

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE and THE LAW

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Domestic Violence
- 1996, 1997, 2002, 2005, 2008

Experiencing domestic violence can be frightening and confusing. It can also make people feel very alone. If you have a boyfriend, girlfriend, or spouse that is abusive, there are people who want to help.

This booklet can help explain your legal rights. If you need help right now, you may need to read this book later after you are out of immediate danger.

Try not to solve this problem on your own and always try to put your safety first.

What to do RIGHT NOW:

- **CALL 911.**

If you are in danger right now, call the police. You do not need to decide whether a crime has been committed to call them for help. They can drive you to somewhere safe and provide you with information. You can also call them if you need medical attention.

- **CALL someone to HELP and SUPPORT you.**

If you have a friend or family member to help you through this, consider confiding in them. There is an agency in almost every county in North Carolina that can help you. All of them have 24-hour hotlines where you can call for information and help. These agencies are listed, by county, at the back of this book.

During a fight. . .

- Avoid small rooms where you could get trapped, and rooms that contain weapons such as kitchen knives or garage tools.
- Protect your face and head by curling into a tight ball and going into the nearest corner.
- Teach your children to stay away from the fighting so they won't get hurt.
- Make up code words to alert friends or family members that you are in danger.
- If you can confide in your neighbors, ask them to call for help if they hear the abuse or see a pre-arranged signal (for example, your porch light is on or blinking during the daytime).

Planning to leave. . .

- Think about a place you can go where your partner will not find you: a shelter, church/synagogue/mosque/temple, friend's home, hotel, etc.
- Pack an emergency bag including medication, a change of clothes, basic hygiene items, money, spare car, house & office keys, bus pass, and diapers, bottles & formula if necessary (hide the bag in a place ONLY you can easily access such as: your car trunk, shed, garage, office or neighbor's house).
- Collect and hide outside your house originals or copies of documents such as marriage & birth certificates, passports, your and your partner's social security & drivers license numbers, bank account numbers, ATM card, and home & car titles.
- Be cautious about telling your children about your escape plan, to insure they will not accidentally reveal your arrangements.

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Introduction

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What is Domestic Violence Under North Carolina Law?

The organizations listed in the back of this booklet can help you no matter what type of abuse you have suffered.

1. Physical Abuse Under the Law.

The legal definition of domestic violence in North Carolina is physical violence and threats. Physical violence includes kicking, beating, grabbing, using a weapon against you (like a knife, gun or a hammer), slapping, pushing, pulling your hair, throwing you (on the floor, down stairs, etc.) or throwing something at you or near you in order to scare you.

Physical Abuse may also be:

- forced sex;
- destruction of your possessions to make you believe you might get physically hurt (like ripping your clothes or destroying your personal items); and
- threatening behavior. For example, if someone lets you know that if you get up from a chair or leave a room, you will be hurt physically.

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complaint. If you can do it safely, leave the house and take your children, pets, and important things with you.

- **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

Law enforcement officers are authorized by law to do whatever is reasonable to protect you from harm. The police can arrest your abusive partner if they have good reason to believe that your partner has hurt you. They can also arrest your abusive partner if they believe he has violated a court order by hurting you or coming to your house.

- **COLLECT EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN BEATEN OR THREATENED.**

When the police arrive, give them torn or bloody clothing, pictures or any other evidence of an attack (if you have any). Be sure to give the police names and phone numbers of any witnesses to your attack. If there is a court order that your partner has violated, give the police a copy of it so they can arrest him for violating the order. You should also give the police a copy of separation, divorce or custody papers, if there are any.

- **ASK THE POLICE TO MAKE A REPORT OF WHAT HAPPENED.**

Ask the police to take pictures of your injuries and any damage to your home or belongings and to conduct an investigation. You may ask for the police officer's name and badge number so that the officer can be a witness for you in any civil or criminal proceeding you may bring against your abusive partner. Write this information down so you can report it to the district attorney if you sign a criminal complaint.

If you do not press criminal charges against your abusive partner, the police may be less likely to help you in the future and your abusive partner may believe that he or she can get away with hurting you.

2. USE THE COURT SYSTEM.

To get started with the court system, you can contact:

- **MAGISTRATE.** If the police officer does not file criminal charges against your abusive partner, you can go to the local magistrate and sign a criminal complaint. Look in your local phone book in the blue pages for the telephone number and location of the magistrate's office.

- **CLERK OF COURT.** [℞]

file a request for a civil complaint and motion for a domestic violence protective order. A local domestic violence assistance agency should be able to assist you in preparing these forms.

- **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM.** You can contact your local domestic violence agency. The phone numbers are listed at the back of this booklet.

- **AN ATTORNEY.**



you are married to or living with the abuser.

2. You can and should file a CHILD ABUSE COMPLAINT if:

- You suspect or know about abuse of any child. Reports of child abuse go to your county Department of Social Services. Their phone number is listed in the blue pages of your phone book under the county section.

3. You can file for CIVIL RELIEF (a "Protective Order") in the civil courts if:

- You are currently married to the person abusing you;
- You used to be married to the person abusing you;
- You are currently living with or have previously lived with the person abusing you;
- You and the person who is hurting you are related as parents or grandparents. You can not get an order against a child under 16;
- You are dating or used to date the person who is abusing you and you are different sexes;
- You and the person abusing you have a child in common.

How Does a Victim of Domestic Violence Start a Criminal Case?

1. REPORT THE CRIME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

If you can get to a telephone, call the police immediately. If the police witness an assault, they are required by law to make an arrest on the spot. You should never remain in a place of danger in order to allow the police to witness the violence. They can make an arrest even if they don't witness it if they have enough evidence to believe an assault occurred. This is called "probable cause."

2. BE PREPARED TO TELL WHAT HAPPENED

If the police do not witness the assault, and do not find "probable cause," you may have to go to the magistrate's office to file charges. You will need to describe to the magistrate what happened to you and take along with you any witnesses to the domestic violence and any evidence of injury or abuse, including pictures, torn or blood-stained clothes and medical reports. Upon hearing your sworn testimony, the magistrate should issue a criminal summons or a

warrant, even if you do not have physical evidence of abuse.

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Stalking may also include threatening telephone calls or other forms of threatening communication which is made for the purpose of terrorizing the victim or placing the victim in fear of his/her personal safety.

- **HARASSING PHONE CALLS**

Using profane, indecent or threatening language against you over the telephone or on your answering machine is illegal. This includes annoying or harassing you by making false statements over the telephone or by repeated calling.

TIPS AND POINTERS FOR THE CRIMINAL TRIAL

- **Attend the Trial**

You will need to be present in court to testify about what happened. You will be contacted by the District Attorney's office with the court date and/or you may contact their office. Their phone number is listed in the blue pages of the phone book.

- **The District Attorney is Your Attorney**

You may contact the district attorney's office before the trial date to discuss the case and the evidence that you will be able to present. If there are any witnesses to the domestic violence that was committed against you, you should let



Getting Your Domestic Violence Protective Order

Step One: Prepare an

sheriff to your abusive partner and before he has the chance to come before the judge. The order is only good for ten (10) days and the hearing usually takes place within 24 hours of filing the complaint. Take steps to protect yourself during this time, especially if you think your abusive partner will hurt you because of the actions you are taking to protect yourself.

Step Three: Service on the Abuser

The law requires that the abuser receive a copy of the complaint and motion by personal delivery from your local sheriff. This process is called "service." The judge cannot go to Step Four, the 10-day hearing, until the defendant-abuser has been served. You can give the documents to the sheriff and he or she will attempt service quickly. Give the sheriff as many addresses and phone numbers to reach the abuser that you can gather. It is also helpful to give a full description of the abuser and to complete a form called "Identifying Information about Defendant," which you can get from the clerk's office.

Step Four: The 10-Day Hearing

A full hearing with you, your witness, the abuser and the judge will take place ten days after the summons is issued and the complaint is filed, assuming the abuser has been served with your complaint. Be sure you bring with you to the courtroom any witnesses to the domestic violence against you and all evidence you can gather, such as pictures, medical reports, answering machine messages, and/or torn clothing. If you do not have any evidence, do not worry. They are not required, but they do help the judge believe you. Be prepared to describe to the judge in detail what the abuser has done to you and why you are still afraid of him or her now. Tell the judge about the most recent and most violent episodes first. Be aware that your abuser can ask you questions in court. Keep calm, if you can.

Your abuser is also going to have a chance to tell his side of the story. Do not get upset if the abuser contradicts what you say. Judges have seen many cases of domestic violence and will expect contradictions in the testimony. If the judge believes you are truthful, he or she should give you some form of domestic violence relief.

If the papers are not served on the abuser by the date of the 10-day hearing, the judge may issue another temporary, ex parte order or extend your original ex parte order until the next court date. You will have to return on later dates until the abuser has been served.

Ask the Judge for Relief

Be certain that you tell the judge exactly what relief you want. You may find



contact an attorney to file a motion for entry of contempt or you can file a motion yourself. The forms are available at the clerk of court's office. Again, you must write specifically what the abuser did that was in violation of the order, and you and the abuser must appear before a judge. The judge may tell the abuser that if the abuser violates the order, he or she will be jailed; or the judge may find that the order has already been violated and sentence the abuser to jail or order that he or she pay a fine.

2. What happens if you contact the abuser?

If the judge has ordered the abuser not to contact you, try to refrain from any telephone or personal contact with the abuser. Although you are not violating the law, the judge may be less likely to enforce the order. If you have let the abuser into your home (even if you have started living together again), you can reapply for relief if further domestic violence occurs, but the abuser may be less likely to take a second court order seriously. More importantly, the court may begin to question your credibility and concern for protecting your own safety.

3. What if my abuser's actions make me move?

If you have a valid protective order from another state, it will be enforced by North Carolina law enforcement agencies. Also, other states will enforce your North Carolina order and it is a good idea to get a "certified" copy from the clerk before you move.

4. How does moving affect my child custody rights?

If you relocate with or without your children because of an act of domestic violence, the court is not allowed to use that fact against you in determining custody or visitation. In custody decisions, the court will consider acts

If you cannot afford an attorney, you should contact the nearest Legal Aid or Legal Services office as soon as possible. You can find a list of those services at the back of this booklet.

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American Indian North Carolinians

Some of the information provided here applies to all North Carolinians. In some cases, however, there are differences for American Indian North Carolinians. If either you or the person who abused you are members of the Cherokee Indian tribe, the proper place to file criminal and civil charges is the Tribal Court. Even if you are not Cherokee, if you live on the reservation, you should file papers with the Tribal Court.

There are a few things to know about how the Cherokee Tribal Court works. There are advocates who can help explain the process to you and make sure you are not alone. You can call the domestic violence agency listed in the table that follows for help. In order to reach the Tribal Court, call (828) 497-7874 or (828) 497-7720. If you have access to the Internet, you can read the Cherokee Tribal Rules for the NC Eastern Band of Cherokee by going to the following internet address: <http://www.tribalresourcecenter.org/ccfolder/eccodetoc.htm>.

The following is a list of organizations and tribes located around the state that will give information and referrals to American Indians. Help is available.

Cumberland County

Cumberland County Association for
Indian People
(910) 483-8442
Email: ccai@tribalresourcecenter.org

Guilford County

Guilford Native American Association
(336) 273-8686
Email: gnaa@tribalresourcecenter.org

Halifax-Warren County

Haliwa-Saponi Tribe
(252) 586-4017
Email: haliwa@tribalresourcecenter.org

Person County

Indians of Person County
(336) 599-5020
Email: ipci@tribalresourcecenter.org

Wake County

Triangle Native American Society
(919) 661-2515

Statewide Advocacy

The North Carolina Commission
of Indian Affairs
(919) 733-5998

Help Is Available

Almost every county in North Carolina has a domestic violence service provider. These agencies are designed to assist victims of domestic violence by providing information, support and emergency response, like emergency shelter and confidential hotlines.

You may also need an attorney. To see if you are eligible to receive the services of an attorney, you should call the legal services office in your area (see table below).

AL

68 Grove St.
Asheville, NC 28801
Office: (828) 254-2968
Crisis: (828) 254-0516
Fax: (828) 254-0720

Interlace
34 Wall St. Ste. 607
Asheville, NC 28801
Office: (828) 252-1155
Fax: (828) 259-9469

BURKE COUNTY

Options
PO Box 2512
Morganton, NC 28680
Office: (828) 438-9444
Crisis: (828) 438-9444
Fax: (828) 437-0323

CABARRUS COUNTY

CVAN - Women's Program
PO Box 1749
Concord, NC 28026-1749
Office: (704) 788-1108
Crisis: (704) 788-2826
Fax: (704) 788-1109

CALDWELL COUNTY

Shelter Home of Caldwell County
PO Box 426
Lenoir, NC 28645
Office: (828) 758-0888
Crisis: (828) 758-0888
Fax: (828) 758-8949

CAMDEN COUNTY

(See Pasquotank County)

CARTERET COUNTY

Carteret Co. DV Program
PO Box 2279
Morehead City, NC 28557
Office: (252) 726-2336
Crisis: (i Tc0.0265 Tw[Cr]-15.1(isis)-171.7((B3728) 758-8949)TJ0.015 -2.2072 0.0265 Tw899

WELLS COUSHLter

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Mocksville, NC 27028
Office: (336) 751-3450
Crisis: (336) 751-4357
Fax: (336) 751-3451

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DUPLIN COUNTY

Sarah's Refuge, Inc.
PO Box 368
Warsaw, NC 28398
Office: (910) 293-3467
Crisis (toll free): 877-299-8111
Crisis: (910) 293-3206
Fax: (910) 293-3973

DURHAM COUNTY

Durham Crisis Response Center
206 N. Dillard St
Durham, NC 27701
Office: (919) 403-9425
Crisis: (919) 403-6562
Fax: (919) 490-9726

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EDGECOMBE COUNTY

My Sister's House
PO Box 7665
Rocky Mount, NC 27804-0665
Office: (252) 462-0366
Crisis (toll free): 888-465-9507
Crisis (252): 459-3094
Fax: (252) 462-0555

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FORSYTH COUNTY

Family Services, Inc.
1200 S. Broad Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Office: (336) 722-8173
Toll free: 1-800-316-5513
Crisis: (336) 723-8125
Fax: (336) 724-6491

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COUNTY

Family Services of Davidson Co
PO Box 607
Lexington, NC 27293
Office: (336) 243-1628
Crisis: (336) 243-1934
Fax: (336) 243-7685
Web Site: ||| ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

DAVIE COUNTY

Davie Domestic Violence Services
and Rape Crisis Center
123 South Main Street 3rd Floor

Family Services Shelter (Shelter office)
PO Box 604
Winston-Salem, NC 27102
Office: (336) 724-3979
Fax: (336) 724-3970

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Safe Space
PO Box 240
Louisburg, NC 27549
Office: (919) 497-5599

Crisis (toll free): 800-620-6120
Crisis: (919) 497-5444
Or 1-800-620-6120
Fax: (919) 497-1761

GASTON COUNTY

Shelter of Gaston County
330 N. Marietta St.
Gastonia, NC 28052
Office: (704) 810-6492
Crisis: (704) 852-6000
Fax: (704) 852-6004
Website: www.shelterofgaston.org

GATES COUNTY

(See Pasquotank County or Hertford County)

GRAHAM COUNTY

Hope for Families
PO Box 2298
Robbinsville, NC 28771
Office: (828) 479-4612
Crisis: (828) 479-4332
Fax: (828) 479-4973

GRANVILLE COUNTY

Families Living Violence Free
1003 N Durham Road
Creedmoor, NC 27522
Office: (919) 693-2662
Crisis: (919) 693-2324
Fax: (919) 693-9652

GREENE COUNTY

(See Lenoir County)

GUILFORD COUNTY

Family Service of the Piedmont
1401 Long Street
High Point, NC 27262-2541
Office: (336) 889-6161
Fax: (336) 387-9167

Greensboro Location:
315 East Washington St.
Greensboro, NC 27401
Office: (336) 387-6161
Fax: (336) 273-7273

HALIFAX COUNTY

Hannah's Place

PO Box 1392
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
Office: (252) 537-2882
Crisis: (252) 535-5946
Fax: (252) 308-9781

HARNETT COUNTY

SAFE of Harnett Co.
PO Box 728
Lillington, NC 27546
Office: (910) 893-7233
Crisis: (910) 893-7233
Fax: (910) 893-3508

HAYWOOD COUNTY

REACH of Haywood County, Inc.
PO Box 206
Waynesville, NC 28786
Office: (828) 456-7898
Crisis: (828) 456-7898
Fax: (828) 452-0960

30th Judicial District DV-SA
Alliance, Inc.

PO Box 554
Waynesville, NC 28786
Office: (828) 452-2122
Fax: (828) 456-9739

HENDERSON COUNTY

Mainstay
133 Fifth Avenue West
Hendersonville, NC 28792
Office: (828) 693-3840
Crisis: (828) 693-3840
Hispanic Hotline: (828) 674-5099
Fax: (828) 696-8104

HERTFORD COUNTY

Crisis: (910) 878-0118
Fax: (910) 875-8443

HYDE COUNTY
(See Beaufort County)

IREDELL COUNTY
My Sister's House
PO Box 5217
Statesville, NC 28687
Office: (704) 872-4045
Crisis: (704) 872-3403
Fax: (704) 873-3319

JACKSON COUNTY
REACH of Jackson County
PO Box 1908
Sylva, NC 28779
Office: (828) 631-4488
Crisis: (828) 586-1911
Fax: (828) 631-4477

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JOHNSTON COUNTY
Harbor, Inc
PO Box 1903
Smithfield, NC 27577
Office: (919) 938-3566
Crisis (toll free) 877-934-0233
Crisis: (919) 934-6161
Fax: (919) 938-4515

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JONES COUNTY
(See Craven County)

LEE

700 North Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
Office: (704) 336-3210
Fax: (704) 336-4198

MITCHELL COUNTY

SafePlace
PO Box 544
Spruce Pine, NC 28777
Office: (828) 765-4015
Crisis: (828) 765-4044
Fax: (828) 765-4011

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Crisis Council
PO Box O
Troy, NC 27371
Office: (910) 572-3749
Crisis: (910) 572-3747
Fax line: (910) 572-3749

MOORE COUNTY

Friend To Friend
111 McNeil Street
Carthage, NC 28327
Office: (910) 947-3333
Crisis: (910) 947-3333
Fax: (910) 947-1849

NASH COUNTY

(See Edgecombe County)

NEW HANOVER COUNTY

Domestic Violence Shelter & Services
PO Box 1555
Wilmington, NC 28402
Office: (910) 343-0703
Crisis (toll free) 800-672-2903
Crisis: (910) 343-0703
Fax: (910) 343-9388

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

(See Hertford County)

ONSLOW COUNTY

Onslow Women's Center*
PO Box 1622
Jacksonville, NC 28541
Office: (910) 347-4000
Crisis: (910) 347-4000
Fax: (910) 347-7960

ORANGE COUNTY

Family Violence Prevention Center of
Orange County
PO Box 187
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Office: (919) 929-FVPC (3872)
Crisis (toll free): 866-929-7122
Crisis: (919) 929-7122
Fax: (919) 929-9925

PAMLCO COUNTY

(See Craven County)
Pamlico County Office
Office: (252) 745-0500
Crisis: (252) 638-5995

PASQUOTANK COUNTY

Albemarle Hopeline
PO Box 2064
Elizabeth City, NC 27906-2064
Office: (252) 338-5338
Crisis: (252) 338-3011
Fax: (252) 338-2952

PENDER COUNTY

Safe Haven Pender County
PO Box 657
Burgaw, NC 28425
Office: (910) 259-8989
Crisis: (910) 259-9410
(only in Burgaw area)
(800) 259-8887
Fax: (910) 259-9410

PERQUIMANS COUNTY

(See Pasquotank County)

PERSON COUNTY

Safe Haven Person County
PO Box 474
Roxboro, NC 27573
Office: (336) 597-8699
Crisis: (336) 599-7233
Fax: (336) 597-9318

PITT COUNTY

Family Violence Program of Pitt Co., Inc.
PO Box 8429
Greenville, NC 27835-8429
Office: (252) 758-4400
Crisis: (252) 752-3811
Fax: (252) 752-4197

POLK COUNTY

Steps To Hope, Inc.
PO Box 518
Columbus, NC 28722
Office: (828) 894-2340
Crisis (825) 894-2340
Fax: (828) 894-3044

RANDOLPH COUNTY

Family Crisis Center
PO Box 2161
Asheboro, NC 27204-2161
Office: (336) 626-5040
Crisis: (336) 629-4159
Fax: (336) 629-0523

RICHMOND COUNTY

New Horizons
1225 S Long Drive
Rockingham, NC 28379
Office: 910-997-4840
Crisis: 910-995-1872
Fax: 910-997-7444

ROBESON COUNTY

Southeastern Family Violence Center
PO Box 642
Lumberton, NC 28359
Office: (910) 739-8622
Crisis (toll free): 800 742-7794
(910) 739-8622
Fax: (910) 739-1180

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

HELP Inc. Center Against Violence
PO Box 16
Wentworth, NC 27375
Office: (336) 342-3331
Crisis: (336) 342-3332
Fax: (336) 342-6377

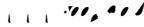
ROWAN COUNTY

Rape, Child & Family Abuse Crisis Council
of Salisbury-Rowan, Inc.
131 West Council Street
Salisbury, NC 28144
Office: (704) 636-4718
Crisis: (704) 636-4718
Fax: (704) 636-0345

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

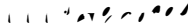
Family Resources of Rutherford Co.
PO Box 1619
Forest City, NC 28043

Office: (828) 247-1440
Crisis: (828) 245-8595
Fax: (828) 245-1456

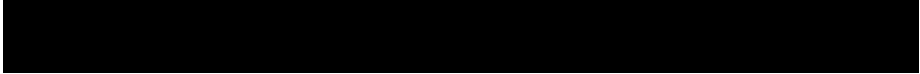


SAMPSON COUNTY

U-CARE
PO Box 761
Clinton, NC 28328
Office: (910) 596-0931
Crisis: (910) 596-0931
Fax: (910) 596-0574



SCOTLAND COUNTY


Legal Aid of NC - Ahoskie Office

610 East Church Street

Ahoskie NC 27910

252-332-5124 or 800-682-0010

Counties served: Bertie, Camden,
Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax,
Hertford, Northhampton, Pasquotank,
Perquimans

Legal Aid of NC - Asheville Office

184 East Chestnut

Asheville NC 28801

828-236-1080 or 877-439-3480

Counties served: Buncombe,
Henderson,
Madison, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania

Legal Aid of NC - Boone Office

171 Grand Boulevard

Boone NC 28607

828-264-5640 or 800-849-5666

Counties served: Alleghany, Ashe,
Avery, Watauga, Wilkes,

Legal Aid of NC - Charlotte Office

1431 Elizabeth Avenue

Charlotte NC 28204

704-971-2621

Counties served: Mecklenberg

Legal Aid of NC - Tj1 TrT*()Tj0 Tr0.2904 0 TD(-)2904 0 TD(-)2904 0 TD(-)290gD(i)Tj1 T

336-272-0148 or 800-951-2257
Counties served: Davidson, Guilford,
Montgomery, Randolph, Rockingham,
Rowan

Legal Aid of NC - Greenville Office

301 S. Evans Street, Suite 200

P O Box 7283

Greenville NC 27858

252-758-0113 or 800-682-4592

Counties served: Pitt, Martin, Hyde,
Washington, Tyrrell

Legal Aid of NC - Goldsboro Office

102-A South William Street

Goldsboro NC 27530

919-731-2800 or 800-682-7902

Counties served: Greene, Lenoir,
Wayne

Legal Aid of NC - Monroe Office

100 West Jefferson Street

Monroe NC 28110

704-283-2172 or 877-439-3480

Counties served: Buncombe, Mitchell,
Henderson, Polk, Yancey, Rutherford,
Madison, Transylvania

Legal Aid of NC - Morganton Office

211 East Union Street

Morganton NC 28655

828-437-8280 or 800-849-5195

Counties served: Alexander, Burke,
Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Lincoln,
McDowell

Legal Aid of NC - New Bern Office

213 Pollock Street

P O Box 1167

New Bern NC 28560

252-637-9502 or 800-672-8213

Counties served: Beaufort, Carteret,
Craven, Jones, Pamlico

Legal Aid of NC - Pembroke Office

101 East Second Street

Pembroke NC 28372

910-521-2831 or 866-219-5262

Counties served: Cumberland, Hoke,
Robeson, Scotland

Legal Aid of NC - Pittsboro Office

959 East Street , Suite A & B

Pittsboro NC 27312

866-219-5262

Counties served: Chatham, Orange,
Lee, Richmond, Alamance

Legal Aid of NC - Raleigh Office

224 South Dawson Street

Raleigh NC 27601

866-219-5262

Counties served: Harnett, Johnston,
Lee, Sampson, Wake

Legal Aid of NC - Rocky Mount Office

148 South Washington Street Mall,
Suite 105

Rocky Mount, NC 27802-0388

252-442-0635 or 800-682-7902

Counties served: Edgecombe, Nash

Legal Aid of NC - Sanford Office

503 Carthage Street, Suite 305

Sanford NC 27330

866-219-5262

Counties served: Lee

Legal Aid of NC - Smithfield Office

300 South Third Street

Smithfield NC 27577

866-219-5262

Counties served: Harnett, Johnston,
Sampson

Legal Aid of NC - Sylva Office

1286 West Main Street

Sylva NC 28779

828-586-8931 or 800-458-6817

Counties served: Cherokee, Clay,
Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon,
Swain, Qualla Indian Boundary

Legal Aid of NC - Wilmington Office

Glossary of Terms Used in This Booklet

Accused: A person or persons formally charged but not yet tried for committing a crime.

Affidavit: A written, sworn statement in which the writer swears that the information stated therein is true.

Alleged: The term used to modify any fact or charge not yet proven true.

Arrest: The taking into custody of a person suspected of a crime for the purpose of charging him with committing a specific offense.

Arrest warrant: A document issued by a judicial officer which directs a law enforcement officer to arrest a person.

Docket: The list of cases to be heard on a given day.

Domestic Violence Protective Order: A civil order that grants immediate relief to victims of domestic violence by prohibiting batterers from commit-