

## Section I: Definitions

### **Domestic Violence, Battering, Domestic Abuse:**

These terms are used to describe a pattern of abusive behavior that one person uses to maintain power and control over their partner. Some of these controlling behaviors include physical abuse, economic abuse, sexual abuse and verbal abuse.

### **Survivor:**

A survivor is any person who has been hit, abused or controlled by their partner.

### **Batterer or Assailant:**

A batterer or assailant is the person in the relationship who is hitting, abusing and controlling their partner. This can be a woman or a man.

### **Partner:**

The definition of a partner as used in this handbook means:

- Husband or wife
- Ex-husband or wife
- Boyfriend or girlfriend
- Ex- boyfriend or girlfriend
- Common Law
- Ex- common law
- A person who is the mother or father of your child

### **Women's Development Officer (WDO):**

A WDO is a trained advocate who works at the Women's Department. One important role she plays is to provide women with support and information about their options in relation to domestic violence.

**Intake Welfare Officer:**

The Intake Welfare Officers are trained mediators that work at the Family Court. Their job is to help a person file the proper paperwork with the court for Protection Orders, Legal Separations, Custody and Maintenance matters.

**Applicant:** The applicant is the person who is applying for an order from the court.

**Respondent:** The respondent is the person whom a court order or an application for a court order is filed.

**Summons:** A summons is a notice from the court that lets a person know that they are to appear before the court. The summons will include the reason for the hearing as well as the date and time of the hearing.

**Common-law:** A common-law relationship is when the couple is not legally married but has been living together in a relationship for several years.

**Clerk of the Court:** The Clerk of the Court is the person who schedules court hearings and processes court documents including the summons. In the districts, the clerk is the person who will assist a person in filing an application for any of the orders discussed in this handbook.

**Adjournment:** When a hearing is adjourned, it simply means that it has been rescheduled.

**Defendant:** In a criminal case, the defendant is the person that is being accused of a crime.

**Arraignment:** The initial appearance before the magistrate in a criminal case. At the arraignment, the charges against the defendant are read and the defendant enters a plea.