

# GETTING HELP FROM A FAMILY COURT SUPPORT WORKER

If you are a woman who is experiencing domestic violence and in the process of going through the family court system, you can get **free help from a family court support worker.**

**You don't need to provide any documents to prove abuse in order to use these services.** All services are confidential and available in English, French and other languages if you ask for it.

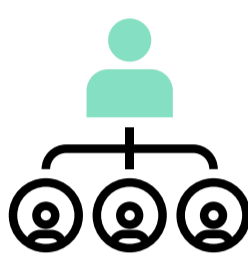
## The program recognizes the unique needs of:

- Francophone and First Nation, Métis and Inuit women
- women with disabilities
- immigrant women
- lesbian and transgender women
- women who are more comfortable communicating in a language other than English or French

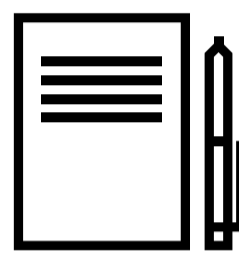
## WHAT DOES A FAMILY COURT SUPPORT WORKER DO?



Provides information about the family court process



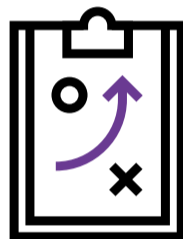
Refers you to other community services and supports, such as lawyers or Legal Aid Ontario



Helps you document the abuse you have experienced



Helps you prepare for proceedings



Helps you make a safety plan, such as getting to and from the court safely



If appropriate, accompanies you to court proceedings

## THE GROWING DEMAND FOR FAMILY COURT SUPPORT WORKERS

According to data published in 2015 by the Ministry of the Attorney General:

	2011/12	2012/13
Number of clients served	2,025	7,869
Number of times information about family court was provided	2,285	9,260
Number of safety plans developed	1,285	5,056
Number of times assistance with legal aid applications was provided	583	2,620
Number of referrals provided to clients for other services	3,717	13,205

## HOW DO I GET HELP FROM A FAMILY COURT SUPPORT WORKER?

These workers are available across the province. You can find a service provider in your community by visiting the Ministry of the Attorney General's Family Court Support Worker Program page: [www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/ovss/family\\_court\\_support\\_worker\\_program/](http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/ovss/family_court_support_worker_program/)

If you have questions or need help finding your service provider, please call the Victim Support Line toll-free at **1-888-579-2888**.

**Family court support workers don't offer legal advice and their help isn't intended to replace advice from a lawyer.**

## SOURCES

Family Court Support Worker Program. Ministry of the Attorney General. [https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/ovss/family\\_court\\_support\\_worker\\_program/service\\_providers.php](https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/ovss/family_court_support_worker_program/service_providers.php)

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Family Court Support Program. Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic. <http://schliferclinic.com/help/help-from-a-lawyer/family-court-support/>

Family Court Support Workers. Luke's Place. <http://lukesplace.ca/for-service-providers/toolkits-papers-presentations/family-court-support/>

Domestic Violence Family Court Support Workers Program. Ontario Women's Justice Network. [http://owjn.org/owjn\\_2009/legal-information/understanding-the-legal-system/344-domestic-violence-family-court-support-workers-program](http://owjn.org/owjn_2009/legal-information/understanding-the-legal-system/344-domestic-violence-family-court-support-workers-program)

Police-reported family violence: Statistics Canada, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey 2014 <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2016001-eng.htm>

Self-reported spousal violence: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey on Victimization, 2014 <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2016001-eng.htm>



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