

How Pisgah Legal Services Can Help

Pisgah Legal staff help improve safety and provide services to build independence from abusers, including:

- Protection orders
- Child custody and child support
- Divorce and separation
- Income stability and division of assets
- Housing, debt, and consumer issues
- Immigration law assistance

Our attorneys are experienced in family law and work on behalf of individual clients.

Pisgah Legal collaborates with domestic violence prevention agencies, shelters, law enforcement and other partners in eleven WNC counties.

Do You Need Legal Help?

Call Pisgah Legal Services
828-253-0406
1-800-489-6144

Or apply online
pisgahlegal.org

Scan me to
apply online



The information contained in this brochure is provided solely as information and does not constitute legal advice nor create an attorney-client relationship.



CONTACT US



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pisgahlegal.org

CONNECT WITH US ON:



Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention

Helping survivors of domestic violence take legal action to escape abuse and rebuild their lives and financial stability.



Call 828-253-0406

Domestic Violence & North Carolina Law

Pisgah Legal may be able to help if you experience abuse from:

- A current or former spouse or intimate partner
- Someone you're dating now or dated in the past
- A parent, child, or other close family member
- A current or former household member (such as a roommate)

Domestic Violence Includes Behaviors Like:

- Physical violence or threats of violence (either verbal or threatening behavior)
- Verbal and/or emotional abuse, controlling/manipulating behavior, isolating you from friends and family, etc.
- Financial abuse or control
- Sexual assault or abuse, coercion
- Stalking, harassment

Services Provided by Pisgah Legal

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDERS

Also called DVPOs, 50B, or Court Orders.

- **Protective orders can provide direct protection** by ordering an abuser to have no contact with a survivor, barring them from coming to the survivor's home, workplace, etc.
- **After a survivor files a complaint** with the Clerk of Court, a judge will decide whether to enter an "ex parte" temporary protective order without the abuser present in court until the case is heard.
- **A court hearing is scheduled within 10 days** to determine whether the protective order should stay in place for up to one year.
- **A one-year protective order can be renewed** before it expires by filing an additional motion in court.

DIVORCE, EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION, & SPOUSAL SUPPORT

- **Survivors can file for divorce after at least one year of separation** (living in a separate residence with the intent to end the marriage). A divorce dissolves the marriage and can allow a survivor to resume the use of their prior last name if relevant.
- **Financial issues can be addressed in a divorce case.** These include division of marital property and alimony/spousal support.

CHILD CUSTODY & SUPPORT

- **Custody cases determine who has legal rights** to make decisions about children, where the children will live, and what custodial time or visitation the children have with each parent.
- **Child support is determined based on the relative income** of the parents and other factors.

Immediate Steps That Can Be Taken Following Domestic Violence

Anyone who experiences domestic violence may choose to:

- 1 Get to a safe place, shelter, or public setting.**
To find a shelter, call 211 or check out nccadv.org/get-help
- 2 Call 911.**
- 3 Seek a restraining order.**
- 4 File criminal charges with the police.**

Other Legal Options

Pisgah Legal does not handle criminal cases but can help find resources.

CRIMINAL CHARGES

- **Criminal cases against abusers are initiated either by law enforcement or by a magistrate** upon request of the survivor and are prosecuted by the District Attorney.