

Resources

Prosecution



Victim Services



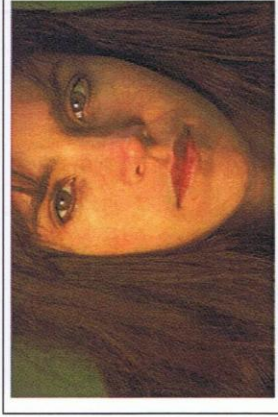
Malone – 483-1261
Saranac Lake – 891-2612
Tupper Lake – 359-9020



St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
358-4406

**Franklin County Domestic Violence
Task Force**

Franklin County District Attorney's Office



Domestic Violence Victims

Rights

Charges

Resources

Our Mission

Our mission is to end violence, protect victims of violence, hold batterers accountable and make referrals to local domestic violence intervention programs for long-term victim support.

Domestic violence is a crime.

It is a pattern of controlling and forceful behavior that can involve physical, sexual, economic, emotional and psychological abuse.

The District Attorney's Office reviews cases for prosecution based upon two standards: the "Independent Corroboration" Standard and the "Victim Participation" Standard.

Independent Corroboration (evidence gained by other sources) may include:
Documented injuries

Signs or symptoms of strangulation
Witnesses who saw the actual crime
Witnesses who heard noises

indicating domestic violence
911 tape with victim/witness/suspect statement

Physical Evidence
Admission by the defendant

Your Rights

The right to tell your story
The Victim Impact Statement gives you an opportunity to state your version of the offense: What ways have you suffered? (physically, emotionally, financially)

The right to tell the facts of your story

The Victim Participation Standard gives you an opportunity to testify under oath regarding the charges described in the police report.

Under the Victim Participation Standard you will be contacted by telephone or by mail and asked to complete an interview form with a victim/witness staff member and/or investigator in order to provide the District Attorney's Office with background information relating to the alleged incident.

The right to victim assistance
ComLinks Domestic Violence Intervention Program and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's STOP DV Program are available for victim assistance.

The right to possible compensation
The NYS Crime Victims Board can pay for loss of property, injury or medical expenses resulting from a crime.

The Charges

The District Attorney's Office is responsible for the legal charges in any domestic violence case.

Once a case is submitted to the District Attorney's Office you cannot change or drop the charges.

Victims will be informed of the status of the case and their input will be sought. The decision to proceed with a case is the responsibility of law enforcement or the District Attorney's Office.

Charges may be filed without your participation if there is enough independent evidence to prove the case.

Once formal charges are filed in a domestic violence case, the District Attorney's Office will not move to dismiss the charges. A case will only be dismissed if there is no reasonable likelihood of conviction.

The District Attorney will not offer to reduce a domestic violence charge to a lesser offense.