

i'M o.K.® Children's Visitation Center

The i'M o.K.® Children's Visitation Center is a safe and comfortable setting where children can visit their non-custodial parent(s). Some parents will have supervised visits with their children at The Center; others will have supervised exchanges at The Center and spend the visit time elsewhere. The Visitation Center is the only center of its kind in the Scott and Carver County area that meets the needs of children and parents who have been in abusive relationships and/or would like a neutral place to exchange their children. For more information, hours and rates call 952-873-4216.

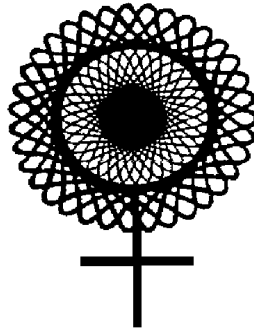
Legal Advocacy

To obtain an Order for Protection (OFP), attending one and possibly two court hearings may be required. Court advocates are available to attend these hearings with a battered woman to give her support and information about the hearings and Orders for Protection. Court advocates need to be arranged for as soon as possible, once the date of the hearing is set, by calling 952-873-4214. We strongly recommend that any woman attending an OFP hearing have a court advocate with her.

Court advocates may also be available for additional civil court hearings.

Temporary Shelters

The temporary shelters available are the safe homes located in both Scott and Carver Counties. These are private homes where a battered woman and her children can stay with the family of the home for up to three days, when there has been physical abuse or there is a danger of physical abuse. Safe home placements can be arranged 24 hours a day by calling the crisis line 952-873-4214.



Community Education

The focus of Community Education is to create an increased awareness of domestic violence, educate the community about our services and train appropriate groups on how to be sensitive and empower a survivor of domestic violence. Speakers are available to make presentations to schools about violence; to professionals who may encounter situations involving domestic violence; to service organizations and to churches. This program is also responsible for publishing a newsletter, staffing at community health fairs and for providing public service announcements about Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women.

Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women

PO Box 166
Belle Plaine, MN 56011
952.873.4214

Dear Survivor,

First and foremost, I want to say to you that I am sorry that someone you care about has hurt you. We at Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women know how badly that feels. Our organization was founded by a woman who was also hurt by someone she cared about. That someone was her husband and my father.

I am pleased, however, that if you are reading this brochure it means that you have started to find help for your hurt. I strongly encourage you to read through all of the information that is contained in this packet and then call on us for any or all the services that we offer.

We care about you and want to help in any way we can on your journey from hurt to hope. We have assisted thousands of women and their children and would like to assist you too. Call us at 952.873.4214—help and hope are only a phone call away!

In Peace,
Mary Ann Bigaouette
Executive Director

Criminal Justice Intervention Project

The Southern Valley Intervention Project intervenes in domestic violence probable cause arrests, including arrests on Violations of Orders for Protection.

A criminal intervention advocate contacts Scott and Carver County women after receiving a police call or report to:

- Inform the women of their rights,
- Explain the court process and procedures,
- Accompany her in court,
- Advocate for her with police, prosecutors, attorneys, judges, and probation officers,
- Discuss and develop safety plans,
- Give her resources in the community,
- Answer questions and assist with obtaining a No Contact Order or Order for Protection,
- Assist in filing for Crime Victim Reparation and Grant applications.

To confidentially speak with a criminal court advocate call 952-873-4233.

Call the Crime Victim's Reparations Board at 651-282-6257 to see if you are eligible for reimbursement for expenses like:

Hospital & Physician Prescriptions	Loss of Support
Physical Therapy	Household Services
Chiropractic Care	Substitute Child Care
Mental Health Care	Return Abducted Child
Lost Wages	Ambulance or Mileage
Funeral/Burial	Prosthesis/Wheelchair
	Dental Care

Crime Victim's Rights

Crime Victims Have the Right:

1. To request law enforcement and prosecutor's to keep your identity, address and phone numbers confidential.
2. To request notification of assailant's release from custody or transfer.
3. Be informed of the availability of protective orders.
4. To be informed of prosecutor's decision to decline prosecution.
5. To be notified of plea negotiations and hearing and to be informed of court schedule changes (if required to attend.)
6. To request a speedy trial.
7. To separate waiting area during court proceedings.
8. Protection from threats or coercion regarding your testimony.
9. Protection from employer retaliation when required to testify or be present.
10. To request restitution for some financial losses.
11. Present a victim impact statement.
12. Request a convicted offender submit to HIV testing for some offenses.
13. To be present at sentencing and to object orally or in writing to a proposed agreement or sentence.
14. To be notified of the final disposition of the case.
15. To request to be notified if an offender asks for the conviction to be expunged from his criminal record.

Call a criminal court advocate or the Crime Victim's Justice Unit at 651-282-6256 if you feel your victim's rights have been violated.

24-Hour Emergency Assistance for Victims of Battering

The phone number 952.873.4214 is the crisis line number for Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women (SVABW). It is answered 24-hours a day by an advocate who is thoroughly trained to respond to any call. These calls may be anything from listening and giving support to assisting a battered woman and her children in leaving an abusive situation immediately. In addition, the advocate has access to many phone numbers of resources if the caller needs other referrals.

Women's Support Groups

Women's Support Groups are self help groups which are run for and by women. All groups are confidential and open to all women regardless of the situation. By coming to group you will gain support, strength, knowledge and understanding. Call 952.873.4214 for dates and times. On site child care is provided free of charge.

Learn — Grow — Heal