



→ | **Domestic Violence**  
Protection in Oberhausen

**Information**

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### **Domestic violence is not a private matter!**

*Every person is entitled to a life free of violence. Do not keep silent out of a sense of shame, and do not put up with years of physical and mental violence. Keep in mind that you aren't the only one to suffer domestic violence. There are people and facilities which can help you.*

*This brochure will tell you how to find protection from domestic violence with the help of the police, where you can get support and advice, and what your rights are.*

➔  The contact data for institutions marked with this symbol are listed in the address directory printed on pages 14 and 15.

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## ➔ What is domestic violence?

Every form of violence among adult partners in a personal relationship is domestic violence. It can take place in conjugal (married) and non-conjugal (unmarried) households or in other close relationships, for instance between (same-sex) partners | parents, children, elderly people | in-laws, relatives | members of collectives.

Domestic violence primarily takes place in the private sphere, i.e. “at home”. The site of the crime is frequently her or his apartment or house | the dwelling’s hallway | place of work or along the way to work | on the street.

Domestic violence occurs in all social classes, independent of income, level of education, culture or social status.

According to police investigations, in 91 percent of “family disputes” the offenders are men. In Germany, approximately every fourth woman has experienced physical and/or sexual abuse by her partner one or more times.

## ➔ Forms of violence

### **Physical violence**

Beating | kicking | choking | maltreatment with objects | weapons

### **Sexual violence**

Sexual coercion | rape | forced sexual practices | forced prostitution

### **Coercion and threats**

Threats of murder | threat of reporting to the police | threat of suicide

### **Intimidation**

Instilling fear through looks, gestures | insinuations | destruction of objects | ostentatious display of weapons

### **Mental violence**

Insulting | declaring crazy | undermining self-confidence

### Isolation

Control | restriction of contacts | jealousy

### Economic violence

Prohibition or compulsion to work | taking or giving money | forced debts

### Taking advantage of the children

Undermining authority | getting information out of the children | threatening to take the children away | using visiting right for further violence

### Stalking

Waylaying | observing | pursuing and tracing | harassing telephone calls (also SMS or e-mails) up to and including telephone terror | sending letters and gifts

## → What can you do if you need immediate help?

After the German Protection against Violence Act was passed and the police law was amended in 2002, the German police has more options to provide help for victims of domestic violence (court order to ban from victim's home) and other obligations as well (obligation to file a complaint).

- Call the police emergency number 110.
- Until the police arrives, get yourself to a safe place or shout loudly for help.

## → What does the police do upon arrival?

### The police

- requires as much concrete information as possible about the act of violence.
- documents the act and secures evidence (e.g. on maltreatment and abuse).
- possibly issues a ban on the offender with whom you live, in the form of a court order banning him from going anywhere near the home with prohibition to return for 10 days, takes away the house keys, and writes an offence report.

- hands you documentation on the police operation.
- at your request, gets in contact with the local advisory bureau for women, which will then contact you the next work day.
- helps you get accommodations in a Frauenhaus (female refuge hostel) if you don't want to remain in your home.
- informs the youth welfare office if children or adolescents are part of the relationship.

## → What happens during the prohibition to return?

- The offender is not allowed to return during this period of time.
- The victim may also not allow him into the home.  
*Exception:* Accompanied by police, urgently required objects may be fetched from the residence.
- The police checks the prohibition to return!

Use this time to get advice and consultation, and to clarify your personal situation. For instance you can consult the local advisory bureau for women and/or an attorney.

Develop your perspectives!

If the 10-day court order preventing the offender from entering the home does not suffice, you or your legal representative can apply for an extension at the Antragsstelle (application office) of the Amtsgericht Oberhausen (County Court). To do this you will need the police operation documentation which the police gave you when called to the scene, as well as your identity card.

Women and men subjected to violence can also contact another qualified person, the Opferschutzbeauftragte (Victim Protection Officer) at the police station, week days between 7.30am and 4.00pm.

### → Kriminalprävention/Opferschutz

(Crime Prevention/Victim Protection)

Havensteinstraße 27 | 46045 Oberhausen

Telephone (0208) 82 64 515 | Fax (0208) 82 64 529

[www.polizei-nrw.de](http://www.polizei-nrw.de)

## → What help do you get from the Frauenberatungsstelle (local advisory bureau for women)?

The women working in this facility specialise in helping women who are victims of physical and/or mental violence. Consultation is free of charge and confidential.

### **You receive information about**

- the steps you can take after your partner has been banned from your home.
- the court procedure to initiate further protective measures according to the German Protection against Violence Act.
- further facilities which might be able to help you and your children.

### **Telephone and personal consultation**

The consultants take time to learn about your concerns and needs as comprehensively as possible. You are offered individual consultation sessions until you feel sufficiently strengthened and stable, no matter what final decision you make for yourself.

### **Offerings**

- Individual offerings
- Group offerings

These therapy offerings help you to process your experience of violence with the help of psychotherapy and/or trauma therapy, alone or in a group. The consultations are independent, free of charge, and voluntary.

### **Telephone hours**

Monday – Thursday 8.30am to 4.30pm  
Friday 8.30am to 3.00pm

### → **Frauenberatungsstelle Oberhausen**

Schwartzstraße 54 | 46045 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 20 97 07 | Fax (0208) 20 37 28  
FBST@meocom-dsl.de  
www.frauenhelfenfrauen-oberhausen.de

## → What help do you get from the Frauenhaus?

If you still don't feel safe despite the court order banning your husband from your home, or if in your case the police were not able to issue such an order, you should consider leaving your residence. In this crisis situation the Frauenhaus offers you safe accommodations and support.

### **What is the Frauenhaus?**

The Frauenhaus is a protected place to live for women of every origin, age, and nationality. You may bring your children with you (boys until 14 years of age). Every woman takes care of herself and her own children as usual. The employees offer advice and support for all pending decisions.

### **How do you get into the Frauenhaus?**

The address of the Frauenhaus is kept secret for your own protection. Men are not allowed in. Telephone service is around the clock; you will be told by telephone where to go to be picked up. If all residential units are occupied, you will be given the telephone numbers of similar neighbouring facilities. The police can help you make contact with the Frauenhaus and find a place to stay there. The police will also ensure that you can pack your personal belongings for yourself and your children without being disturbed, and that you will be able to get to the Frauenhaus or some other place of your choice without danger.

### **What should you take with you to the Frauenhaus?**

- Identification cards | passports | health insurance cards for yourself/your children
- Birth and marriage certificates
- Bank account documents | bank cards | cash
- Tenancy agreement | employment contract | official notifications from employment office or social welfare office
- Pension insurance documents | custody documents
- Necessary medicines | medical certificates | personal hygiene articles
- Clothing | school things and toys for the children
- Personal letters or records

### → **Frauenhaus Oberhausen**

Telephone (0208) 80 45 12 | Fax (0208) 2 57 57  
frauenhaus.ob@meocom-online.de  
www.frauen-info-netz.de

## → What can the Jugendamt (youth welfare office) do for you?

The Jugendhilfe service offers you advice and support as part of its involvement in family court proceedings to structure and regulate custody issues and rights of access to the child(ren) in consideration of continued protection from further violence. It also provides:

- Counselling on questions of child guidance, and assistance in contacting other information and counselling centres and accepting offers of support
- Attendance and care of your children in an emergency situation (e.g. in the event of a necessary hospital stay)
- Flexible outpatient and inpatient assistance on child guidance (such as family therapy, social and educational provisions similar to a supervision order, curative-educational day group)
- Integration assistance in the event of threatening or already existing mental disability

You will find contact persons at your local

- Regionalteam erzieherische Jugendhilfe  
(Educational youth welfare service regional team)

You can receive psychological assistance in the

- Psychologische Beratungsstelle für Kinder, Jugendliche, junge Erwachsene und Eltern der Stadt Oberhausen  
(Psychological consulting centre for children, adolescents, young adults and parents of Oberhausen)

You can receive further psychological assistance through the

- Erziehungsberatung, Familien- und Schulambulanz des Caritasverbandes  
(Child guidance, family and school ambulance of the Caritas Association)

Evangelische Beratungsstelle für Erziehungs- Partnerschafts- und Lebensfragen

(Evangelical Information Centre for questions in child guidance, partnership, and life)

- Traumaambulanz  
(Trauma outpatient clinic)

## → Where do you get financial aid?

If you don't have your own or only insufficient income to pay for your own means of subsistence (food, clothing, accommodation including heating costs), you are entitled to assistance from the public sector. The form of assistance depends on the personal situation.

Responsible for

*Those able to earn an income, as of 15 years of age*  
ALG II (Hartz IV)

- Job-Center of ARGE SODA

*Children up to 15 years*  
Sozialgeld (social allowance)

- Job-Center of ARGE SODA

*Children up to 12 years*  
Unterhaltsvorschuss (UVG) (advance on maintenance payments)  
Jugendamt und soziale Angelegenheiten (youth welfare office)

- Unterhaltsvorschusskasse (advance on maintenance payments office)  
An advance on maintenance payments is granted in any event until completion of the 12th year of age, and paid at most for 72 months

Sozialgeld (social allowance), if there is no longer any claim of advance on maintenance payment

- Job-Center of ARGE SODA

*People incapable of earning an income, and those at least 65 years old*  
Basic old-age security and in the event of full reduction in earning capacity  
Regional teams of the City of Oberhausen

*Refugees and asylum applicants*

Provisions and services according to the Law on Public Assistance for Asylum Applicants

- Flüchtlings- and Obdachlosenwesen  
(Refugee and Homeless department of Osterfeld town hall)

### **For all payments and services, the following applies:**

They are granted only as of the day of the application. For this reason, in the event of an emergency you must make immediate contact with the responsible office. Although the application is not bound by any particular form, it is appropriate and expedient to come in person to receive the required forms yourself.

The office checks whether you have claims to maintenance support on your partner for yourself and/or your children. You should consult a lawyer concerning the claims to maintenance support. The amount of such claims especially depends on the income of the partner.

## → Which measures are possible according to the Protection against Violence Act?

### **If you live together with the offender in a dwelling unit**

→ assignment of a temporary apartment by injunction order, not exceeding a period of 6 months

### **If the offender is threatening or harassing you**

→ prohibition to contact you (e.g. in person, by telephone, e-mail, SMS)

### **If the offender stalks you**

→ prohibition to come within a certain distance of you  
→ prohibition to enter or remain in a specific place where you are routinely to be found (e.g. home, workplace, kindergarten, school, recreational facilities)

In any case the court can threaten with a fine or detention. If the offender violates the measure, then a fine or detention can be imposed upon request. According to the German Protection against Violence Act, the County Court or Family Court is responsible for imposing such measures.

The court is only active upon request. You can make such a request yourself or be represented by a lawyer to do so. If you make the request yourself, you can do so personally at the Rechtsantragsstelle (Legal Claims Office) of the County Court or in writing. You will need your identity card and the documentation given to you by the police when summoned to you at the time of the offense, or the police file number.

You should submit such requests as soon as possible, especially when you request an assignment of an apartment after a warning, you must do so within 10 days. Describe the incidents as exactly and in as much detail as possible, so that the law enforcement officer or lawyer can request all the necessary measures on your behalf.

The court can impose different measures simultaneously, depending on the kinds of behaviour you are being subjected to. Furthermore, if the measures are violated, a criminal prosecution is possible. Recently, the practice of stalking has also become a criminal offense. The incident must be reported to the police to initiate criminal prosecution.

→  **Amtsgericht Oberhausen** | Rechtsantragsstelle  
(County Court, Oberhausen | Legal Claims Office)

## → Where do you get further support and advice?

### **Physicians**

You should consult a physician to treat any physical injuries you have incurred. It is important that your injuries are carefully documented (a medical certificated called an "Attest").

→  **Gleichstellungsstelle/Gleichstellungsbeauftragte**  
(Equality Body/Commissioner for Equal Opportunities)

The Gleichstellung department of the city of Oberhausen offers advice on various questions and problems and can help you get in touch with other suitable local facilities that provide help.

→  **pro familia**

You can consult pro familia if you have experienced domestic violence which also includes sexual violence, if

- you suspect that a girl or boy has been subjected to sexual violence
- you know that a child or adolescent has suffered sexual abuse and you need help and support

- you would like advice in making decisions about an offence report
- you would like to find out how you can offer a child precautionary protection against sexual violence
- you fear you are pregnant and need the “morning-after pill” (up to 72 h)
- you have become pregnant and require pregnancy counselling and/or a criminological indication for termination of pregnancy
- you want to be gynaecological examined in a quiet atmosphere in order to document or exclude injuries
- you need psychological advice and support after termination of a pregnancy

### Lawyers

Lawyers can offer advice on all legal questions, with regard to measures according to the German Protection against Violence Act, and in the criminal proceedings against the offender, as well as represent you in court, i.e. file requests, attend to all pertinent appointments and dates, etc.

Low-income persons are entitled to legal aid from a lawyer for extra-judicial activity and to help cover court costs in the event of legal proceedings.

Before your first visit to a lawyer, you can apply for a Beratungshilfeschein (legal aid voucher) at the Amtsgericht/Rechtsantragstelle (County Court/ Legal Claims Office). If required, the lawyer will apply for legal aid to help cover court costs.

➔  **Amtsgericht Oberhausen** | Rechtsantragsstelle  
(County Court Oberhausen | Legal Claims Office)

➔  **Regionale Arbeitsstelle Zuwanderung (RAA)**  
(Regional Immigration Office)

If you come from a non-EU country and do not yet have your own residency permit, separation from your husband due to domestic violence can be problematical for you.

If your marriage has existed legally in Germany for two years, your own independent residency permit can be approved for you.

Independent of your native land, the German Protection against Violence Act ensures that in any case German law will be applied to all cases.

- ➔ Due to the particular difficulties of your right of residence, we urgently recommend that you seek support and help.
- ➔ Be sure to engage an interpreter or consultation in your mother tongue. If this is not possible, bring someone you trust to all consultations who can translate and interpret for you.
- ➔ You will suffer no disadvantage if you call the police in the event of domestic violence. Protect yourself and your children and ensure that evidence of violence is documented.
- ➔ Also if you flee to a Frauenhaus (female refuge hostel), you will suffer no disadvantages.
- ➔ In hardship cases (evidence such as offence report and medical certificate must be submitted) and if you have regular employment, your own residency permit can be obtained earlier.

### Aid according to the Opferschädigungsgesetz

(Victim Compensation Law)

If you have become a victim of mental or physical violence, then it is possible that you may be entitled to aid under the Opferschädigungsgesetz (OEG). You must submit an application to the Landschaftsverband Rheinland.

➔  **Landschaftsverband Rheinland**

➔  **Weisser Ring**

The employees of the “Weisser Ring” association are volunteers who help victims of criminal acts and who are in the position to provide advice about all the mentioned options for aid and support. Furthermore, you can receive a so-called Beratungsscheck (consultation cheque) from the Weisser Ring to cover the costs of an initial consultation with a lawyer. Possibly a lawyer can be financed for the entire duration of the whole legal proceedings. The Weisser Ring will provide you with more detailed information.

### Witness lawyers

In the case of certain severe crimes, sometimes a lawyer paid by the court can be provided to you to offer assistance as witness. You can request such a lawyer yourself or through the public prosecution.

## Address Directory

- A** **Amtsgericht Oberhausen**  
Rechtsantragsstelle | room 6  
Friedensplatz | 46045 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 85 86 313  
Fax (0208) 85 86 218  
Office hours:  
Mo - Fr 8.00 - 12.00 noon
- E** **Erziehungsberatung, Familien-  
u. Schulambulanz des Caritasverbandes**  
Annastr. 65 | 46049 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 94 04 920
- Evangelische Beratungsstelle  
für Erziehungs- Partnerschafts-  
und Lebensfragen**  
Grenzstr. 73 | Entrance Stöckmannstr.  
46045 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 85 00 87
- F** **Frauenberatungsstelle**  
Schwartzstr. 54 | 46045 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 20 97 07  
Fax (0208) 20 37 28  
fbst@meocom-dsl.de  
www.frauenhelfenfrauen-oberhausen.de
- Frauenhaus**  
Telephone (0208) 80 45 12  
Fax (0208) 25 757  
frauenhaus.ob@meocom-online.de  
www.frauen-info-netz.de
- Flüchtlings- und Obdachlosenwesen**  
Rathaus Osterfeld  
Bottroper Str. 183 | 46117 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 82 58 174  
Fax (0208) 82 58 233
- G** **Bereich Gleichstellung  
für Frau und Mann**  
Ebertplatz 4 | 46045 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 82 52 050  
Fax (0208) 82 55 030  
gleichstellungsstelle@oberhausen.de
- All young persons between 15 and 25 years  
of age with income-earning capacity*
- J** **Job-Center U25**  
Virchowstr. 83 | 46047 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 85 06 855  
Fax (0208) 41 00 640
- All patients in rehabilitation  
and severely challenged persons*
- Job-Center Reha**  
Mülheimer Str. 36 | 46045 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 85 06 855  
Fax (0208) 85 06 398
- Post codes 46045 | 46047 | 46049*
- Job-Center Alt-Oberhausen**  
Mülheimer Str. 36 | 46045 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 85 06 855  
Fax (0208) 85 06 398
- Post codes 46117 and 49119*
- Job-Center Osterfeld**  
Waghalsstr. 26 | 46117 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 85 06 855  
Fax (0208) 46 838 3 50
- Post codes 46145 | 46147 | 46149*
- Job-Center Sterkrade**  
Steinbrinkstr. 248 | 46145 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 85 06 855  
Fax (0208) 635 799 280 398
- K** **Kommissariat  
Kriminalprävention/Opferschutz**  
Havensteinstr. 27 | 46045 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 82 64 515  
Fax (0208) 82 64 529  
www.polizei-nrw.de
- L** **Landschaftsverband Rheinland**  
Kennedy-Ufer 2 | 50679 Köln  
Telephone (0221) 80 90  
Fax (0221) 80 92 200  
post@lvr.de  
www.lvr.de
- P** **pro familia**  
Bismarckstr. 3 | 46047 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 86 77 71  
Fax (0208) 97 02 999  
oberhausen@profamilia.de  
www.profamilia.de
- Psychologische Beratungsstelle für Kinder,  
Jugendliche, junge Erwachsene  
und Eltern der Stadt Oberhausen**  
Schwarzwaldstr. 25 | 46119 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 61 05 90  
Fax (0208) 61 05 928  
psych.beratung@oberhausen.de
- R** **Regionale Arbeitsstelle Zuwanderung**  
Mülheimer Str. 200 | 46045 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 82 53 210  
Fax (0208) 82 53 204
- educational youth welfare service*
- Regional team 3-2-30.71**  
(Oberhausen-Mitte/Styrum)  
Danziger Str. 11 - 13 | 46045 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 82 52 263
- Regional team 3-2-30.72**  
(Oberhausen-Ost)  
Alte Heid 13 | 46047 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 82 53 970
- Regional team 3-2-30.73**  
(Oberhausen-Alstaden/Lirich)  
Danziger Str. 11-13 | 46045 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 82 52 106
- Regional team 3-2-30.74**  
(Oberhausen-Sterkrade)  
Steinbrinkstr. 188 | 46145 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 82 56 125
- Regional team 3-2-30.76**  
(Oberhausen-Osterfeld)  
Bottroper Str. 183 | 46117 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 82 58 127
- T** **Traumaambulanz**  
Rheinische Kliniken Essen  
University Hospital of Duisburg Essen  
Virchowstr. 174 | 45147 Essen  
Telephone (0201) 7227-521  
psychosomatik@uni-essen.de  
www.uni-essen.de/psychosomatik
- U** **Unterhaltsvorschusskasse**  
Concordiastr. 30 | 46049 Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 82 59 462
- W** **Weisser Ring e. V.**  
Branch office Oberhausen  
Telephone (0208) 60 44 95  
b.biesing@web.de  
www.weisser-ring.de

