

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW JERSEY LEGAL SERVICES' VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE ON WHAT ABUSE VICTIMS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING RESTRAINING ORDERS

EDISON – For domestic violence victims, especially women, the numbers are staggering — experts report 25 percent of all women have faced some form of domestic violence in their lifetimes, and many often don't know what to do or cannot afford legal help.

Now Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) has produced and is making available for free a series of videos informing abuse victims about virtually every aspect of obtaining legal protection through temporary and final restraining orders from the courts.

The 12 videos, part of LSNJ's Legal Rights Video Series, offer a do-it-yourself guide for victims of physical, verbal, sexual or any forms of abuse from partners, family members or others. As Monica Gural, LSNJ supervising attorney, pointedly notes, the videos are an important guide for victims to understand and pursue their rights under the state's tough Prevention of Domestic Violence Act.

"If you or someone you love has suffered domestic violence, there is hope," she says about the process described in the videos. "You can take these steps on your own, even if you cannot afford a lawyer."

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In addition to viewing the videos, low-income individuals facing domestic violence problems may apply for help online at www.lsnjlawhotline.org or call the Hotline at 1-888-LSNJ-LAW (1-888-576-5529). The videos may be viewed in English at www.lsnjlaw.org or in English and Spanish on LSNJ's You Tube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHYBAvczlpE&list=PLyMaXiXVsEW16Ibl15U5uppSmWxVZShNQ>.

The package of videos includes an introduction, explaining the restraining order process and offering an overview of the 11 other videos dealing with temporary restraining orders, known as TROs, and final restraining orders, known as FROs.

There are four videos involving TROs, including Part 1 — what is needed to obtain a TRO; Part 2 — the protections provided; Part 3 — how to file for a TRO at the police station or the courthouse; and Part 4 — what to do after receiving a TRO.

The seven videos dealing with final restraining orders include Part 1 — what is a FRO and how to obtain one; Part 2 — what materials to prepare for the court; Part 3 — what to expect in court, whether special services, such as an interpreters, are available; Part 4 — general guidance about court rules, testifying and questioning a witness; Part 5 — what to do for protection in advance if the FRO order is dismissed; Part 6 — dealing with such consequences as child support and parenting time protections after a FRO; and Part 7 — how to keep safe immediately after the hearing and leaving the courthouse.

Legal Services of New Jersey, located in Edison, coordinates the state's system of Legal Services programs, which provide essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people in all 21 counties.

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