Roth Award Nomination Form

Legal name of organization: New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)

Year established: 1990

Program being nominated for award (if different): Project Eden

Year established: 2002

Address: 7 Hanover Square, 18th Floor

City/State/ZIP code: New York, NY 10004

Agency phone number: 212-613-5000

Contact person: Merritt Birnbaum

Title: Chief Development Officer

Phone number: 212-613-5015

Fax number: 212-714-7455

E-mail address: mbirnbaum@nやり.org

Website address: www.nやり.org

How did you learn about the Roth Award? Have previously submitted application

Brief description of organization: NYLAG was founded in 1990 on the premise that low-income individuals can improve their lives significantly if they are given access to the justice system. Through the provision of high quality, free civil legal services, NYLAG strives to empower vulnerable New Yorkers, protect their fundamental rights, and help them achieve positive outcomes that alleviate poverty. In addition to more than 250 paid staff members, NYLAG leverages the services of over 1,000 volunteer lawyers, law students, and interns to maximize its impact while training and inspiring the next generation of public interest attorneys. To enhance the delivery of holistic, coordinated services, NYLAG also has mutual referral relationships with over 600 health and human services agencies across New York City, Westchester, and Long Island, and provides services at 76 intake sites located in courts, hospitals, and community-based organizations. Over the last year, NYLAG has served more than 76,000 clients.

A keen awareness of the life-threatening consequences of domestic violence (DV) led NYLAG to prioritize matrimonial and family law services for DV victims since its inception. Now one of the City’s premier providers in this area, NYLAG’s Matrimonial & Family Law Unit (FLU) provided direct legal services on 6,443 cases for women and their families over the last year. Attorneys provide representation in: 1) contested and uncontested divorce; 2) ancillary divorce issues, such as equitable distribution and maintenance; 3) child and spousal support; 4) orders of protection; 5) child custody and visitation; 6) VAWA/ U Visa immigration and 7) appeals.
Among its subprojects, FLU operates Project Eden, which provides culturally sensitive, free legal services to Orthodox Jewish victims of domestic violence living in Brooklyn, enabling them to break the cycle of abuse while remaining true to their religious beliefs. Through innovative programs such as this, NYLAG aims to empower all victims and ensure their long-term safety and self-sufficiency, ultimately saving lives.

Geographical area served: Organization-New York City, Long Island, and Westchester; Project-Brooklyn, NY

Is the organization tax-exempt under IRS 501 (c) (3) guidelines or a public agency/unit of government? Yes

In addition to your program being responsive to the underserved, please check up to four descriptors that best apply to the program you are nominating:

- Batterer treatment
- Coalition/collaboration
- Communication
- Counseling
- Dating violence
- Elder abuse
- Employment/training program
- Faith-based
- Health care setting
- Hotline service
- Legal aid/assistance
- Prevention
- Prison-based
- Public awareness/education
- School/youth violence
- Shelter-based
- Stalking
- Technology/Internet service
- Transitional housing
- University setting
- Victim relocation
- Workplace intervention
- Other _____________________
Release of Information

As one of the goals of the Mary Byron Project is to disseminate information about cutting edge programs and best practices, we wish to post exemplary Celebrating Solutions Award nominations on our website (www.marybyronproject.org).

Those posted will include the organization’s website address, telephone number, and email address. If you have concerns about this request, please address them to kathypaulin@marybyronproject.org, prior to submitting a nomination.

By my signature on this letter, I grant the Mary Byron Project permission to use the contents of my nomination for the Celebrating Solutions Award in the manner and for the purposes set above. I further affirm that I am fully authorized to grant such permission to the Mary Byron Project.

Signature

Date 2/6/15
Roth Award Program Outline

1. Describe the work of the nominated program and explain how the mission of the program is accomplished.

   NYLAG’s Project Eden provides free legal services to Orthodox Jewish victims of domestic violence in Brooklyn, New York, enabling them to break the cycle of abuse while remaining true to their religious beliefs. Since launching in 2002, approximately 700 women have benefited from the program’s network of services, and more than 1,000 individuals have attended educational programming. A partnership with the Kings County District Attorney’s Office, Ohel Child & Family Services, hospitals, and other social services providers, Project Eden is part of NYLAG’s Matrimonial & Family Law Unit.

   Orthodox Jewish victims of domestic violence face significant barriers to escaping their abusers, including the fear of being ostracized by their religious community if they report abuse to secular authorities or access secular services. The overall goals of Project Eden are to raise awareness of domestic violence in the Orthodox community, to create an environment in which available resources for victims are both accessible and utilized, and to build a safe space for victims that considers their unique religious convictions and uses culturally competent attorneys and paralegals to provide services tailored to their community. Services include direct representation, which involves legal assistance in seeking a civil order of protection, custody, child and spousal support, and/or filing for divorce. Attorneys also negotiate religious divorces in the Beis Din (the Jewish rabbinical courts), a critical component in providing comprehensive representation in this community. Additionally, Project Eden attorneys provide extensive services, short of full representation, including the review of court documents and meetings with family members, rabbis, and social workers, as well as extensive consultations regarding a victim’s legal rights and options. These services are available in Hebrew as well as English to meet individual client need.

   Project Eden’s work engages the broader Brooklyn Orthodox Jewish community to raise awareness about domestic violence and bring about change. The program’s attorneys organize and participate in trainings for community stakeholders, social service providers, and other professionals to increase awareness of domestic violence in the Orthodox Jewish community. Trainings vary greatly depending on the needs of participants. For example, a NYLAG attorney participated in the 2014 Fordham University Conference on Domestic Violence, presenting on issues in the insular Orthodox community to an audience of over 200 attorneys. Overall, trainings and educational workshops available to community stakeholders, as well as domestic violence victims, address the resistance women face when raising issues of domestic violence in their communities, the differences between the Beis Din and the Civil Court, the victims’ legal rights in criminal and civil proceedings, and the availability of free culturally competent legal services. In 2014, NYLAG led or participated in approximately six trainings.

   The success of Project Eden has spurred the creation of NYLAG’s Project Nedivot. Launched in 2011, this project has served more than 80 Orthodox victims of domestic violence in Queens, New York and applies the same principles and approach as Project Eden to address the unique legal needs of this vulnerable population in a different geographic area. Most recently, NYLAG is further expanding services to the Orthodox community in Rockland County utilizing a
similar model. Rockland County’s Jewish population stands at approximately 92,000—or more than
30% of the total population—driven largely by growth in Orthodox Jewish communities such as
Monsey, where a large portion of the town’s more than 18,000 residents identify with the more
conservative sects of Orthodox Judaism.

2. Describe the most innovative aspects of the program you are nominating.

Project Eden’s services go beyond criminal justice interventions and include a wide range
of culturally sensitive and appropriate services. When considering options for assistance in
addressing violence in their homes, women in this traditionally under-served and isolated
community face significant religious, community and cultural pressures, preventing them from
accessing services, particularly those of the criminal justice system. The notion of mesirah (not
turning another Jew in to secular authorities) and the fear of the shonde (shame) that can affect a
family’s standing if it is known that police are involved are often used to dissuade women from
calling the police. Seeking out civil protections such as Family Court orders of protection, custody,
child and spousal support; or learning the legal relief available in a civil or religious divorce is
sometimes more acceptable in the religious community.

Recognizing the religious repercussions of reporting abuse, Project Eden’s attorneys work
with each individual victim to find the solution that is best for them. In addition to helping women
obtain an order of protection and other civil protections, NYLAG attorneys negotiate and litigate
cases directly in the Beis Din (the religious court) and help clients obtain a get, the traditional
Jewish divorce ritual. Without a get, Orthodox women are not permitted to remarry, even if they
have obtained a civil divorce. Essentially NYLAG attorneys litigate two divorces in two different
forums. By understanding how secular and religious issues are intertwined and working with clients
in both forums to find resolutions, Project Eden is able to successfully help domestic violence
victims overcome informational, religious, community, and cultural barriers to escape their abusers
while remaining true to their religious beliefs and maintaining acceptance in their communities.

One particularly innovative and unique aspect of Project Eden is the way the Program
incorporates services from both public government offices and different types of private non-profit
organizations to provide comprehensive, holistic assistance to victims of domestic violence. The
Kings County District Attorney’s office plays a principal role in not only prosecuting abusers for their
violent crimes through the criminal court system, but also in referring victims—especially those who
do not wish to pursue criminal charges—to NYLAG for assistance in obtaining an order or
protection, divorce, child support, and other civil court remedies that can ultimately help them
escape their abusers. NYLAG also offers Project Eden’s clients in-house referral for other legal
services—such as housing, immigration, and public benefits—as well as referring victims to the
agency’s Financial Counseling Division to help them understand financial abuse, how to safeguard
their assets and how to achieve and sustain financial independence before leaving an abusive
partner. For other social service needs, Project Eden refers clients to either the program’s main
partner, Ohel, or other agencies that can connect victims with a social worker. For domestic
violence victims, the ability to work with both criminal and civil lawyers, as well as social workers
together provides much needed support during a critical time.
3. How do you determine that the population you serve qualifies as “underserved”?

According to a recent UJA-Federation of New York study, there are approximately 1.54 million Jews living in New York City, with nearly half a million following the Orthodox tradition. Approximately 35% of those living in such Orthodox households are poor, with the high rates of poverty often attributed in part to larger families and the costs of living an observant lifestyle in an expensive city.\(^1\) Orthodox victims of domestic violence are thus frequently denied access to economic resources, so even the few who seek an attorney’s assistance often cannot afford legal fees.

Domestic abuse in the Jewish community also differs from that in the general population largely in the length of time women stay with their abusers. Statistics indicate that it takes an average of three to five years for a non-Jewish woman to leave her abusive partner. Jewish women, however, stay in an abusive relationship 7-13 years on average.\(^2\) In general, only approximately 25% of women who were physically assaulted by a partner reported their abuse, a dilemma that is exacerbated for Orthodox Jewish women, who often feel compelled to remain silent to maintain the desired image of stability.\(^3\) Project’s Eden’s goal is to help this population understand that they are not alone and there are resources available to help them escape their abusers without jeopardizing their religious standing, compelling more to come forward sooner.

4. Why do your clients need resources that are structured specifically for them?

Women in the insular Orthodox Jewish community face significant barriers to accessing services, particularly criminal justice services. Abused women who make a public complaint about their abuser are often accused of slander, and those who criticize the community are charged with desecrating God’s name. The dictate to maintain peaceful domestic relations trumps the urge to reveal abuse to the authorities. There is also widespread suspicion of secular authorities, including members of the justice and law enforcement systems. The religious courts, or Beis Din, often prove inadequate for dealing with abuse on their own. When presented with the choice between going after sexual abusers and protecting the community from scrutiny by outsiders, religious authorities often opt to protect the community, and sometimes do not conduct thorough investigations or permit appeals.

Orthodox Jewish women are also often unfamiliar with the secular legal system, and are deterred from engaging it by its complexity, time-intensiveness, and culturally alien nature. These unique victims therefore have a great, ongoing need for high quality, free, culturally competent representation. They also need information on their legal rights and how to access appropriate services. Moreover, the Orthodox community and service providers need to learn about the prevalence of the problem, barriers women face to accessing services, victims’ legal rights and remedies available in the civil court, and the ways they can assist victims to access services.

---


5. Describe your program’s implementation. What barriers did your organization have to overcome? How did you marshal the necessary resources for implementation?

Project Eden was launched in 2002 in partnership with the Kings County District Attorney’s office, Ohel Children’s Home and Family Service, and other social services providers. Staff of these organizations refer Orthodox victims of domestic violence to NYLAG’s dedicated Project Eden attorney via e-mail, phone, and fax. There is no formal application process, but every client goes through an initial intake procedure using a dedicated paralegal to help attorneys understand the legal challenges they face and what sort of relief they would like to obtain (order of protection, custody, divorce, etc.).

The eligibility requirements for these clients are extremely flexible due to the complex nature of domestic violence matters and the pressing need to help women escape abuse. Thanks to flexible funding, Project Eden has no strict income guidelines and is not restricted to cases where physical abuse must have occurred for women to qualify. Many of the women who seek legal assistance have endured emotional and financial abuse alone or in addition to physical abuse, but do not realize that these tactics are part of the power and control dynamic characteristic of domestic abuse. As a result, NYLAG also helps women to escape partners who use these lesser recognized methods of abuse to maintain power and control over their victims.

A significant barrier the program has faced is that Orthodox Jewish victims of domestic violence are often less likely to come forward because reporting abuse could result in potential isolation from their community, especially if the abuse is first reported to the secular world without consulting Orthodox leaders. Due to the fear of shame for turning in a fellow Jew and bringing criticism to the Orthodox community, these victims need extensive support and legal consultation before making a decision to leave their abuser or commence legal action. This requires a significant time commitment as well as sensitivity on the part of Project Eden attorneys.

To overcome these barriers, Project Eden has strengthened its partnerships with the religious communities, as well as sought new partnerships, such as those detailed in question #7, to instill within the Orthodox community a feeling of trust. Project Eden’s attorneys also found that making both social services and legal services available to victims at the same time helps facilitate the relationship with victims and their religious community because every issue an individual client is facing can be addressed at once. To ensure that Project Eden had the resources to properly implement this program, NYLAG has benefitted from funding from the David Berg Foundation and UJA-Federation to provide the financial support necessary to sustain the program, which employs one full-time dedicated attorney and a part-time paralegal. Project Eden has also continuously benefitted from at least one dedicated law student per semester; and there are typically 12-15 students participating in NYLAG’s Domestic Violence Clinical Center who assist on these matters under the supervision of NYLAG’s attorneys.

Furthermore, Project Eden benefits from 1-2 in-house volunteer attorneys at any given time, and also utilizes pro bono attorneys to assist clients seeking an uncontested divorce as well as immigration relief based on their status as a victim of abuse. These matters are ripe for referral to pro bono resources as they are significantly less complex and can be completed with a moderate commitment of time. Many of Project Eden’s clients, however, are facing complex
contested divorce proceedings that are further complicated by issues surrounding child custody, support, and other financial matters. Resolving these matters favorably requires extensive experience navigating both civil and Rabbinical courts, and thus these cases are not appropriate for referral to pro bono attorneys with little knowledge of these complex proceedings. This makes the skilled advocacy of NYLAG’s staff all the more vital to alleviating abuse in the Orthodox community and ensuring lasting solutions for victims to remain free from their abusers.

6. How do you know your program works? Please site two examples. Although anecdotal examples are helpful, at least one example must include quantitative data.

In 2014, Project Eden attorneys provided legal advice and representation on 139 cases for 80 Orthodox Jewish women. Cases include providing representation on divorces with ancillary issues such as child custody and support, as well as orders of protections. Through these matters, Project Eden attorneys have successfully obtained or maintained custody, obtained financial awards as well as final divorce judgments for each client.

Overall, the project has assisted approximately 700 women, with over 1,000 others participating in Project Eden’s educational programming. The following case example illustrates how the work of Project Eden’s attorneys benefit clients suffering extraordinarily difficult circumstances, ultimately helping them obtain freedom and a better life without sacrificing their religious beliefs and communal acceptance:

Sarah is an Orthodox mother of two young children who suffered years of physical and emotional abuse from her husband. When she was eight months pregnant, her husband strangled her, threatening her life and the life of her unborn child. With NYLAG’s assistance, Sarah obtained a temporary order of protection excluding him from the home. Once the Court removed her husband from the marital home, Sarah attempted to move back in, only to find that her husband had moved his parents into their residence without her permission. With police assistance, Sarah’s in-laws were forced to leave, at which point they sued her for illegal eviction. NYLAG advocated on her behalf and succeeded in getting the charges dismissed. In Family Court, with NYLAG’s assistance, Sarah was awarded a final order of protection for five years. NYLAG then helped her file for and receive a divorce, full custody, and child support. She is finally safe from harm and on the road to building a new life for herself and her family.

In addition to providing direct legal services to women like Sarah, Project Eden also helped the King County District Attorney’s Office create a technical manual for Orthodox Jewish victims, which contains information about custody, support, and obtaining orders of protection; as well as trained new NYLAG and volunteer Family Law attorneys and law students to represent Project Eden clients. As mentioned previously, Project Eden’s resounding success inspired the creation of Project Nedivot in Queens. Since launching in 2011, more than 80 women have benefited from Project Nedivot’s network of services.

7. Who are your key community partners? What are their roles? Are there any other domestic violence resources available for clients in your community? If so, are they your partners?

NYLAG receives cases primarily via referrals from the other Project Eden partners: the Kings County District Attorney’s office and OHHEL Children’s Home and Family Services. NYLAG
also maintains its presence at the Brooklyn Family Justice Center and conducts bi-monthly intake at the Kings County Integrated Domestic Violence Court. Together with Sanctuary for Families, NYLAG's Courtroom Advocates Project in Kings County Family Court allows the Project to utilize students from various partner law schools in New York City to advocate for victims the first time they come to court seeking an order of protection. This helps Project Eden capture additional cases, while also giving the program a presence in the borough and court where many cases involving Orthodox Jewish women are litigated.

Project Eden has also been receiving referrals through its partnership with the Organization of the Resolution of Agunot (ORA), in addition to working with ORA to help clients obtain a get, the traditional Jewish divorce ritual. Project Eden expanded its reach and practice by negotiating and litigating cases directly in the Beis Din. NYLAG has also forged new partnerships to broaden its reach into the Orthodox Jewish community that Project Eden serves. One such partnership is with Footsteps, a non-profit organization that provides social services to individuals seeking to leave the Orthodox community in which they were raised and who face tremendous obstacles accessing legal services. NYLAG's family law attorneys, including Project Eden staff, will be providing training to Footsteps' staff on legal matters their clients may face, and already are conducting education sessions for their clients about family law matters and accepting referrals from the organization.

Other Project Eden partners include former Celebrating Solutions Award winners Day One, through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women to provide legal services to victims under the age of 24; and a previous partnership with the NCVLI, with which NYLAG launched the Women's Clinic for Victim Protection under a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Victims of Crime to represent and advocate for victims in criminal court proceedings. NYLAG's Appellate Project mirrors DV LEAP, with which NYLAG also participates in monthly meetings and a listserv. Finally, NYLAG has mutual referral partnerships with two hospital-based programs serving Orthodox victims of sexual assault. The SAVI Takanot Program through Mt Sinai hospital provides free, culturally sensitive and religiously knowledgeable counseling and support services to Orthodox Jewish survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence. Takanot clinicians are trauma trained and have knowledge of Torah values, religious law and Orthodox Jewish cultural practices. In addition, NYLAG partners with SOVRI, a confidential emotional support helpline for Orthodox Jewish survivors of sexual abuse staffed by trained volunteers. SOVRI is affiliated with Beth Israel hospital. These partnerships all play a critical role in enabling NYLAG to offer comprehensive and holistic services to domestic violence victims to ensure they have the support they need to leave their abusers and begin a new life.

NYLAG's Project Eden and Nedivot are the only programs in the New York City area designed specifically to serve Orthodox Jewish victims of domestic violence. In addition to the partners listed above, NYLAG also provides family law services at Family Justice Centers across New York City, and was recently awarded a contract to provide immigration-related services at four Family Justice Centers across New York City. The FJC's serve as a source of referrals both for Project Eden and NYLAG's other work to represent DV victims and protect their rights in order for them to successfully escape abuse.
8. Could/should your program be replicated in other areas of the country? Why?

Project Eden has already been successfully replicated in Queens, NY through Project Nedivot, and other areas of the country with high Orthodox Jewish populations would certainly benefit from similar programs. Religious practices that dissuade Orthodox Jewish victims of domestic violence from reporting abuses are not unique to New York, and are prevalent within Orthodox communities throughout the country and world. Programs such as Project Eden contribute to a safer community without compromising the religious beliefs of victims who have already suffered immensely at the hands of their abusers. By partnering with local District Attorneys, community based organizations and the Orthodox Jewish community itself, legal services agencies nationwide can help raise awareness about domestic violence in this community, bring abusers to justice, and foster ties that can help religious leaders be proactive in addressing this issue while allowing secular authorities to better protect their constituents.

The program can also be replicated in other religious communities where there is need for culturally sensitivity and non-secular marital relief, such as the Muslim community. NYLAG has been contacted by social service providers in that community and is currently assessing expansion of services to this population.

9. Does your agency have a workplace policy that addresses domestic violence? If so, please include a copy.

NYLAG does have a workplace policy that addresses domestic violence and the following is an excerpt.

"Domestic Violence
Domestic Violence affects the lives and compromises the safety of thousands of New York State employees each day. NYLAG is committed to creating a safe work environment for all employees. If you have a question or concern about domestic violence, please contact one of our trained staff who will provide confidential assistance."

10. Has the agency and/or nominated program received VAWA funding?

Yes
New York Legal Assistance Group

Project Eden

Semi-finalist Information
Marcia Roth, Executive Director
Mary Byron Project
10401 Linn Station Road
Louisville KY 40223

21 October 2015

Dear Ms Roth:

New York Legal Assistance Group's Project Eden is honored to have the opportunity to be considered in the second stage of the Celebrating Solutions and Roth awards. To that end, enclosed are four packets of the required materials.

Documentation of 501(c)(3) status
Project Eden budget from the previous year
General question set
Program specific question set

Thank you for the privilege of participating in the semi-final round of this award process. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,

Beth Goldman
President and Attorney-in-Charge
Employer Identification Number: 13-3505428  
Person to Contact: Mr. Ludlow  
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your July 19, 2011, request for information regarding your tax-exempt status.

Our records indicate that you were recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in November 1989.

Our records also indicate that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are described in section(s) 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Please refer to our website www.irs.gov/eo for information regarding filing requirements. Specifically, section 6033(j) of the Code provides that failure to file an annual information return for three consecutive years results in revocation of tax-exempt status as of the filing due date of the third return for organizations required to file. We will publish a list of organizations whose tax-exempt status was revoked under section 6033(j) of the Code on our website beginning in early 2011.
NEW YORK LEGAL ASSISTANCE GROUP
INCORPORATED
7 HANOVER SQUARE 18TH FLOOR
NEW YORK NY 10004

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Rita A. Leete
Accounts Management II
New York Legal Assistance Group  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personnel</th>
<th>Budgeted</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Director (.05 FTE)-Kim</td>
<td>$ 6,894</td>
<td>$ 6,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervising Attorney (.30 FTE)-Kate Wurmfeld</td>
<td>$ 24,301</td>
<td>$ 25,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Attorney/Coordinator (.50 FTE)-Amira</td>
<td>$ 30,969</td>
<td>$ 32,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Attorney (.20 FTE)-Rotating (use Amira salary)</td>
<td>$ 12,344</td>
<td>$ 12,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Paralegal (0.75 FTE)-Erica Windwer</td>
<td>$ 10,665</td>
<td>$ 19,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative &amp; Program Support</td>
<td>$ 6,941</td>
<td>$ 7,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe</td>
<td>$ 27,173</td>
<td>$ 30,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PERSONNEL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 119,287</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 134,990</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OTPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budgeted</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy</td>
<td>$ 17,406</td>
<td>$ 14,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies &amp; Postage</td>
<td>$ 1,850</td>
<td>$ 2,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Research &amp; Libraries</td>
<td>$ 1,703</td>
<td>$ 1,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>$ 740</td>
<td>$ 443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Liability Insurance</td>
<td>$ 740</td>
<td>$ 878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Travel</td>
<td>$ 644</td>
<td>$ 443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Dues &amp; Fees</td>
<td>$ 592</td>
<td>$ 830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litigation Costs &amp; Filing Fees</td>
<td>$ 370</td>
<td>$ 439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences &amp; Trainings</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Costs</td>
<td>$ 6,296</td>
<td>$ 5,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OTPS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 30,343</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 26,757</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL EXPENSES**

**$ 149,630**  **$ 161,747**

**INCOME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inclusion</th>
<th>Budgeted</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Berg Foundation</td>
<td>$ 75,000</td>
<td>$ 75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYLAG In-Kind Contribution</td>
<td>$ 74,630</td>
<td>$ 86,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 149,630</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 161,747</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Follow Up Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What is the approximate number of individuals served annually by the applicant or nominee?

In the last year, Project Eden provided assistance on more than 100 unique clients with more than 170 cases. These totals include almost 60 new clients and nearly 45 existing clients. This caseload is representative of the typical work completed by Project Eden staff on an annual basis.

2. How many paid staff and volunteers are used to administer the nominated program?

One full-time, paid NYLAG attorney is dedicated to helping domestic violence victims from the Orthodox Jewish community through Project Eden. The Program has also continuously benefitted from 1-2 dedicated law students or post-graduate Fellows, per semester, who identified NYLAG as their agency of choice because of its commitment to the Orthodox community. In addition, there are typically 12-15 students participating in NYLAG's Domestic Violence Clinical Center who also provide support for these cases as needed. Finally, the Program benefits from the work of 1-2 in-house volunteer attorneys at any given time. Meanwhile, various staff at partner social services agencies also dedicate a significant amount of time to providing support to both victims and the attorneys that help them to resolve their legal issues and benefit from the relief available.

3. Are there past awards, accolades, and grants furnished upon the applicant or nominee that would further exemplify its success in combating intimate partner violence?

Kim Susser, the Director of Matrimonial and Family Law at NYLAG—which houses Project Eden—has been honored on multiple occasions for her work with victims of domestic violence. Awards include the Training Institute for Mental Health’s Health Achievement Award for Outstanding and Generous Service in Domestic Violence in NYC; the New York City Bar Association’s Kathryn A. McDonald Award for Excellence in Service to the Family Court; and the Lawyer’s Committee Against Domestic Violence’s In the Trenches Award for Indomitable Courage, Vision, and Dedication to Ending Violence Against Women. Additionally, Lisa Rivera, NYLAG’s Associate Director of Matrimonial and Family Law, was awarded the Courtroom Advocates Project Award for her empowerment of domestic violence victims in 2010.

NYLAG is a recognized leader in family law services, and has also received multiple grants from government entities to continue its work with victims of domestic violence. This includes support from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice Office of Victims of Crime, the New York City Council’s DoVE Initiative, and the New York State Office of Court Administration. NYLAG's work with vulnerable victims of domestic violence has also been acknowledged by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who noted that
“NYLAG has had important successes in the realm of female empowerment,” in commending the agency’s advocacy efforts for women and girls, especially domestic violence victims.

4. If funding were not an issue, what (if any) changes or additions would you make to the nominated program in the future? What are the long term goals for your program? We are interested in hearing both your practical goals in addition to any lofty dreams you might have for the future.

With unlimited funds, we envision hiring additional culturally sensitive attorneys to expand Project Eden to outside of Brooklyn and the five boroughs of New York City. The first step toward this goal was achieved in 2011, when NYLAG launched Project Nedivot to assist Jewish victims of domestic violence in Queens. The Orthodox population, however, continues to expand beyond the traditional communities in New York City, and there is increasing demand for Project Eden’s services in Rockland and other counties beyond the city limits. We also have a long waiting list of clients referred by victims’ services agencies serving the Orthodox community. These agencies are eager to partner with us to help more vulnerable Orthodox women escape abusive marriages. Project Eden constantly seeks new funds in order to realize this vision of expanding the program.

As a first step to facilitate expansion over the long-term, Project Eden specifically seeks to hire a dedicated paralegal/victim advocate. Providing critical support to victims and attorneys, this staff member would ensure that more women can be served in a culturally competent way. This position would combine the roles often played by both Project Eden attorneys and social workers to help victims cope with their abuse, understand their legal options, and take steps through both the Civil and Rabbinical Court to escape their abusers. This staff member would be another advocate for a victim to lean on as she navigates the complex and stressful justice system, and would also expand the capacity of Project Eden, allowing it to take on more cases in a wider geographic area.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

a) Please explain the process for an applicant to become a client of Project Eden. How are clients screened to determine eligibility for services and representation? Is there an income eligibility requirement? Are any fees charged for services or legal representation?

Staff at partner organizations, such as MetCouncil, refer victims of domestic violence to NYLAG via email, phone, and fax. There is no formal application process, but every client goes through the agency’s initial telephone intake process to gather demographic information and history, to help attorneys understand the legal challenges victims face and the nature of the relief they would like to obtain (order of protection, custody, divorce, etc.). The eligibility requirements for these clients are flexible, due to the complex nature of domestic violence matters and the pressing need to help women escape abuse. Thanks to flexible funding, victims do not need to meet strict income guidelines to qualify for assistance, nor must a case be specific to physical abuse. Individual judgements are made by the Director and Associate Director of the Family Law Unit based on risk assessment, including children at risk, complexity of the case, and available resources. No fees are charged for legal assistance.

b) Please provide a copy of the technical manual created in partnership with the King County District Attorney’s Office.
Please see attached. Due to a change in leadership at the King's DA's Office it is not clear how often this document is distributed.

c) Please feel free to briefly share any additional information about your program that may be helpful for our reviewers to know.

The following case example is representative of the holistic services Project Eden provides through a combination of NYLAG’s legal services, pro bono assistance from a private law firm, and a vast web of social services partners.

Sarah is an Orthodox mother of two young children who suffered years of physical and emotional abuse from her husband. When she was eight months pregnant, her husband strangled her, threatening her life and that of the child. She was referred from Met Council to help her obtain an order of protection. With NYLAG's assistance, Sarah obtained a temporary order of protection excluding her husband from the home. Once the Court removed him, Sarah attempted to move back in with the children, only to find that her husband had moved his parents into their residence without her permission. With police assistance, Sarah’s in-laws were forced to leave, at which point they sued her for illegal eviction. NYLAG advocated on her behalf and succeeded in getting the housing case dismissed. In Family Court, Sarah was awarded a final order of protection for five years. NYLAG then helped her obtain a divorce, full custody, and child support. She is finally safe from harm and on the road to building a new life for herself and her family.

d) Please provide copies of any evaluation forms, screening tools, or assessments used to determine client eligibility and danger/lethality risk. Additionally, please include copies of any tools or forms used for safety planning with clients.

The Family Law Unit screens potential clients primarily by phone and a review of court documents. The intake, or screening, includes demographic information, the posture of the legal case, possible relief available, assessing non-legal needs, as well as an assessment of a danger/lethality risk followed by individual safety planning. Almost all Project Eden clients are referred from social service agencies where they are receiving crisis intervention and/or counseling from professionals trained in working with domestic violence victims. While most clients do come to us with a safety plan, their safety plans often need to be adjusted based on circumstances. We do not use a formal assessment tool, such as the Lethality Risk Assessment, produced by the Superior Court of California, or the Lethality Screen for First Responders, produced by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, as these tools are intended for an earlier stage of the process. However, we do assess client danger/lethality risk informally, by asking questions gleaned from these types of formal tools [see below].
Lethality Risk Assessment

Is Your Life in Danger?

The greater the number of indicators below that are present, the greater the likelihood of a life threatening attack. Please complete the assessment and continue to “Domestic Violence: Safety Plan Guidelines”.

☐ Has the abuser threatened to kill you, the children, your relatives or himself or herself?
Prior threats to kill is one of the strongest risk factors consistently linked to homicide.

☐ Has the abuser expressed ideas, dreams or fantasies about killing you, the children, your relatives or himself or herself?
The risk is greater if the abuser is very specific about plans or intended methods.

☐ Has the abuser made more than one threat? Daily? Monthly? What are the threats?

☐ Is there availability of or past use of weapons (guns, knives, etc.)?
Access to a gun or knives is a strong indicator of homicide risk.

☐ Has the abuser ever used hands or an object to choke, strangle or suffocate you?
These are high risk factors for homicide.

☐ Does the abuser have a history of arson or threats of arson?
Increases risk of homicide.

☐ Does the abuser express ownership of you (“You can never leave me”. “If I can’t have you no one else can”. “Death before divorce”)?
Risk of serious assault or homicide is greater.

☐ Does the abuser depend heavily on you; idolize you; isolate you from all other aspects of community life?
Risk of serious assault or homicide is greater.

☐ Has there been separation violence?
Increases risk of serious assault or homicide.

Questions used in the Domestic Violence Lethality Screen for First Responders

This screen is not to be used by any law enforcement agencies or other first responders unless trained in the proper use of the Lethality Assessment Program protocol.

A “yes” response to any of Questions 1-3 automatically triggers the protocol referral.

1. Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?

2. Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children?

3. Do you think he/she might try to kill you?

Negative responses to Questions 1-3, but positive responses to at least four of Questions 4-11, trigger the protocol referral.

4. Does he/she have a gun or can he get one easily?

5. Has he/she ever tried to choke you?

6. Is he/she violent or constantly jealous or does he/she control most of your daily activities?

7. Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married?

8. Is he/she unemployed?

9. Has he/she tried to kill himself?

10. Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers?

11. Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?

An officer may trigger the protocol referral if not already triggered above, as a result of the victim’s response to the below question, or whenever the officer believes the victim is in a potentially lethal situation.

Is there anything else that worries you about your safety? (If “yes”) What worries you?
PROJECT EDEN
EASING DIFFICULT SITUATIONS THROUGH AN EMPOWERING NETWORK OF SERVICES

A RESOURCE MANUAL FOR ORTHODOX WOMEN

PROJECT EDEN
EASING DIFFICULT SITUATIONS THROUGH AN EMPOWERING NETWORK OF SERVICES
(718) 250-2005
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purpose of This Booklet</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You are Not Alone</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Eden</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequently Asked Questions</td>
<td>6-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How We Can Help</td>
<td>10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to Stay Safe</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Domestic Abuse Looks Like</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What to Expect if You Report Abuse to the Police</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequently Used Terms</td>
<td>15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Resources</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

—Rambam, Mishne Torah

"Thus commanded the sages: A man should honor his wife more than his own body and love her like his own body."
Purpose of This Booklet

Domestic violence is prevalent in all communities and religions; Judaism is no exception. Despite our desire to maintain shalom bayis, many Jewish families are affected by spousal abuse and violence. While domestic violence is a difficult topic to address, shalom bayis can only be achieved if the safety and well being of all family members is secured.

“If spouse abuse is identified and properly managed early, there is hope for the survival of the marriage... Allowing abuse to continue by making believe it does not exist is certain to undermine the relationship and eventually lead to its demise.”

- Rabbi Abraham J. Twersky

This booklet is intended for all individuals within Orthodox communities who need answers and resources to help with their current situations.

This booklet will provide information about available services for help, as well as explanations of many legal terms and procedures.

We understand the barriers and stressors that you are going through, and we are here to help.
You are Not Alone

Despite the myths that domestic violence does not exist in Jewish homes, substantial evidence shows that emotional, sexual, physical and financial abuse does in fact occur in Jewish families. Do any of these comments sound familiar?

“He criticizes everything I do as if I can’t do anything right. The children even believe him.”
---Dinah, age 58

“All our money goes straight to his accounts. I have to ask permission even for grocery shopping.”
---Shula, age 44

“Sometimes he throws things at me and yells—but he’s never hurt the children.”
---Rivky, age 36

“He doesn’t approve of my friends, so I’ve stopped staying in touch with them”
---Blima, age 19

“He’s the Chazzan of our Shul. Who would believe that he’s hitting me?”
---Suri, age 51

“I feel so guilty and ashamed for having these problems. I can’t imagine if the community knew.”
---Shulamit, age 40

“Sometimes he makes me violate taharas hamishpacha. I end up feeling impure and uncomfortable.”
---Ilana, age 33

“He won’t let me leave the house without his approval”
---Faygie, age 69

“He’s always very careful to beat me where the bruises won’t show.”
---Malky, age 44

“I’ve talked to my parents about our problems but they keep telling me to just stick it out; that he’ll change.”
---Rachel, age 23
Project Eden bridges the community with the criminal justice system to negotiate the difficult process of reaching Orthodox victims of domestic violence. When considering options for addressing violence in their homes, women in this traditionally isolated community face significant religious, community and cultural pressures, preventing them from accessing services, particularly those of the criminal justice system.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM - Project Eden is a collaborative program of education, training and direct services. Project Eden received generous support from Altria Group, Inc. and was initially funded through the U.S. Department of Justice.

Partner agencies include:

- Kings County District Attorney’s Office
- Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty
- The Shalom Task Force – Confidential Hotline (888-883-2323)
- Ohel Children’s Home & Family Services and Tikvah at Ohel
- New York Legal Assistance Group

DIRECT SERVICES - Project Eden provides a wide network of culturally sensitive services in English, Hebrew, Yiddish and Russian, including:

- crisis intervention
- an Orthodox shelter
- emergency financial assistance
- individual counseling and support groups
- support and advocacy during court proceedings
- job readiness programs
- legal representation
- services for children and teens
Project Eden can assist you in accessing additional resources as well as accompanying you to court for Orders of Protection and other legal matters.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is an Order of Protection?**

An Order of Protection is a document issued by Criminal, Family and Supreme Courts to help protect you from harassment, abuse and other actions by another individual. In an Order of Protection, a Judge can set certain limits on your partner’s behavior and

- order your partner to stop abusing you and your children;
- tell your partner to leave and stay away from your home, your workplace, and your family;
- direct your partner to have no contact with you; including no phone calls, letters, or messages through other people; and
- order your partner to stay away from the children, their babysitter, day care, or school.

Once an order is issued, only a Judge may change it but it is subject to the Judge’s discretion. You may obtain Orders of Protection in Family Court, Criminal Court or both.

**Family Court**

Filing for an Order of Protection in Family Court is a civil procedure. Please be aware that the process of obtaining an Order of Protection can be an all-day process.

**Who is Eligible to Get an Order of Protection in Family Court?**

You can file for an Order of Protection in Family Court if you are legally married to, divorced from, dated, or otherwise related to your abuser, or if you have a child in common with your abuser. You do not need to be related to your abuser by marriage or blood.

**Where Do I Go to File for an Order of Protection in Family Court?**

To file for an Order of Protection you must go to the Petition Room on the 6th floor of Brooklyn Family Court which is located at 330 Jay Street. The Petition Room is open between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. You can also go to The Safe Horizon Office on the 12th floor for
assistance. (In different counties, it is the same procedure of going to the petition room, but the floor differs in each courthouse.)

What Happens Once I Arrive at the Petition Room?
Once you arrive at the Petition Room, you must state that a “family offense” has occurred. A person commits a family offense when he/she verbally, physically, emotionally, sexually, abuses you or threatens to hurt you. You will then be given a form to fill out. The form will ask you to include the most recent incident, the first incident, and the worst incident. Make sure you describe when each incident occurred, where it occurred, what happened, whether you were injured and whether the incident made you feel afraid. Then you will see a clerk who will type out the petition based on the information you wrote on your form. The petition must contain your relationship to the abuser, called the “respondent”, and the incidents of abuse or threats of harm. The clerk may not prevent you from filing a petition, nor discourage you from filing the petition.

Please note that there are no filing fees in Family Court.

When Will I See the Judge?
After the clerk drafts the petition, you will wait to see a Judge on the second floor. The Judge will review the petition and determine whether there is good cause to issue you a temporary order of protection. The Judge will order a summons to serve on the respondent and a date to come back.

How Can Family Court Help Me Get Custody, Visitation, and Child Support?

Family Court judges can decide issues related to custody, visitation, and child support.

**Custody:** To have custody means to be in charge of someone. There are two kinds of custody: joint and full. In Family Court, joint custody usually refers to joint legal custody. It means that both parents must agree on the important decisions being made about their children. They share this responsibility regardless of which parent lives with the children. The court rarely grants joint physical custody. Usually one parent will have physical custody, and the other parent will have visitation.

**Visitation:** Visitation means you can see your child during certain times. The court may order visitation for either parent as part of the Order of Protection. The court can
specify times for the visits and safe places to exchange the child, such as a police precinct or friend’s home. If necessary, the court can order supervised visits. The visitation order will last only as long as the Order of Protection. Either parent may file a separate petition for visitation at any time. However, the court may direct that a separate petition be filed to determine this issue.

**Child Support:** When parents live separately and one parent has custody of the child, that parent, called the "custodial parent", may file a petition in Family Court asking the court to enter an order for the "non-custodial parent" to pay child support. The court can order parents to pay a minimum of $25 a month in child support or much more, depending on the parents’ financial situation.

**Am I Entitled to an Attorney?**

Both parties in family offense cases are entitled to court-appointed attorneys if they cannot afford to retain an attorney. Only the Judge can decide if you qualify for an attorney. You will need to bring proof of your income. The Judge may not appoint an attorney unless you ask for one. You can ask for one at any time. You can also try to find an attorney on your own.

Project Eden can assist you in obtaining an attorney and other legal services through our partner agency, the New York Legal Assistance Group.

**Criminal Court**

**Who is Eligible to Get an Order of Protection in Criminal Court?**

Any victim of domestic violence, whether or not is actually related to the abuser may get an Order of Protection in Criminal Court.

**How Do I Get an Order of Protection in Criminal Court?**

An Order of Protection can only be issued after criminal charges are filed against the abuser. The person charged with abuse is called a “defendant.” The victim of abuse is called the “complaining witness.” The reason a case is filed in Criminal Court is to criminally prosecute a batterer. As part of this process, the Court will issue an Order of Protection while the case is open and when the case terminates, either through a guilty plea or if convicted through trial.
Please note: Cases in Criminal Court are prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office, not by crime victims. A case will read The People of the State of New York against John Doe. In such a case, you would be considered a witness for the prosecution and not a party to the action.

What Types of Orders of Protection Are Available?

1. Limited Order of Protection (LOOP): A Limited Order of Protection is an order that forbids a person from abusing, harassing or threatening another person.

2. Full Order of Protection (FOOP): A Full Order of Protection is a full stay away order that forbids contact by phone, mail, email, text, etc. or being in the presence of a specific person for a specified period of time.

How Long Does an Order of Protection Last For?

In Family Court, a final Order of Protection usually lasts for two years but depends on the offense committed. If you show aggravating circumstances, you may be able to get a five year Order of Protection. Aggravating circumstances include physical injury, use of a weapon, a repeated history of violations of prior OP’s, or the exposure of any family or household member to physical injury.

What If I Decide Not to Pursue the Order of Protection?

If you decide not to pursue the Order of Protection filed in Family Court, you may wish to come back to court or send a letter asking that your petition be withdrawn "without prejudice." This means that if you change your mind, and wish to re-file at a later date, you can raise the same allegations again in a new petition. You can always come back to court if a new incident occurs.

What Happens if the Order of Protection is Violated?

It is a crime to violate an Order of Protection. If the abuser does not obey the order, then you can call the police. The police should arrest the respondent for violating the Order of Protection. You also have the right to file a violation of the order in Family Court. Filing a violation in Family Court may not necessarily result in arrest of the respondent. You can choose to go to Family Court, Criminal Court, or both.

What is the Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Court?

Integrated Domestic Violence Courts help families by bringing different case types—criminal, family and matrimonial (divorce)—together to be heard by one judge. This
court uses the “one family - one judge” approach for cases that involve domestic violence within a family. The judge decides which cases are appropriate for the IDV Court.

(If you need further assistance, please call Project Eden at (718) 250-2005.)

How We Can Help

Project Eden.................................................................(718) 250-2005

Culturally sensitive support, assistance and advocacy for domestic violence victims on criminal justice issues including orders of protection in family court and criminal court. Services also include crisis intervention, safety planning and referrals.

Project Eden can also assist you in accessing additional resources, including those listed below.

Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty.............................................(212) 453-9618

Offers immediate short-term assistance to domestic violence victims including emergency financial and rental assistance, shelter referrals, food and clothing. Long-term counseling, support groups and job development services are also available.

Ohel Children’s Home and Family Services.............................(718) 851-6300

Provides short and long-term therapy, crisis intervention and advocacy services for women and their families experiencing marital conflict, emotional problems, abuse and neglect. Ohel also operates a confidential domestic violence shelter.

Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services............................(718) 435-5700

Assessment and treatment of children, adults and families who have experienced abuse. Education, advocacy, referrals and support groups around issues of trauma. Male and female clinicians fluent in Yiddish and Hebrew.

Shalom Task Force..........................................................(888) 883-2323

Helps women and families struggling with troubled relationships at home, to sensitize our communities so that a woman can feel less ashamed to ask for help, and to offer professional guidance and pointers to Rabbis who may be approached for advice by someone in a complex and possibly dangerous situation.
New York Legal Assistance Group..............................................(212) 613-5000

NYLAG provides culturally competent legal advice and/or representation to Orthodox victims of domestic in matrimonial, custody and support matters. Hebrew-speaking attorneys are available.

Safe Horizon 24-Hour Hotline..............................................(800)-621-HOPE (4673)

24 hour domestic violence hotline provides domestic violence counseling, safety planning services and referrals to domestic violence shelters.

New York City Family Justice Center.................................350 Jay Street, 15th Floor
Brooklyn, New York 11201
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Family Justice Center (FJC) is a walk-in center that allows victims of domestic violence to access comprehensive services by placing dedicated domestic violence prosecutors, police, counselors, civil lawyers, and other service providers in the same location.

For Further Assistance and Resources:

Police Emergency Dial.................................................................911

Hatzala.................................................................(718) 230-1000

New York City Information Services......................................311

Family Violence Hotline......................................................(718) 237-1337

Kings County District Attorney’s Office Domestic Violence Bureau..............................................................(718) 250-3300

Victim Information Notification..............................................(888) VINE-4NY
VINE is a 24 hour automated hotline that provides victims with the release date of inmates who are in custody of the New York City or State Department of Corrections prison system
New York State Unified Court
System........................................................................................................http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/nyc

"Do not stand idly by while your neighbor's blood is being spilled"
- Leviticus 19:16

How to Stay Safe

Safety planning is very important after you get an Order of Protection. These steps may help you stay safe:

- Decide whether it is safe to return home or whether you should go to a shelter or other safe place.
- Have important phone numbers available for yourself and for your children, including police- 911, Hatzala- (718) 230-1000, 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline- (800) 621-4673, and friends or relatives.
- Consider changing the locks to your home or apartment and getting locks for the windows. Safe Horizon, Project Safe will change your locks for free: (212) 406-3010.
- Keep a copy of your Order of Protection with you at all times. File a copy with the police precinct, children's yeshiva, babysitter, and neighbor.
- Avoid going out alone.
- Tell child care providers and school officials the names of the people who have permission to pick up your children. Instruct them not to release the children to anyone else.
- If the abuser violates the Order of Protection call the police immediately.
- Ask neighbors to call the police if they see the abuser near your home of if they hear any suspicious activity coming from your apartment.
- Plan an escape route out of your home in case of an emergency and teach it to your children.
- Pack a bag with important things you would need if you had to leave in a hurry and put it in a safe place. Include:
  - cash
  - ATM card
  - check book
  - car and house keys
  - social security cards
  - birth certificates
  - driver's license
  - passport or green card
  - work permit
  - welfare ID
  - medication
  - police reports
  - a change of clothing
  - a favorite toy for each child
- You should consider getting an unlisted telephone number and use an answering machine or caller ID to screen your calls.
- Change your regular travel habits and shop and bank at different places.
“A man should not project excessive fear in his household”
- Gittin 6b

What Does Domestic Violence Look Like?

There is no single pattern of abuse and often times there is a combination of physical, emotional, psychological, financial or sexual abuse. It often involves attempts by one partner to control the other partner’s behaviors, thoughts and emotions.

**Emotional Abuse**
- Criticizing or insulting constantly
- Belittling someone’s abilities
- Making someone feel inadequate as a parent
- Making threats
- Ridiculing and calling someone names
- Isolating someone from friends and family
- Putting someone in fear using looks, actions, gestures, or loud voices
- Using children to relay abusive messages
- Breaking promises
- Forcing someone break the Halachos of Judaism, including Kashrus and Shabbos.

**Financial Abuse**
- Withholding money and access to money
- Requiring accountability for all money spent
- Making someone beg for money, even for food and groceries
- Preventing someone from working or taking away someone’s salary

**Physical Abuse**
- Inflicting bodily harm upon someone by:
  - hitting or slapping
  - kicking or punching
  - pushing or shoving
  - throwing objects
  - pulling hair
  - twisting arms
  - tripping
- Refusing to provide medical assistance to someone
- Abandoning someone in a deserted or dangerous place
Sexual Abuse

Contrary to what many people believe, sexual abuse can be present in marriage. Statistics have shown that 10-14% of all married women have been raped by their husbands. Forcing someone to have marital relations or making her violate Jewish laws of taharas hamishpacha is a sign of sexual abuse.

What to Expect If You Report Abuse to the Police

Step 1: Calling the Police

If you call the police and report an incident of abuse, the police will come and they may arrest your partner or issue a desk appearance ticket, which will require your partner to appear in court at a later date. If an arrest is made, they will bring your partner to the police station/precinct for booking (taking fingerprints and photographs of your partner), and to prepare for the first court proceeding called “arraignment.”

Step 2: Arraignment

At arraignment, several things may happen:

- Your partner, now called the “defendant,” is informed of the charges against him
- A bail argument is made to decide how much money the defendant has to pay to the court in exchange for release from jail
- The defendant may have an attorney assigned to him
- An order of protection may be issued
- The defendant will be given a date to return to court
- The case may be assigned to an Assistant District Attorney (ADA). An ADA is an attorney who represents the state of New York though the District Attorney’s office in the criminal court case. The ADA does not represent you personally.

It is important to plan for your safety because your partner may try to contact you if he is released from jail. You should assume that he could be released any time after an arrest. For information about whether your partner is released from jail, you should register with VINE by calling (888) VINE-4NY.

Step 3: Meeting with the District Attorney’s Office

After the arraignment, you will be contacted by the District Attorney’s office, most likely by someone from Project Eden who is familiar with the Jewish community. You will be asked to come to the office, located at 350 Jay Street to talk about what happened, ask any questions that you have, and be connected with a web of services including support,
Conviction: A finding of guilt of an offense, following either a guilty plea or a trial verdict.

Corroborating Affidavit (corrob)/Supporting Deposition: Sworn statement by the witness (es) that the incident described in the District Attorney’s complaint/accusatory instrument is accurate.

Cross Complaint (x-complaint): When both parties accuse each other at time and place of occurrence (TPO) and both are arrested.

Cross-Examination: Questioning of a witness by the lawyer who has not called the witness.

Defendant: A person who has been charged with an offense.

Desk Appearance Ticket (DAT): A document that charges a person with a violation. The ticket requires one’s appearance at a specific court at a specified time.

Domestic Violence (DV): Any form of intimate partner violence.

Felony: An offense which is punishable by a sentence of imprisonment of more than one year.

Grand Jury: A group of citizens who decide if the prosecutor has enough evidence to pursue felony charges against a person. In Brooklyn, grand jury is located on the 16th floor of the Supreme Court building.

Hearing: A court proceeding where testimony is given, exhibits are reviewed, and/or legal arguments are made, to help a judge decide an issue in a case.

Indictment: A document that contains the felony (and perhaps also misdemeanor) charges that were voted by the grand jury.

Misdemeanor: An offense punishable by up to one year in jail.

Mistrial: A decision by a judge to end a trial before a verdict is reached.

Order of Protection (OOP): A court order that forbids a person from certain actions in the presence of a specific person – there are two types: Limited Order of Protection (LOOP) and Full Order of Protection (FOOP). LOOP is an order that forbids a person from abusing, harassing or threatening another person. FOOP is a full stay away order that forbids contact (by phone, mail/email, text etc.) or being in the presence of a specific person for a specified period of time. In addition, a Temporary Order of Protection is a court order that is issued from court date to court date until the case ends. If the case is dismissed there is no further Order or Protection. If the defendant is found or pleads guilty, a final Order of Protection is issued at sentencing.

Petitioner: In Family Court, a person asking for an Order of Protection.
**Plea Bargain:** An agreement between a defendant, a judge, and a prosecutor, in which the defendant admits guilt, usually in exchange for a promise that a particular sentence will be imposed.

**Post Bail:** Pay bail.

**Probation:** A sentence that does not involve prison, but requires compliance with certain conditions for a specified period of time under the supervision of the department of probation.

**Prosecutor:** A lawyer who represents the government in criminal cases (also known as the Assistant District Attorney or ADA, the people, or the prosecution).

**Rap Sheet (Fingerprint Report):** A summary of a defendant's prior and/or currently pending arrests and convictions.

**Remand or Remanded to Custody:** To be sent to jail without bail/bond.

**Respondent:** A person a petitioner wants an Order of Protection against. In a criminal court, that person is called a defendant.

**Rosario:** Rosario material includes any recorded (audio/video/written) statements/communication by a witness who will testify at trial. The prosecution is required to turn over all prior recorded statements of their witnesses.

**Release on Own Recognizance (ROR):** To be released from jail without bail while a case is pending.

**Reduce to Criminal Court (RTCC):** When a felony case is reduced to a misdemeanor case.

**Sentence:** A punishment imposed by a judge following a conviction.

**Sentencing:** A court proceeding at which a sentence is imposed.

**Supreme Court:** The court where cases involving felonies are heard. King's (Brooklyn) Supreme Court is located at 330 Jay Street. Part 4/part DV/felony court refers to the felony domestic violence courtroom on the 15th floor. The Integrated Domestic Violence court parts (IDV1 and IDV2) are located on the 18th floor.

**Surcharge:** A payment of money that is required upon conviction.

**Sworn Oath:** A promise to tell the truth. If one cannot “swear” for religious reasons, one can “affirm.”

**Testify (Testimony):** To speak under oath.
Trial: A court proceeding at which a judge or jury decides whether a person is guilty or not guilty of the charges against him or her.

Vacate: To cancel a court order. A vacated court order has no legal effect.

Verdict: The trial judge or jury's decision as to whether a person is guilty or not guilty of charged offenses.

Violation: An offense punishable by up to fifteen days in jail and/or a fine.

Waive: To give up a legal right.

Personalized Resources

Name: ___________________________ Agency: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________ 

Phone: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________

Name: ___________________________ Agency: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________ 

Phone: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________

Name: ___________________________ Agency: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________ 

Phone: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________

Name: ___________________________ Agency: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________ 

Phone: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________
References

4. New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence http://www.opdv.state.ny.us
5. New York State Unified Court System: http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/nyc

Acknowledgments
This publication was written by the Kings County District Attorney's Office through a collaborative effort. Information, research, and editorial assistance were provided by:
Kings County District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Bureau; New York City Family Justice Center; New York Legal Assistance Group; Kings County District Attorney's Office Project Eden; New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence; New York Unified Court System

Kings County District Attorney's Office
350 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Eden</th>
<th>New York City Family Justice Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kings County District Attorney's Office</td>
<td>Kings County District Attorney's Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350 Jay Street 19th Floor</td>
<td>350 Jay Street, 15th Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn, NY 11201</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY 11201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Information: (718) 250-2005
General Information: (718) 250-5111
Hours: Monday - Friday
Spaces: Monday - Friday
Parking:
Municipal parking lot located on Atlantic Avenue
Subway:
A, C, F to Jay Street
2, 3, 4, 5 to Borough Hall
M, R to Lawrence Street
Bus:
B25, B26, B38, B51, B54, B57, B61, B65, B67, B75

New York City Family Court
330 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New York City Criminal Court</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

General Information: (347) 401-9600
Fax Number: (347) 401-9609
Hours: Monday & Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.,
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Parking:
Municipal parking lot located on Atlantic Avenue
Subway:
A, C, F to Jay Street
2, 3, 4, 5 to Borough Hall
6 to Hoyt Street/Schermerhorn Street
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Information:</th>
<th>(347) 404-9400</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fax Number:</td>
<td>(718) 643-7733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours:</td>
<td>Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking:</td>
<td>Municipal parking lot located on Atlantic Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subway:</td>
<td>M, N, R to Court Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A, C, F to Jay Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2, 3, 4, 5 to Borough Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 to Hoyt Street/Schermerhorn Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You do not need to go to court alone. Project Eden is here to support you and can accompany you through the court procedures as well as provide you with additional resources and services.