

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is a pattern of intentional behavior that includes physical violence, stalking, coercion, threats, intimidation, isolation, psychological attacks, and emotional, sexual, and economic abuse. Domestic violence is often used as a way for one person to control another. Anyone can be a victim.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse and you would like to speak with someone confidentially call:

**NEBRASKA
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SEXUAL ASSAULT
CRISIS LINE
1-800-876-6238**

Outside Nebraska
**NATIONAL DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE HOTLINE
1-800-799-7233**

**Help is
available!**

Nebraska Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Coalition

1000 "O" Street, Suite 102
Lincoln, NE 68508
402.476.6256

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest

941 O Street, Suite 920
Lincoln, NE 68508
402.438.8853
Toll Free: 1.800.845.3746
Fax: 402.438.0263
Email: info@neappleseed.org
www.neappleseed.org

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*Understanding
Your Rights
in the
Welfare System*

**WELFARE,
CHILD SUPPORT
& DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**
Options & Information

To contact
Nebraska Appleseed's
Intake Line, call:

438-8853 ext. 105
(in Lincoln)

1-800-845-3746 ext. 105
(outside Lincoln)

**CORE VALUES
COMMON GROUND
EQUAL JUSTICE**



WELFARE ASSISTANCE

What is Employment First?

Employment First is a part of Nebraska's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program (also known as Aid to Dependent Children or ADC.) It can help you and your family make a new start. If you qualify, you could get child care, job training, health care, and other kinds of help. Every person who applies is asked these questions:

1. Have you been hurt, threatened, or intimidated by someone within the past year?
2. Do you feel safe in your current relationship?
3. During the past year, did a partner, spouse, or relative try to control you by keeping you from going to work or looking for a job?
4. During the past year, did a partner, spouse, or relative try to prevent you from spending money, getting a bank account or credit card, looking for a new place to live, or making important decisions about your life?
5. Would you be interested in more information or talking to someone about your relationship with your spouse or partner?

What happens if I talk about domestic violence?

If your answers to these questions show experience with domestic violence, you may be eligible for the Family Violence Option, which provides special options under the Employment First program. If your answers to these questions change *at any time*, consider contacting your caseworker.

THE FAMILY VIOLENCE OPTION

How do I apply?

To apply for Employment First, contact the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services at (402) 471-9325.

What is the Family Violence Option?

If you decide to apply for Employment First, you should know about the Family Violence Option. This option allows victims of domestic violence to receive a temporary exemption to time limits and work requirements. The exemption can last up to six months and can be renewed at a later date. You might qualify:

- If fulfilling a requirement (such as working) places you at risk of further abuse.
- If a requirement would make it more difficult for you to escape a domestic violence situation.
- If, as a victim of domestic violence, a requirement would penalize you unfairly (for example, you may not be required to meet the residency requirement if you are fleeing from an abusive situation.)

What if I think I qualify?

You have the right to ask your caseworker about the Family Violence Option at any time, even if you are getting benefits now. You will be asked to do a domestic violence assessment. Your caseworker may help you with it or may refer you to another agency. You are also entitled to a referral to counseling and other services. *Your caseworker is required to keep your information confidential.* If you feel that you have not been treated fairly, contact the Nebraska Appleseed Center at 1-800-845-3746.

CHILD SUPPORT

Do I have to try to get child support ?

If you apply for welfare assistance and you have children you will be asked to try to get child support. *If you get welfare or child support the other parent may try to get visitation or custody rights.* This could be dangerous for you if you have experienced domestic violence. Because of this, you may want to ask about the Good Cause Waiver.

What is the Good Cause Waiver?

The Good Cause Waiver allows you to get welfare assistance without trying to get child support payments. You may be able to get a Good Cause Waiver if you believe that trying to get child support could be dangerous for you or your child. You have the right to ask your caseworker or Child Support Enforcement for a Good Cause Waiver.

How will my information be used?

The Department of Health and Human Services may use information about your child's parent for other purposes. You have the right to ask that your information be kept confidential if you believe that you or your children are in danger *for any reason*. If you feel that you have not been treated fairly, contact the Nebraska Appleseed Center at 1-800-845-3746.

How do I apply?

To apply for child support or to ask questions, contact the Child Support Enforcement Call Center at 1-877-631-9973.