Fact Sheet

The Victims of Domestic Violence Act

Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

This Act helps victims of domestic violence. Persons who live together, or have lived together in a family or intimate relationship, or who have children together, are eligible to apply for an order under this Act. This includes spouses, common law spouses, same sex partners, children, parents, siblings and disabled persons.

In this Act, domestic violence means:

- any intentional or reckless act or omission that causes bodily harm or damage to property;
- any act or threatened act that causes a reasonable fear of bodily harm or damage to property;
- forced confinement; or
- sexual abuse.

When there is evidence of domestic violence, charges are laid under the *Criminal Code*. It is not the responsibility of the victim to lay the charges.

Under this Act, the following orders and warrant can be issued.

Emergency intervention order (EIO)

EIOs are short-term orders that can be obtained 24 hours a day for use in emergency situations and can:

- Give the victim exclusive occupation of the residence;
- Prevent the suspected abuser from contacting the victim or other family members;
- Direct a police officer to remove the suspected abuser from the home;
- Direct a police officer to assist the victim or suspected abuser to supervise the removal of personal belongings; and
- Any provision that a designated Justice of the Peace feels necessary to provide for immediate protection of the victim.

EIOs are available through:

- Police;
- Victim Service Coordinators; and
- Mobile Crisis programs in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

Victim's assistance order (VAO)

These orders contain conditions similar to those for an EIO, but are for a longer period of time, usually for non-emergency situations, and:

- Direct the suspected abuser to pay for such things as temporary accommodation, counselling, dental or legal expenses, etc.;
- Give to the victim temporary possession of items such as a vehicle, children's clothing or identification documents; or
- Prevent the suspected abuser from contacting the victim, victims' family members, employer, employees or co-workers.

Victim Assistance Orders can be obtained through an application to the Court of Queen's Bench with the help of a lawyer or Legal Aid.

Warrant permitting entry

These warrants are used by police officers in situations where:

- There is cause for concern about a person who is unable to act on his or her own and is subject to domestic violence;
- A suspected abuser will not allow others to contact the person; and
- A suspected abuser will not allow police to enter the building to examine the situation and to check on the welfare of the individual.

Victims Services
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Victims Services

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