

THE POWER ACT

U.S. District Court
District of North Dakota
Peter D. Welte, Chief Judge



MISSION

The POWER ACT seeks to inform victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking that legal assistance is available to them through pro bono legal services, and that this assistance can empower them to move forward with their lives.

The POWER ACT requires the chief judge for each judicial district or their designees to conduct public events promoting pro bono legal services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Public events will bring together lawyers and service providers to shine a spotlight on the critical need for pro bono legal representation of survivors of intimate partner violence. The goals of these events include:

- Encouraging lawyers to provide pro bono resources in an effort to assist survivors as they navigate the legal system
- Educating the legal community about the importance of pro bono services and the issues unique to the representation of domestic violence survivors
- Discussing legal resources and programs already assisting survivors and developing “best practices” in this area

IMPACT

“This country witnesses more than a million acts of domestic violence, and hundreds of deaths from domestic violence, each year.”

Justice Sotomayor, *United States v. Castleman*
Decided March 24, 2014

Over 1 in 3 women (36.4%) and about 1 in 3 men (33.6%) will experience contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime. (National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2015, CDC).

According to the National Institute for Justice, 83% of domestic violence victims represented by an attorney were able to obtain a protective order against their offenders, whereas only 32% of victims without an attorney were able to do so.

The pro bono work inspired by the POWER ACT can protect victims from future harm and provide them with the security necessary to move forward.

Advocacy Groups Seeking Pro Bono Attorneys

TRIBAL VICTIM SERVICES

Three Rivers Crisis Center, Wahpeton: 701-642-2115

Spirit Lake Victim Assistance, Ft. Totten: 701-766-1816

Hearts of Hope, Turtle Mountain Reservation: 701-477-0002

Three Affiliated Tribes Victim Services, New Town: 701-627-4171

NATIONAL RESOURCES

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

REGIONAL RESOURCES

Abused Adult Resource Center, Bismarck: 701-222-8370

Family Crisis Center, Bottineau: 701-228-2028

Safe Alternatives for Abused Families, Devils Lake: 701-662-7378

Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Center, Dickinson: 701-225-4506

Kedish House, Ellendale: 701-349-4729

Rape and Abuse Crisis Center, Fargo: 701-293-7273

Domestic Violence and Abuse Center, Grafton: 701-352-4242

Community Violence Intervention Center, Grand Forks: 701-746-0405

S.A.F.E. Shelter, Jamestown: 701-251-2300

Abuse Resource Network, Lisbon: 701-683-5061

McLean Family Resource Center, Washburn: 701-462-8643

Women's Action and Resource Center, Beulah: 701-873-2274

Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Minot: 701-852-2258

Domestic Violence Program of NW ND, Stanley: 701-628-3233

Abused Persons Outreach Center, Valley City: 701-845-0078

Family Crisis Shelter, Williston: 701-572-0757

The POWER ACT has identified domestic violence as an area that you should consider when you determine how you'd like to comply with Rule 6.1. The local domestic violence shelters in North Dakota are listed in this press release. Each shelter can tell you ways attorneys can be involved in providing services to individuals who are seeking assistance at domestic violence shelters.

Empowering Victims/Survivors

- offer more pro bono hours
- offer services at a reduced rate
- provide training
- provide workshops
- partner with local shelters
- offer informative classes
- raise funds for the local shelters

THE POWER ACT

The Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018

An act to promote pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

North Dakota Rules of Professional Conduct RULE 6.1- PRO BONO PUBLICO SERVICE

A lawyer should render public interest legal service. A lawyer may discharge this responsibility by providing professional services at no fee or a reduced fee to persons of limited means or to public service or charitable groups or organizations, by service in activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession, or by financial support for organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means.