

## **For Advocates: How to Help Survivors Keep Their Addresses Confidential on Order of Protection Forms**

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This is basic legal information, not legal advice. The law changes often and every case is different. Please encourage survivors to talk to attorneys for legal advice about their problems.

### **Why are survivors asked to include their addresses?**

The courts where they file their Order of Protection forms need to know where to send orders and notices.

### **The survivor I'm working with doesn't want her abuser to know her address. What do I do?**

You can encourage the survivor to ask the Court to keep her address confidential.

### **How does a survivor ask the Court to keep her address confidential?**

She can write "confidential" in the space for her address on the Order of Protection forms.

Example:

Name: Jane Doe

Address: Confidential

City, State, Zip: Confidential

Telephone No.: message phone: 406/000-0000

### **What will happen if she writes "confidential" into the forms?**

The Court will decide how it wants to keep her address confidential. It may keep her address on file at the Court but keep it protected from the abuser. Or it may ask that she provide an alternate address to which it can send Court orders and notices. Or it may handle her request in a different way.

### **Is there a way she can always keep her address confidential?**

She may be eligible for the Address Confidentiality Program through the State of Montana Attorney General's Office of Victim Services. You can find information online at:

<http://www.doj.mt.gov/victims/domesticviolence.asp#addressconfidentiality>. Or call (406) 444-5803.

### **The Court won't let her file her forms without her address listed. What can I do?**

You, the advocate, can contact Christine Mandiloff, Technical Assistance Attorney, for more information by emailing: [cmandilo@mtlsa.org](mailto:cmandilo@mtlsa.org).

You can also encourage the survivor to talk to a legal professional. She may be able to get help by calling:

Montana Legal Services Association HelpLine: 1-800-666-6899

State of Montana Bar Lawyer Referral and Information Service: (406) 449-6577

State of Montana Law Library: (406) 444-3660 or in State: (800) 710-9827

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