NEWS RELEASE

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LATEST LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER COVERS PROTECTIONS AVAILABLE FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

EDISON— Details for low and moderate-income New Jerseyans about how victims of domestic violence may obtain temporary and potential final restraining orders protecting them from the abusers are the focus of the latest newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ).

The bilingual publication, "Looking Out For Your Legal Rights," is accessible at www.lsnjlaw.org by clicking on the "publications" tab. The newsletter also is available at all Legal Services offices in New Jersey.

The latest issue spells out who may qualify for a restraining order and details the 18 crimes under state law that might entail domestic violence. Victims can seek a temporary restraining order 24 hours a day at a police station where the act occurred, where the defendant lives or where the victim is sheltered. Such orders also can be obtained during business hours from the Superior Courts.

The LSNJ newsletter also points to another protection now available for victims. Known as the New Jersey Security and Financial Empowerment Act or NJ SAFE Act, it provides employment protection for victims of domestic and sexual violence. Specifically, it allows for 20 days of unpaid employment leave for victims to deal with the aftermath of abuse, including time to get legal, medical and other help. The 20 days must be taken within 12 months of the violence.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) heads the state's Legal Services system, a network of five

independent non-profit corporations and is beginning its 50th year of providing free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people through offices in all 21 counties. Since its inception, LSNJ has provided representation in 2.4 million cases.

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