical report number.

• POLICE HELP

Go to any police station and make a report of the domestic violence. Ask for the police report number. Try to get a carbon copy of the report right away.

Remember which police station you went to. Tell the police you need an IPO. The police will help you apply for an IPO or refer you to the welfare office. An investigating officer (I.O.) will then be assigned to follow-up your case.

• WELFARE HELP

Alternatively, go to the welfare office and tell them you need an IPO. Show them the police report if you have it. The welfare officer should help you get an IPO.

• COURT

Either the police officer or the welfare officer will assist you to get the IPO in court. You can also bring a lawyer. The court may ask you about the domestic violence. The court will give you an IPO if it thinks you need protection.

If you fear that the offender is likely to hurt you again, ask the court to add a power of arrest to the IPO. This means a police officer can arrest the offender right away if the officer thinks the IPO was violated.

Report any violation of the IPO to the police and welfare office at once. The offender may be punished for disobeying the order.

What happens next?

An IPO lasts until investigations are over. Once the investigation ends, the IPO expires.

If the offender is charged with a crime, you can apply for a Protection Order (PO). A PO can give you even more protection than the IPO because the court can attach other orders to it. For example, a PO can give you the right to live in your home without the offender, order the offender to stay away from your house, workplace or school, and order the offender not to talk or write to you.

The court may also compensate you for money you lost due to the domestic violence. The court can order the offender or you to go for counselling.