

## Victim Assistance Domestic Violence – Success Stories

One of our victims did not appear in court for her *ex parte*. The advocate called the victim's cell phone number and discovered that the defendant had cut the victim's brake line, leaving the victim stranded on the side of the road crying. She put the victim on hold, returned to the court room, asked the judge if she could approach and explained the situation. The judge in turn asked a few questions, which she was able to answer from the conversation with the victim. As a result, the judge granted the *Ex Parte* order and allowed the advocate to take the order to the Magistrate's office where the victim picked up the order that evening.

---

A non-client victim of domestic violence appeared in court to obtain a 50B order. The victim did not understand the questions asked and was not being precise enough in her testimony to warrant a 50B. The judge asked the UFS advocate to speak to the victim. She explained to the victim the court process and inquired as to the situation which brought her to file for a restraining order. She jotted down notes while the victim was describing the incident and instructed the victim to tell the same information to the judge. She provided the notes to the victim as a guide while testifying, and sat with the victim to provide emotional support. As a result the *Ex Parte* order was granted.

---

A male victim of domestic violence came to the Magistrate's office to obtain an emergency protective order. The magistrate was ready to turn the victim away because he did not feel there was a need for an emergency order. The UFS advocate spoke to the victim and discovered that there was a serious need for an emergency order since the defendant and two other armed male friends broke into his home. There was a small baby present during the incident. The plaintiff was illiterate and was not able to articulate the situation well so the advocate assisted the victim in completing all of the paperwork and provided all of the information to the magistrate. The plaintiff was granted the *Ex Parte* order, and later granted the one-year Domestic Violence Protective Order.