



## **Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence Cheat Sheet for Staff**

### **Quick Facts**

- Domestic Violence (DV), or intimate partner violence (IPV), can happen to anyone regardless of education, social status, gender, sexual orientation, class, or race.
- DV is about power and control. Look beyond physical violence for signs that the individual is being controlled. (e.g. what she can wear, who she can see/talk to, where she goes, etc.)
- In KY, by law, DV can be physical abuse, threats of physical abuse, sexual abuse/assault, or fear of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or imminent bodily injury.
- The abuser may come to a clinic appointment with the victim. It is important to have any conversations of suspected abuse outside of the suspected abuser's presence. Alerting the suspected abuser to your intervention may put the victim's safety at risk.
- You will want to confirm the victim's contact information. Don't forget to ask them whether it is safe to contact them through that information. Many abusers monitor their partners' phone, social media, e-mail, and other methods of communication.

### **How/Where to File for a Protective Order**

- Victim should go to the Domestic Violence Intake Center (DVIC) located in the Hall of Justice, 1<sup>st</sup> floor: 600 W Jefferson St #1150, Louisville, KY 40202.
- It is open 24/7.
- Victim can take out both an Emergency Protective Order (EPO/TIPO) and/or a criminal complaint at the same time.

### **FAQs**

1. Q: Why should I take out an EPO/DVO?  
A: Volatile relationships where one person tries to control the other through violence or threats of violence can result in serious bodily injury or death. It can be safer to leave an abusive relationship if the victim obtains a no contact order through the courts.
2. Q: Who can get an EPO/DVO?  
A: A spouse, former spouse, a member of a couple who lives together or formerly lived together, a grandparent, a parent, a child, a stepchild or any other person living in the same household as a child (if the child is the alleged victim). These are called Domestic Violence Orders (DVO). Unmarried couples (such as teens, college students, elderly couples) can also get protective orders, which are known as Interpersonal Protective Orders (IPO).
3. Q: What happens when I get to the DVIC?  
A: An employee will take down your statement word for word. A judge will review your petition and will either grant you an EPO and give you a court date, or decline to enter an



EPO and give you a court date. You will usually have a court date either way. You will know the same day whether the judge enters an EPO.

4. Q: How will my abuser find out about the EPO?

A: Your abuser will be served by sheriff. It is important to provide the DVIC with the best possible address where you think he may be located. The EPO does not go into effect until your abuser is served. This can be a very dangerous time, so it is important to plan for your safety during this time. If you share a house with your abuser, you should plan to stay with someone else if at all possible when you plan to file for the protective order.

5. Q: What if the abuser hasn't ever physically hurt me?

A: Even threats of violence are enough for a court to grant you protection.

6. Q: How do I get a DVO?

A: After your abuser has been served with the EPO, you will go to your court date. You will have a hearing about whether the abuse occurred and whether it is likely to occur again. You can present witnesses, bring photos, and testify about your experience. The abuser has the option to do the same. The Judge will make a decision about whether or not to enter the order at the end of the hearing.

7. Q: Isn't an EPO/DVO/IPO just a piece of paper?

A: An EPO/DVO/IPO can offer a survivor of domestic violence real protection. Studies have shown that orders prevent future violence and even death. It can allow the victim to take control of her life.

8. Q: How long does the protection last?

A: An EPO lasts for a maximum of 6 months. If you are awarded a DVO, it can last up to three years.

9. Q: Is my abuser allowed to contact me through social media?

A: If the judge enters a no contact DVO, your abuser cannot contact you in person, by phone, text, social media, or through third parties. If you go into Kroger, and he is there, he would have to leave.