

VWS TIMES



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Ask an Advocate

What is an order of protection and an injunction against harassment?

An order of protection (OOP) is a court order prohibiting a specific person (defendant) from having contact with the plaintiff, this includes in person contact, on the phone, text message and on social media. The order also protects the plaintiff's home, workplace, school, or other locations.

An injunction against harassment is a court order prohibiting one person from harassing another person.

How do you fill out these documents?

You can apply for an order of protection or an injunction against harassment at the website - AZPOINT.AZCOURTS.GOV. Once the petition is completed, the confirmation number can be given to your local court, and they will schedule a hearing with a judge for that same day.

Once an OOP is granted and served to the defendant, it is good for 2 years. The defendant has one opportunity to contest the OOP. If the defendant requests a contested hearing, a hearing will be scheduled, and the judge will decide if the order should remain in place.

*Before getting an order of protection or an injunction against harassment, it is important to remember that it is only a piece of paper. These protective orders could escalate the level of violence. If there are any concerns or questions, contact Victim Witness Services to talk to an advocate. We can help do safety planning and answer any questions about filing a protective order. *

A Message from our Executive Director

Farewell 2023 and Welcome 2024!

It is hard to believe the year is already over and we are all fully immersed in planning out the next year. On behalf of Victim Witness Services for Northern Arizona, we wish you a happy New Year!

We were busy in 2023! 2023 was full of outreach events (did you see us in the parades?), hosting a Native American advocacy training and sex trafficking training and serving over 2,400 clients. VWS was honored to be the recipients of UniSource and AZ Women's Film Festival donations.

2024 will be a continuation of VWS working to educate the public about victim services, assist our fellow social service providers with trainings and serving victims of crime and crisis.

In a time of new year reflection and goal setting, we would love your feedback:

Do you have an event in which you would like VWS to participate?

Do you want to volunteer with VWS?

Would you like to learn more about VWS?

Do you need help from VWS?

How can we serve your community in 2024?

What do you see as the biggest need in your community?

As VWS goes into our 40th year as a nonprofit, we thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to serving Northern Arizona for another 40 years.

Happy New Year!

-Jen Runge

How Can I Support VWS?

VWS envisions a just, equitable world in which all people are safe and free to be their fully realized selves in communities rooted in love, dignity, and joy. We hope you will join us in our mission to build the world we are striving to create.

You can be part of the VWS team by donating to support our clients and staff, volunteering with us, promoting our work via social media, attending one of our community events, have us come and do a training for your company or community, or just tell someone about us.

If you'd like any more information about any of these options, send an email to info@vwsnaz.org or call us at 928-856-7676.



SCAN ME!

Community Partner Spotlight



In recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, our community partner UniSource Energy gave a \$5,000 donation to Victim Witness Services. Additionally, in October, The Arizona Women's Film Festival held a two-night film review as a benefit for Victim Witness Services. This festival raised close to \$2,000 for our organization. Lastly, Shift Kitchen and Bar donated pastries to VWS during their November bake sale. Through this program, customers can choose to donate pastries to the chosen organization for that month. We received 40 pastries from our community members!

We would like to celebrate these charitable contributions and the continued generosity from our community partners and those who support our mission!

Upcoming Events

- Tabling at NAU, Jan. 17th, 23rd, 25th, 29th, and 31st
- NAU Part-time Job and Internship Fair, Jan. 24th
- NAU Ranger Training, Jan. 24th
- Domestic Violence Support Group, Jan. 4th & 18th, Feb. 1st & 15th, March 7th & 21st.
- Radio Sunnyside Interview, March 4th

(For more information about dates, times, and locations for these events, call 928-856-7676 or email info@vwsnaz.org)

*Keep
in
Touch!*

There are plenty of ways to stay in touch with us!

If you haven't already checked out our social media, we are on all of the major social media sites including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) & [Threads](#)

If you are interested in staying in the loop all year long, sign up for our newsletter on our website to see what we're up to month-to-month and get the next issue of VWS Times right in your email!

www.vwsnaz.org
928-856-7676



Volunteers Needed!

Are you passionate
about what we do?

YOU can make a
difference!

Victim Witness
Services values and
appreciates those
wanting to contribute
their time and energy
to help others.
Volunteers are crucial
to our ability to
provide quality
services to victims and
our community!

We offer new
volunteer opportunities
for those interested in
contributing to our
efforts. Check out our
website for more
information,
www.vwsnaz.org/volunteer
or scan the QR code



Jordan's Story

Jordan* was referred to VWS by local law enforcement after they responded to a domestic violence call at her residence. Her partner became angry with Jordan for coming home later than she promised, and he broke her phone and their shared computer. When speaking with Jordan, she mentioned this was not the first time her partner became violent; he has been physically and verbally abusing her for months. Jordan expressed her desire to move to California to live with her family and start fresh. VWS helped Jordan file an order of protection against her partner and worked with a local domestic violence shelter to get her a bed for a few days before she leaves for California. Additionally, we coordinated with local law enforcement to assist in a civil standby so Jordan could pack up some belongings. An advocate bought Jordan a Greyhound bus ticket to California where her family would pick her up. We transported her to the shelter and several days later to the bus station and sent her off with a hot meal to eat on the bus.

Jordan's advocate checked in on her periodically during the next month. Jordan expressed that she is happy to be with her loved ones and away from her abuser. She explained she has a job interview in the coming days and is hopeful for the future.

The money you donate to VWS goes towards helping clients like Jordan escape abusive relationships. We were able to pay for costs that Jordan could not afford because of you and your kindness. Continue to make a difference in the lives of our clients by donating today!

(*names and specific details have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients)