

STOPDV Newsletter



Summer 2024

What Is StopDV?

STOPDV is the first domestic violence specialty court in Arkansas that provides not only court advocacy, safety planning, and support to domestic violence survivors, but also free legal services such as representation for eligible petitioners in active order of protection hearings in Faulkner County. Based in Conway, Arkansas, STOPDV was initially funded on October 1st, 2019. We eagerly serve clients in person or via telephone, email or Zoom from the Faulkner County Justice Building, where we primarily operate as a fully functioning court project.

Our Story

STOPDV was initially founded over twenty years ago by Judge H.G. Foster. While working as a deputy prosecuting attorney, Judge Foster realized that there was a need in the community to help underserved victims. Thus, STOPDV was born, with our name being credited to Judge Reynolds. Our board consists of a senator, county administrator, city council member, Justice of the Peace, legal counsel for the state of Arkansas, and other community members who are committed to helping survivors of domestic violence. Over the last three years, we have been able to assist thousands of clients in Faulkner County, and we look forward to serving our community in the years to come.

Connect with Us!



@stopdvproject



@Stop DV



www.wecanstopdv.org

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence (DV) is a pattern of physical, psychological, or sexual abuse, including threats, intimidation, isolation, and/or economic coercion. DV is used by one person to exert power and control over another in the context of a dating, family, or household relationship.

What's Happening?



Candlelight Vigil

Save the date for annual candlelight vigil, September 18, 2024! We will be hosting an open house at our location in the Faulkner County Justice Building to commemorate five years serving our community. We will have snacks and merchandise available. The open house will be from 1-4pm.

Later that evening, we will be holding the candlelight vigil at the steps of the old courthouse. Come listen to survivor testimony and memorialize victims of domestic homicide. This will take place at 6:30pm.

T-shirts will be available for purchase and are first come first serve! We hope to see you there!



Online Forms

We are excited to announce that as of October 1, 2024, StopDV will be moving to digital (fillable) forms! This will streamline the administrative part of the Order of Protection process and allow StopDV to continue to provide services in the event of office closings due to inclement weather. The forms will be available for download through our website, and can be filled out at home, or at the StopDV headquarters at the Faulkner County Justice Building. Forms will still need to be brought to StopDV in order to be filed and submitted. We look forward to seeing how these forms impact the experience of clients!

Internships

Our applications for Fall Interns are LIVE!

We have positions open for:

- Project Support Intern
- Order of Protection Court Support Intern
- Compliance Court Intern

There are many opportunities to learn and thrive at StopDV. An internship with StopDV gives you meaningful work experience, projects for development and networking, and potentially the opportunity to move into a full-time career post-graduation.

If interested, please send resumes to:
ajohnsonstopdv@gmail.com

New Faces



Crisis Intervention Specialist II

Introducing the newest member to the StopDV team, Angie! She is passionate about assisting survivors, as well as providing them with trauma-informed care. As Crisis Intervention Specialist II, Angie will be the first point of contact for survivors seeking Orders of Protection, and will be assisting them with the petition process and safety planning. She has spent the last 30 years of her career caring for others, and can't wait to continue doing what she loves with StopDV. We are so happy to have her!



Protection Order Attorney

Introducing our new Protection Order Attorney, Jenny Jackson! She has served STOPDV in the past when circumstances did not permit the then-acting Attorney to represent victims of domestic violence in seeking orders of protection. She practices solely in family law and is an attorney ad litem who represents children in cases where custody is at issue. She graduated from the Bowen School of Law and is also licensed to practice law in Louisiana. We are so excited to welcome her to the StopDV team!



Recent Conferences



CCAW Dallas

Our Compliance Court Advocate, Cristal Ramirez, was able to attend this years Conference on Crimes Against Women! She had this to say about her experience:

“Attending the Conference on Crimes Against Women was such a great experience. I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge from the sessions, which were outstanding. Over 2,600 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, medical professionals, first responders and advocates attended the CCAW. I was honored to take part in it. This was such a conference and provided the training needed to better respond to and help stop crimes against women.”



Alliance for Hope San Diego

April 23-25 of this year, our Court Liaison, Terri Baker, and Crisis Intervention Specialist, Amy Johnson, attended the Alliance for Hope International Family Justice Center Conference held in San Diego, CA. This conference was a unique and powerful experience that brought together professionals from around the nation as well as from across the globe who are passionate about providing trauma-informed, hope-centered practices to the community they serve.



Resources and Useful Information



Local Phone Numbers

- AR State Police :(501) 618-8000
- AR Coalition Against Sexual Assault: (800) 656-4673
- AR Coalition Against Domestic Violence: (501) 907-5612
- AR Commission on Child Abuse, Rape, & Domestic Violence: (501) 661-7975
- The Rise House Crisis Hotline: (866) 358-2265
- Women & Children First: (800) 332-4443
- The Safe Place (Morrilton): (888)-554-2501
- Center for AR Legal Services: (501) 376-3423
- Conway Counseling & Wellness: (501) 358-6606

National Phone Resources

- National Dating Abuse Helpline: (866) 331-9474
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233
- (Text 'LOVEIS' to '22522')
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence: (800) 537-2238
- National Network to End Domestic Violence: (202) 543-5566
- Love Is Respect: 1-866-331-9474, 800.787.3224 (TTY).
- The Trevor Project: 1-866-488-7386

Visit the Faulkner County Website!

Our STOPDV services have now been added to the official website for Faulkner County! We have information on how to apply for an order of protection, our compliance court, and how to get involved at faulknercounty.org. You can find our information on Faulkner County's homepage under the Government tab as the STOPDV domestic violence court, as well as the 'How do I...' section with information on applying for an order of protection.

We are so thankful to the county for adding our information to the official website so that we are able to reach more individuals!

How Do I...?

- Apply for an order of protection
- Apply for an address
- Apply for a marriage license
- Find someone to officiate a marriage
- Apply for an Arkansas birth certificate
- Apply for an Arkansas death certificate
- Apply for a U.S. passport
- View my voter registration information
- Register to vote

Contact Us & More



Staff Contact Info

- Terri Baker, Court Liaison, (501)764-6401, tbakerstopdv@gmail.com
- Amy Johnson, Crisis Intervention Specialist, (501)764-6396, ajohnsonstopdv@gmail.com
- Angie Huffman, Crisis Intervention Specialist II, (501)764-6178, ahuffmanstopdv@gmail.com
- Cristal Ramirez, Compliance Court Advocate, (501)764-6195, cramirezstopdv@gmail.com
- Jenny Jackson, Protection Order Attorney, (501)358-6424, jenny@jacksonlawllc.com
- Heather McKinney, Protection Order Attorney II, (501)764-6452

How Can You Support StopDV?

Donate to STOPDV by texting STOPDV19 to 44-321, or...

Paypal:

https://paypal.me/fcdvcp?country.x=US&locale.x=en_US

Thank you to all of our donors, sponsors, funders, volunteers, board, staff members, and community partners.

None of this would be possible without you!

Arkansas Victim Rights

Arkansas legate law (Act 873 and Arkansas Victim Rights Law/Act 1262) provides these protections to victims:

- As a victim of a crime, you are entitled to specific information about the criminal case and the legal process involving the criminal case.
- During criminal proceedings, you have the right to be present and be provided with a separate waiting area away from your abuser.
- You have the right to make an impact statement in person or in writing, detailing how the crime against you has affected your life.
- Once the criminal proceeding is finished, you have the right to have a post-conviction no contact order.
- If your abuser is found guilty and the judge's sentence includes incarceration, you have the right to be informed thirty days prior to the release, parole, furlough, pardon, plea, bail or at the time of escape through notification programs such as VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday)