

If you are a victim of family violence, your first concern is your safety and that of your children. When you are in a safe place and have a safety plan and a Temporary Protective Order (TPO), you can start planning your economic security. This guide will help you.

Financial Resources

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):

Apply for this financial assistance program at the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS). Tell your caseworker that you are a victim of family violence. If you have a Temporary Protection Order (TPO), take it with you to show proof of the abuse. As a victim of family violence, you can be temporarily excused from certain TANF requirements. These include:

- ✓ job search and work requirements;
- ✓ cooperation with Child Support Enforcement;
- ✓ the 48-month lifetime limit;
- ✓ the family cap (limit of how much money a family can receive); and
- ✓ other non-financial requirements.

If you are denied or cut off from TANF because of a rule you could not follow due to family violence, you can ask DFCS for a “fair hearing” within 30 days of the denial or termination. If you appeal within 10 days of being notified of being terminated, you can continue to receive TANF benefits while waiting for the hearing. Contact Georgia Legal Services for information about how to appeal.

Child Support: You may be able to get delinquent child support if the other parent has not paid support in the past. Keep receipts for any rent, food, and clothing you pay for. How do you get child support started? See the brochure “Collecting Child Support” for details. It also tells you what you can do if you are awarded child support but the other parent does not pay.

Food Stamps: Go to DFCS to apply for Food Stamps. Ask for “expedited service” so they will process your application within 5 days (their regular service can take up to 45 days). Be sure to take your picture ID and utility bills to show where you live. If you are denied or terminated from food stamps benefits, you have 90 days to file an appeal. If you are already receiving food stamps and get notice that you will be cut off, you can continue to receive food stamps while you are waiting for a hearing if you appeal within 10 days.

Disability: Do you or any of your children have a disability? If you think you qualify, contact your local Social Security Administration (SSA) office or call 1-800-772-1213 and tell them you want to apply for Supplemental Security Income. Find out what information you will need to bring.

Child Care Assistance: If you work and cannot afford child care, there is money available through DFCS to help with the cost. There are some special allowances for victims of family violence. Talk to an advocate at a local family violence shelter to help you with this.

Crime Victim Compensation: If you are physically injured by your abuser and you report the crime to law enforcement within 72 hours of the injury (or have a good reason if you didn’t), you may be eligible for reimbursement of certain expenses. In addition, if your abuser was ordered to pay support but doesn’t pay, you may also be eligible to receive payment from this program due to lost support. Call the Victim Compensation Division of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council at 404-559-4949 to request an application or go to their website: www.ganet.org/cjcc. Call Georgia Legal Services if you have questions.

To locate the shelter nearest you, call the Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-334-2836 (1-800-33-HAVEN)

Housing Resources

If you rent your home and need to move because of family violence, read your lease to see if it allows you to move before the lease ends. The lease may require you to give your landlord notice before you move. Talk to your landlord and ask to be let out of your lease early to move to a safe place. If your landlord agrees, ask him or her to put it in writing and keep a copy. If possible, do not tell your landlord where you will be moving; explain that you are fleeing from an abuser.

If you cannot afford to rent an apartment, there are programs that can help you:

Public Housing: Each city has its own public housing. Rent is based on income. Often there is a waiting list of people seeking this housing. When you apply at your local Public Housing Authority, mention that you need housing because you are a victim of family violence. If the housing authority denies your application, you have a right to ask for a review of that decision. Georgia Legal Services may be able to help you. If you are living in public housing and your lease is terminated because of domestic violence, you may have a right to stay. Contact Georgia Legal Services or a private attorney right away. Deadlines apply.

Housing Voucher: Under the Section 8 Program, people with low-income can receive a voucher that will pay a part of their rent. It can be used for an apartment, house, or townhouse. If you live outside the Atlanta area, call the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) at 1-800-359-4663 and ask where to apply. If a waiting list is open, they will mail you information about the program. When you apply, explain that you are a victim of domestic violence. If they deny your application, you can ask them to reconsider. Georgia Legal Services may be able to help.

Employment Resources

Workplace Violence/TPO: If your abuser is causing problems at your workplace, talk to your employer. The employer can request a Temporary Protective Order and injunction against violence or threats by your abuser at your work place.

Unemployment Benefits: If you had to quit your job for your health or safety due to family violence or if you were fired because of domestic violence, you can apply for unemployment benefits. Submit a claim for unemployment to the local Department of Labor office.

Work Transportation: If you are on TANF and are actively looking for a job or complying with a Personal Work Plan, you may be able to get reimbursement for transportation to work. You can receive up to \$3/day toward the operation of your car or for public transportation tokens. You may also be reimbursed for other costs of operating your car. Ask your DFCS caseworker for an application.

Health Care Resources

Medicaid: You do not have to apply for TANF to be eligible for low-income Medicaid. Apply for Medicaid at your DFCS office. Take a copy of your TPO to show you are a victim of family violence, excusing you from some requirements.

PeachCare: If your children are under 19, and your income is limited but not low enough for Medicaid, and you have no other health insurance, your children may qualify for this state child health insurance program. Get the mail-in application from Georgia Legal Services, DFCS, your county health department, or a shelter.

Health Screening and Treatment for Your Children: The county health department will provide up to 14 free Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis & Treatment (EPSDT) visits for your children under 21 who are covered by Medicaid. These visits include certain vaccinations. Contact your county health department for details.

Prescription Drugs: Do you have prescriptions you cannot afford to have filled? If you do not have health insurance and you are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid, you may find help:

✓ **The Medicine Program.** Call toll free 1-866-694-3893.

✓ **Georgia Partnership for Caring.** Call 1-800-982-4723 for information.

You can call United Way for information about other possible programs.

Health Insurance: Were you denied health insurance because of family violence? You can ask the judge in your TPO or divorce case to require your abuser to continue to cover you and your children on his or her health insurance.

Continuing Safety Tips

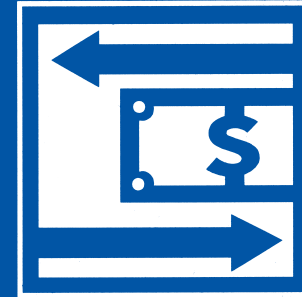
- ✓ Carry a copy of your TPO at all times.
- ✓ Give a copy of your TPO to the local law enforcement agency. If you move to a new area, provide law enforcement there with a copy, too.
- ✓ Give a copy of your TPO to your child's school principal.
- ✓ If your abuser violates your TPO, call 911 immediately.
- ✓ Contact Georgia Legal Services or another attorney as soon as possible if you want to ask a judge to convert your TPO into a permanent protective order.

Don't wait until your TPO expires!

GEORGIA LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM
Call 1-800-498-9469
for the GLSP office nearest you.

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GEORGIA LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM



Economic

SAFETY PLAN

*For Victims
of Family Violence*