

Legal

Our legal department examines the impact of the legal system and legal processes on domestic violence victims. The Director of the Legal Department, the Immigration and Poverty Law Attorney and legal interns conduct research, produce materials, provide technical assistance and conduct trainings to assist advocates and legal professionals. The legal department produces a legal manual, written for Wisconsin domestic violence programs.

On an annual basis, members of the legal department provide trainings on restraining orders, family law, economic advocacy and immigration law to member programs. In addition, statewide trainings are provided as requested or needed to members of the legal profession such as probation agents, judges, circuit court commissioners, attorneys, prosecutors, defense attorneys, clerks of court and victim/witness personnel.

Members of the legal department engage in systems advocacy on many topics, which vary from year-to-year. However, issues pertaining to restraining orders are an ongoing part of systems advocacy.

We also manage a legal fund to provide financial support with legal fees for victims of domestic violence. These funds are available to domestic violence programs only, who can apply for a small amount of funds on behalf of a victim seeking legal representation.

We engage in collaborative work with many outside agencies. The legal department offers a law school externship program which allows law school and paralegal students to work here, providing assistance with research and the creation of materials for the Legal Manual. There are no funds available for the services provided by students or attorney volunteers.

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