

- a provisional court restraining order (prohibiting the man from going near you / your home / your place of work or from getting in contact with you etc.)
- assignment of the mutual home to you
- custody of your children etc.

For further information in this respect, you can also contact

- Amtsgericht Frankfurt
Gerichtsstrasse 2
Building B
Tel. 0 69 / 13 67-01
or
- an attorney of your choice.

You can also apply for legal aid for proceedings and counsel if you are on a low income.

WOMEN'S REFUGES IN FRANKFURT

Women's refuges provide women of all nationalities, with or without children, temporarily with a safe place to live. Men have no access to these houses. The addresses of the refuges are not passed on to other people.

You can continue to run your own household at the refuge. If you do not have any income of your own, you will be granted social security.

While living at the refuge, you can clarify how you want to proceed. Helpers are on hand to advise you about everything you need to know.

This advice is also available to women who are not living at a refuge.

Women's refuges

- Frauen helfen Frauen (Women Helping Women)
Tel. 0 61 01 / 4 83 11

- House for Women and Children
Tel. 0 69 / 41 26 79
01 72 / 77 62 011
- "Die Kanne" Women's Refuge
Tel. 0 69 / 6 31 26 14
01 72 / 8 70 26 29

INFORMATION OFFICES IN FRANKFURT

You can also contact an information office by phone or in person. Information on the following topics is available and can also be provided on an anonymous basis, free-of-charge and irrespective of your residential status and whether you have brought a charge against your husband/partner or not:

- Medical matters such as results of injuries, addresses of doctors, medical certificates, convalescent homes etc.
- Legal matters such as notifying the police, legal proceedings, assignment of the marital home, custody of children, rights of aliens, addresses of attorneys etc.
- Questions of finance such as the Code of Compensation for Victims ("Opferentschädigungsgesetz"), legal aid for proceedings and counsel, compensation for injuries, social security etc.
- Long-term protection (e.g. women's refuges) and overcoming the consequences, developing new outlooks, activating own possibilities for action – self-help groups, therapists etc.

Professional interpreters can also be provided without you having to pay for them.

Information offices

- Frauen helfen Frauen (Women Helping Women)
Tel. 0 61 01 / 4 83 11
- "Frauennotruf" (Women's Emergency Line)
Information Office for Women
Kasseler Str. 1A
60486 Frankfurt/Main
Tel. 0 69 / 70 94 94

CHILDREN

If you are looking for help for your children, you can contact

- The Social Services ("Allgemeine Sozialdienst / ASD") at the social security offices within your district or
- The department for children's welfare at the Youth Welfare Office (advice also available on an anonymous basis)
Tel. 0 69 / 212 33 604
or the
- Frankfurt Children's Office
Tel. 0 69 / 212 39 003

This information sheet is available in Arabic, German, English, Spanish, Russian and Turkish.

Order address:

Beratungsstelle "Frauennotruf"
Kasseler Str. 1 A
60486 Frankfurt/Main
Tel. 069 / 70 94 94
Fax 069 / 77 71 09
E-mail: info@frauennotruf-frankfurt.de

Published: January 2009

Are you the victim of physical violence or verbal abuse by your husband/partner?

Important information about your rights and what you can do

Published by
Arbeitskreis Intervention
bei Gewalt gegen Frauen (AK InGe)
(Working Group for Intervention in
Violence against Women)
Frankfurt/Main

With the kind assistance of the Women's
Department (Frauenreferat) and
the Prevention Committee (Präventionsrat)
of the City of Frankfurt am Main.

YOUR RIGHTS

The law forbids your partner/husband from exerting violence against you, hitting you, injuring you, threatening you or locking you up.

This legislation also applies even if you don't have a German passport.

IF YOU ARE IN DANGER

- If you are in acute danger:
Call the police!
Police emergency number: 110
(day and night)
or your local police station.
- Give them your name and address and stress that you need immediate help.
- Let the police know whether you are injured, whether children or other people are still in the building, whether the culprit is still there and whether he is armed with any weapons.
- The police's decision to come to you immediately will be based on these details.
- Until the police arrive, find a safe place for yourself and, if applicable, your children, e.g. go to neighbours, shops/offices or your own home.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE?

- Tell them exactly what has happened. Inform the police about any previous occurrences, e.g. threats, injuries, police interventions, criminal proceedings etc. If there were any witnesses, give their names to the police.

- The police will question you separately from your partner/husband if possible.
- The police can expel your husband/partner from the building for a set period of time or take him into custody if the acute danger persists or cannot be prevented by any other means.
- You can also leave the building with the police and take your children with you. The police will help you to go to relations, friends or a women's refuge.

IF YOU LEAVE HOME

You should take the following documents (preferably the originals – if not, at least a copy) and things with you:

- ID/Passport, for yourself and your children
- Employment contract, work permit
- Health insurance card for yourself and the children
- Marriage certificate, family records, birth certificates
- Income tax card, insurance book
- Pension insurance fund documents
- Pay slips, salary statements, entitlement orders (employment exchange, child benefit fund, education allowance, pension, poss. custody order for children)
- Your bank statements, your savings books (as well as the children's), credit agreements, loan payment receipts
- Other important papers such as rental agreements, references, certificates, diplomas etc. (for the children as well)
- Important medication for yourself and your children

- School equipment/materials and toys
- Important personal items, e.g. photos, jewellery, addresses etc.
- Necessary clothing
- Front-door key

ONCE YOU ARE IN SAFETY INFORMATION ON WHAT TO DO NEXT

INJURIES

If you have been injured, have yourself treated by a doctor.

MEDICAL REPORT

Have the doctor provide you with a report about the consequences of the violence you have suffered (pain, bruising, bleeding, broken bones, other injuries etc.).

Have photographs taken of your injuries by a female official or a person you trust. Give the photos and the medical report(s) to the police / your attorney.

NOTIFYING THE POLICE / BRINGING A CHARGE

If the police have been notified that you have been mishandled (e.g. hit, beaten, kicked, pushed, hair pulled) or threatened, the officers are required to make a report and pass the matter on to the district attorney.

The district attorney in Frankfurt will take proceedings unless you state explicitly that you do not want the man to be prosecuted, i.e. you do not bring a charge against the person.

You can bring a charge (additional declaration to notifying the police) at any police station. In doing so, you state explicitly that you want the man to be prosecuted.

As a rule, you have 3 months time for this decision. Your evidence as witness is indispensable for successful criminal proceedings.

Notifying the police does not mean that you have to separate from your husband/partner.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO NOTIFY THE POLICE, IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO BRING A CHARGE

If you have been injured, go to a doctor you feel you can trust.

Take your children and go somewhere where you are safe. You do not automatically lose your home if, for example, you go to a women's refuge or stay with a woman friend.

Of course, you can also use the services provided by the advisory offices and women's refuge even if you do not want to separate from your husband/partner.

HELP FROM AN ATTORNEY

You also have the possibility of contacting an attorney who will inform you about the possibilities for taking further steps and the costs involved.

CONTACT RESTRAINING ORDER / ASSIGNMENT OF THE MUTUAL HOME / CUSTODY OF THE CHILDREN

You can also apply for a temporary civil or family court injunction, e.g.: