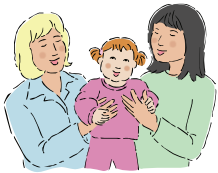


DID YOU KNOW?

Under Florida's **Family Violence Option**, a victim of **domestic violence** may be entitled to certain rights, benefits or exemptions when seeking cash assistance, Medicaid or Food Stamps from the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

You may be entitled to the following:

- Temporary deferral from work activities
- Information and referral for counseling and treatment
- Exemption from penalties if you are unable to cooperate with the efforts of child support enforcement
- Exemption from the "cap" requirement (sex crime victims only)
- Relocation assistance
- Protection of your confidential and personal information
- An extension of the 4-year limit on receiving benefits



To receive cash assistance, you may be required to do the following:

- Participate in a work activity or an alternate plan
- Participate in counseling and/or treatment
- Develop a safety plan
- Develop a plan to achieve self-sufficiency
- Cooperate with child support enforcement

You may be exempt from these requirements if

- a) Good cause can be shown for not having to abide by the requirements
- b) these requirements may place you or your family members at increased risk of abuse or injury.

To be eligible for assistance, the following must apply to you:

- You must be a U.S. citizen or a qualified non-citizen
- You must apply for protection under the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA")
- You must be a legal resident of the State of Florida
- You must have a minor child
- You must meet the income resource guideline

If you do not receive cash assistance, you may be eligible for other services if you fall in one of these categories:

- You are defined as "needy"
- You are below 200% of the poverty guideline
- *And* you are a survivor of domestic violence

You may be entitled to relocation assistance to escape the abuse and/or take you to a place with greater opportunity for self-sufficiency

If you apply for benefits at DCF and you are not informed or afforded these rights, benefits or exemptions, and you feel that you were unfairly treated, contact Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. at one of the numbers listed on the back of this brochure.

STATE POLICIES

Section 414.065(4)(b) allows domestic violence victims an exemption from work requirements if their safety is threatened.

Section 414.065(4)(c) may allow an exemption for victims of domestic violence if the participant is unable to comply with work requirements due to mental or physical impairment caused by past occurrences of domestic violence.

Section 414.095(10)(g) informs domestic violence victims of their right to receive information about counseling and support services available to them as well as protecting confidentiality of information related to their case.

Section 414.095(15)(d) provides that failure to comply with Child Support Enforcement (CSE) disclosure requirement (e.g., provide the name of child's other parent so child support can be assigned and collected) is excused when such cooperation would put the victim at risk.

Section 414.105(5) allows a domestic violence victim to be considered for an extension of time limits based on hardship.

Section 414.157 provides for diversion services including a one-time payment of up to \$1,000 for domestic violence victims.

Section 445.021 provides funds for relocation if domestic violence interferes with the ability of a parent to become self-sufficient.

About Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida (CLSMF)

The mission of CLSMF is to provide access to justice through high quality legal assistance to low-income persons.

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. provides free legal assistance to eligible low-income persons in civil matters (we do not provide legal assistance in criminal or traffic matters).

CLSMF provides community education seminars and detailed informational brochures on the major areas of law we practice. Please see the back of this brochure for a complete listing of offices.



The Florida Bar Foundation, with *Interest on Trust Accounts* program funding, provides support for this service.



This brochure is a publication of the Public Benefits Unit of Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc. This information is for general education only and is not intended to be used to solve individual problems, nor does it replace the advice of an attorney. The law which supports conclusions contained herein is subject to change.

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida Offices:

***BREVARD: 1-866-469-7444**

CITRUS & SUMTER
106 N. Osceola Ave., Inverness, FL 34450
(352) 726-6592 – CITRUS
1-800-984-2918 – SUMTER

FLAGLER: 1-800-405-1417

HERNANDO: 1-866-801-5566

LAKE – (352) 343-6351
226 West Main St., Tavares, FL 32778

MARION – (352) 629-6257
2300 SE 17th St. Suite 201
Ocala, FL 34471

***ORANGE – (407) 841-7777**
122 E. Colonial Drive, Suite 200
Orlando, FL 32801

OSCEOLA – (407) 933-1791
800 North Main St., Kissimmee, FL 34744

PUTNAM: (386) 385-0928
216 S. 6th Street, Palatka, FL 32177

***SEMINOLE: (407) 322-6673**

VOLUSIA – (386) 258-5600
128 Orange Ave., Suite 100,
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
Client toll-free number: 1-800-363-2357

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:
(386) 506-5396

info@clsmf.org
www.clsmf.org

***Offices currently not offering Family Law services**



Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OPTION



for
Temporary Cash Assistance Recipients