

# **A GUIDE TO RELIEF FROM ABUSE ORDERS DURING COVID-19**

**FOR THOSE IN FRANKLIN/GRAND ISLE COUNTY**





# **WHEN TO GET A RELIEF FROM ABUSE ORDER**

**IF YOU ARE BEING OR HAVE BEEN  
PHYSICALLY ABUSED**

**IF YOU ARE FEARFUL OF ABUSE**

**IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE IN DANGER DUE TO  
THREATS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST YOU**





# **ABUSE DEFINED BY VERMONT LAW**

**PHYSICAL ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST YOU**

**THREATS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE**

**DESTRUCTION OF YOUR PROPERTY OR POSSESSIONS**

**ACTS OF VIOLENCE, OR THREATS OF VIOLENCE  
AGAINST FAMILY MEMBERS OR LOVED ONES**

**VIOLENCE OR THREATS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST PETS**



# **HOW TO GET AN RFA**

## **THERE ARE MULTIPLE OPTIONS:**

- **CALL THE COURTHOUSE AND HAVE THE CLERK SCRIBE, FILLING IN THE PAPERWORK FOR YOU**
- **CALL THE COURTHOUSE TO SCHEDULE A PICKUP OF THE RFA PAPERWORK AND THEN DROP IT OFF AT A LATER TIME**
- **CALL THE AFTERHOURS CLERK AT 1-800-540-9990 BETWEEN 4:30PM - 8:00AM AND ON THE WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS**
- **DOWNLOAD THE PAPERWORK FROM THE VT JUDICIARY WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://WWW.VERMONTJUDICIARY.ORG/FAMILY/RELIEF-ABUSE#FORMS](https://www.vermontjudiciary.org/family/relief-abuse/forms)**





# **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

**AFTER AN ORDER IS SERVED, YOU WILL NEED TO GO TO THE COURTHOUSE IN PERSON OR CALL IN TO SEEK A FINAL ORDER.**

**TO CALL IN, INFORM THE COURT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN BEFORE THE DAY OF THE HEARING. THE COURT WILL CALL YOU WHEN IT IS TIME FOR YOUR HEARING.**

**IF YOU ARE GOING TO COURT IN PERSON, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK AND STAY 6 FEET APART FROM OTHERS AT ALL TIMES.**






# **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

**AN ADVOCATE FROM VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE WILL BE AT COURT WITH YOU TO PROVIDE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT— WE CANNOT GIVE LEGAL ADVICE.**

**AN ATTORNEY FROM LEGAL AID WILL BE AT THE COURTHOUSE TO ASSIST YOU IF YOU HAVE ANY LEGAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ORDER.**

**\*GRAND ISLE COURTHOUSE IS NOT CURRENTLY HOLDING ANY IN-PERSON RFA HEARINGS DURING THE PANDEMIC.**





**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS  
ABOUT THIS PROCESS,  
PLEASE CALL  
THE VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE  
HOTLINE AT:**

**802-524-6575**

**FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
36 LAKE STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT, 05478  
802-524-7997**

**GRAND IDLE COURTHOUSE  
3677 US-2, NORTH HERO, VT, 05474  
802-373-8350**