

RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

- **National Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233**
- **First Step 24-Hour Hotline: (734) 722-6800**
firststep-mi.org
Since 1978, First Step has been providing free and comprehensive services to those impacted by domestic (intimate partner) and sexual violence. First Step services include but are not limited to: a 24-hour helpline, crisis intervention, and assault response; emergency shelter and transitional housing for individuals, families, and their pets; counseling, advocacy, and support groups for adults and children; community education, criminal justice advocacy, outreach, and in-service training.
- **Lakeshore Legal Aid: (888) 783-8190**
lakeshorelegallaid.org
Lakeshore Legal Aid is a not-for-profit law firm providing a range of free civil legal services to low income people, seniors, and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- **Detroit Bar Association: (313) 961-6120**
dba@detroitlawyer.org



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

The POWER Act (Pro Bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018, P.L. 115-237) requires each judicial district in the Federal Judiciary to encourage lawyers to provide pro bono services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.



POWER Act

**PRO BONO WORK TO EMPOWER
AND REPRESENT ACT**

DOMESTIC ABUSE DEFINED

- A purposeful pattern of physically, psychologically, sexually, or emotionally abusive actions;
- Carried out over time;
- With the aim of controlling an intimate partner

HOW DOES ABUSE START?

- Extremely attentive, flattering
- Jealous of interactions with others
- Isolation
- Intense interest in activities
- Angry if “late” from activities, work, school, third degree
- Controls all actions, makes all decisions

WHY DOESN'T A VICTIM LEAVE?

- Lethality
- Concern for children's welfare without buffer
- Financial dependence on abuser
- Lack of housing
- Inability to afford legal assistance
- Fear of losing custody
- Isolation leading to lack of family/friend support
- Acceptance of the blame for abuse
- Hope that abuser will change
- Lack of self-confidence caused by years of listening to belittling comments
- Religious or cultural constraints



PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

Proactive efforts should be made available in all forums to provide pro bono legal services and eliminate the violence that destroys lives and shatters families. Pro bono assistance can help fill this need by providing not only legal representation, but also access to emergency shelter, transportation, and childcare. P.L. 115-237 cites the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct commentary stating that “every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, has a responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay, and personal involvement in the problems of the disadvantaged can be one of the most rewarding experiences in the life of a lawyer.” A dedicated army of pro bono attorneys focused on this mission will inspire others to devote efforts to this cause and will raise awareness of the scourge of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking throughout the country.