

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FUNDING OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMUNITY HUBS

Community advocates have noted that a person experiencing domestic violence may have to visit more than ten different community agencies before arranging to leave an abusive relationship. For this reason, LAO has been working with other community agencies to develop “service hubs” in which several groups join forces to offer a range of services in one location. In 2014, LAO forged a partnership with Luke’s Place in Oshawa, to offer legal assistance to women experiencing domestic violence. Moving forward, LAO will partner with other community-based organizations to offer legal supports in other parts of the province.

COVERAGE FOR FIRST-TIME ACCUSED EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In some cases, people experiencing domestic violence are charged with assault while attempting to defend themselves. Until now, these people have not had access to legal aid certificates, as the charges don’t generally result in incarceration. However, the criminal charges can have devastating impacts on the person’s family court case, especially custody and access, as well as on any child-protection proceeding.

Under the new expanded eligibility program, LAO can now issue a certificate to a financially eligible adult accused with no prior criminal record, if the accused is a victim of domestic violence charged with an offence related to the violent partner.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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For more information call Legal Aid Ontario at **1-800-668-8258** or visit www.legalaid.on.ca