Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy

Protecting the rights of Washington’s domestic violence victims

Purpose

The Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy (DVLA) Program provides community-based services for domestic violence victims in both the civil and criminal justice systems to ensure assistance is available to support a victim’s recovery. The goal is to increase the safety of domestic violence victims and their families.

Strategic Goal

Mobilize and enhance local assets that strengthen community ability to meet the economic and social needs of Washington’s families, workers and employers.

Results and Achievements


Services

Legal advocates work within the criminal justice and civil court systems to protect the safety and rights of victims of domestic violence and their children. Forty-eight community-based domestic violence programs provide direct services to victims throughout Washington.

They assist victims with:
- Development of safety plans
- Protection from abuse and anti-harassment orders
- Divorce and separation papers
- Child custody or visitation orders
- Assistance in accessing financial aid and other services
- Accompaniment to court and other criminal justice related meetings

Fast Facts

- Domestic violence is a crime with an extremely high lethality rate. Readily available legal advocacy services increase safety for Washington families.
- Current DVLA funds support approximately 31 legal advocate FTEs statewide.

Statutory Authority
Chapter 329, Laws of 2008
ESHB 2687 (Sec. 125 (3))

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