**Service Provision**

All clients are required to participate in an intake process that helps to assess client eligibility for the program. This intake process will provide information about our services offered, confidentiality, use of volunteers and reasons why a client may no longer be eligible for Family Court Support services. All clients are required to sign a contract and release of information form prior to practical services being utilized.

**Safety Planning**

The Family Court Support Worker will provide enhanced safety planning and assist the client in assessing the potentially changing levels of risk and need in relation to client and staff safety.

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***Member of the ONVSP***

***Funded by***

***Ministry of the Attorney General***

***What is Domestic Violence?***

*Domestic Violence is deliberate and purposeful violence, abuse and intimidation perpetrated by one person against another in an intimate relationship. It occurs between two persons where one has power over the other, causing fear, physical and/or psychological harm. It may be a single act or a series of acts forming a pattern of abuse. Domestic violence can occur in any relationship, however, women are primarily the victims and men are primarily the perpetrators. Children and young people may experience harm by being exposed to violence in adult relationships, being the direct victims of violence, or a combination of the two.*

**In an emergency, please call 911**

**Interval House 1-800-267-4409**

**ARCC 1-800-567-7415**

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 **Victim Services**

 **of**

 **Leeds & Grenville**

 **Family Court**

 **Support Worker**

 **Program**

 P.O. Box 1268

 4109 County Rd 29

 Brockville ON K6V 5W2

 Telephone: 613-341-7700

 Toll-free:1-800-939-7682

 Fax: 613-345-3202

 www.vslg.ca

**Family Court Support Worker Program**

**Program Description**

The overall objectives of the Family Court Support Worker Program are to:

* Provide supports for victims of domestic violence involved in or considering entering the family court process.
* Enhance victim safety by reducing the risk of future violence.
* Increase the victim’s access to services and supports.
* Build the core competencies of service providers to support victims who are abused and involved in the family court system.

**Client Service Coordination**

The Client Services Coordinator will provide direct services and support to domestic violence victims involved in the family court process in Leeds and Grenville.

The Client Services Coordinator will work collaboratively with existing services for victims of domestic violence to ensure clients have access to the supports they need at every stage of the court process. This service will facilitate the client’s understanding of, and passage through, the family court system.

The role of the Client Services Coordinator is to:

* Provide information to the client about the family court process.
* Assist the client to record the history of abuse for court documentation.
* Provide the client with safety planning and referrals for risk assessments where appropriate and assist with safety planning related to court attendances.
* Provide the client with a needs assessment.
* Assist the client through the legal aid process.
* Support the client to follow through on requests received from lawyers.
* ![C:\Users\user\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\831BBCUJ\MP900407459[1].jpg]()Debrief and discuss court outcomes, lawyer appointments, Family Law Information Centre meetings, consultations with duty counsel and next steps.
* Refer the client to specialized services (both domestic violence-specific and culturally relevant services) in the community.
* Communicate with criminal court-based services, such as Victim Witness Assistance Program, where appropriate and in accordance with protocol.
* Communicate with other family court-based services and referral sources to ensure seamless delivery of appropriate information and support.
* Accompany the client to court proceedings, where appropriate.

**Referral Process**

Referrals to the Family Court Support program are received from Victim Services, police officers, Victim Witness Assistance Program employees (VWAP), shelter employees, child protection employees, duty council, members of the Family Law Information Centre (FLIC), family lawyers and other community-based emergency or social service providers. Self-referrals are also accepted. Referrals can be made by email, telephone call or FAX to our main Victim Services of Leeds & Grenville office location.