

## Domestic Violence: Title 24 – Meskwaki Tribal Law

### Q: Where can I read the law?

**Title 24** can be found at the Tribe's website [www.meskwaki.org](http://www.meskwaki.org), scroll down in the home page, then click on the underlined words "Constitution, Codes & Bylaws" near the very bottom of the page. *It is important for you and the people who care about you to read this law.* Ultimately, it's you who decides if or how you should proceed in establishing a court case, participating in a court case, or requesting to end a court case involving domestic violence.

### Q: What is a "qualifying domestic relationship"?

**At the time of the assault, abuse or the threat of abuse**, the relationship must be able to be described as being at least **one of the following ways**:

- Married
- Living together
- Separated
- Lived together within one year of the assault, but not at the time of the assault/abuse/threat of abuse
- Divorced
- Intimate relationship
- Adult relatives living together
- Parents of the same minor child(ren)
- Have been in an intimate relationship and have had contact within one year of the assault incident/abuse incident/threat of abuse

### Q: Who can I talk to about domestic violence, even if I'm not sure whether or not I want to file a petition asking the Court to issue an Order of Protection?

- Always call **911** to report an emergency situation!
- **Meskwaki Victim Services (MVS)** can be contacted 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The crisis line is (641) 481-0334 for local calls and a toll free number is available too at (855) 840-7362. Meskwaki Victim Services has offices in the Meskwaki Family Services building at South Farm, but staff persons answer the crisis line 24/7 including holidays.

### Q: Where can I get forms for a civil (non-criminal) Order of Protection?

Meskwaki Tribal Court. The Clerk of Court's office, located at 307 Meskwaki Road on the Meskwaki Indian Settlement has the forms. The Clerk's Office phone number is (641) 484-9300. There are no fees involved in filing a petition that requests a civil Order of Protection.

### Q: Is a Tribal Court Order of Protection "good" OFF the Settlement?

Yes. Orders of Protection issued by a Judge of Meskwaki Tribal Court are valid on and off the Meskwaki Indian Settlement. The Order is enforceable in every state and on every Indian Reservation in the United States. All Orders of Protection are entered into a National Database.

### Q: How long is an Order of Protection good for?

It depends. **Temporary orders** have fairly short expiration periods attached to them, sometimes expressed in days, just long enough until a full court hearing can be held where the parties have a chance to appear, explain their reasons, and to respond to the allegations in the petition. **Permanent orders** have an expiration date written into the order, or have automatic "sunset" time-frame language included, and that time frame is generally one year from the date of issuance unless the petitioner has provided good reasons why it should be longer and a Judge agrees with those reasons.