

15. Women Especially

Updated 11/4/04

Westchester In-Prison Women's Services ¹

Community Link

St. John's Riverside Hospital
2 Park Ave.
Yonkers, NY 10703

Phone: (914) 231-1314

Description: Case Management Program for incarcerated women who seek family reunification. Women must be substance abusers without custody of children but who have not lost parental rights. Program staff will make community appointments and do home visits. Clients are followed for one year after release from jail.

Women's Advocate Ministry Program

PO Box 389
Valhalla, NY 10595

Phone: (914) 231-1359

Eligibility: Female inmates from New York City arrested in Westchester County with children on the outside.

Description: Women's Advocate Ministry, Inc (WAM) is a crisis intervention program that puts together resources for women in the jail and their children that they left behind. WAM makes the connection with those resources that it is unlikely the women would be able to connect with, understand, and take full advantage of without our help. Our main focus is with women who are residents of New York City who were arrested in Westchester County and are not eligible for Westchester County services upon their release. WAM also make referrals for parole violators (depending on the case).

A Fresh Start Mentoring Program

Westchester Jewish Community Services
141 North Central Ave.
Hartsdale, NY 10530

Phone: (914) 949-7699

Description: A Fresh Start Mentoring Program is an eight week prerelease support group for women sentenced to 30 days or more who will be released from WCDOC to the community. During the eight week program, female inmates are encouraged to participate in developing a discharge plan. This is accomplished through group activities which address employment, substance abuse treatment, housing, parenting and other needs essential for a successful reintegration back to the community. Upon completion of the group phase of the program inmates are paired with volunteer mentors who will help guide them back to self-sufficiency. The Community Mentoring Phase occurs over a 10 month period.

Women's Prison Association

110 2nd Avenue,
New York, NY 10003.

Telephone: (212) 674-1163.

<http://www.wpaonline.org/WEBSITE/home.htm>

Incarcerated Mothers Law Project (IMLP) services are available to inmates at Taconic (in Westchester), Bayview, and Rikers Island and to eligible women living in the community. IMLP offers workshops on a parent's rights and responsibilities and on the impact of the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

Steps To Independence (STI) offers education and training in Housing, Career Development, Educational Advancement, Independent Living, Parenting, Families & Child Development, Health, Wellness & Spirituality, Arts, Humanities, Culture & Community. Women getting released from prison may be matched with mentors who provide support and encouragement, helping ease the transition back into the community.

Transitional Services Unit (TSU) operates at Rikers Island and in three prisons - Taconic, Bedford Hills (both in Westchester) and Bayview. HIV Education Workshops: Offered at all facilities and open to any inmate. HIV Support Groups and HIV Educator Training: Offered at Bedford Hills and Taconic correctional facilities.

¹ Westchester County Department of Corrections, Directory of Inmate Services, July 12, 2004

Post-Prison Women's Resources

The Awakenings Program at YWCA Residence²

69 North Broadway
White Plains, NY 10603

Telephone: (914) 428-1130

Description: Program for women who are substance abusers and want to live a drug-free life in a safe, supportive environment with other recovering women and women who are ready to participate in a treatment program, attend daily 12-step meetings. Program requires a one-year commitment.

Pregnancy Care Center

466 Main Street
New Rochelle, NY 10801

Phone: (914) 235-0505

Description: The Pregnancy Care Center is located in New Rochelle and Yonkers and runs the Elinor Martin Residence located on the grounds of the former Saint Agnes Hospital in White Plains, New York. The Pregnancy Care Center is a non-sectarian organization founded in 1974, offering positive alternatives to abortion. The Center offers voluntary trained counselors to assist women who are distressed by an unwanted or untimely pregnancy. All are eligible for services and each case will be kept in the very strictest confidence.

² Westchester County Department of Corrections, Directory of Inmate Services, July 12, 2004

Violence Against Women

Domestic Violence Residential and Non-Residential Programs³

There are domestic violence shelters for women in Westchester County established to provide a safe haven for women who are victims of domestic violence. There is a 24-hour hot line for victims of domestic violence who want to speak to a domestic violence counselor for information and referral: *English 1-800-942-6906; Spanish 1-800-942-6908.*

Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center

Our Sister's Harbor

Battered Women's Shelter

Phone: (845)628-2166

Languages: English, Spanish

Northern Westchester Shelter

[Battered Women's Shelter](#)

PO Box 203 Pleasantville, NY 10570

<http://www.northernwestchestershelter.org/>

Phone: (888)438-8700

Serves: Females and males from age 18

Languages: English, Spanish

MY SISTERS' PLACE

[Battered Women's Shelter](#)

Phone: (800) 298-7233

<http://www.mysistersplaceny.org/>

Serves: Females and males from age 18

Languages: Arabic, English, Japanese, Portuguese, Sign, Spanish

³ <http://www.westchestergov.com/women/wcfva.htm>

Local Domestic Violence Hotlines

My Sisters' Place	(800) 298-SAFE
Northern Westchester Shelter	(888) 438-8700
Family Abuse Services Of The Mental Health Association	(914) 347-4558
Putnam / No. Westchester Women's Resource Center	(845) 628-2166
NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence	English (800) 942-6906 Spanish (800) 942-6908
Rape Crisis Helpline, Victims Assistance Services	(914) 345-9111
NYS Child Abuse And Maltreatment Reg.	(800) 342-3720
Victims Assistance Services	(914) 345-9111

My Sister's Place ⁴

Administrative Office

2 Lyon Place-Suite 300
White Plains, NY 10601

Phone: Office: 683-1333

Hot Line: (800) 298-SAFE

<http://www.mysistersplaceny.org/>

1. Shelter, providing a safe refuge in crisis for women and children who are fleeing an abusive partner. The shelter is a home-like environment, with women and their children living together. Shelter includes 3 meals a day, counseling, support groups, assistance in finding housing and accessing public benefits, advocacy, legal services, children's counseling, parenting assistance, and a children's program of homework help and after-school activities.

2. Community-based individual counseling. Individual counseling is

provided at various locations in the community for those women who are not in shelter. Counseling can take place in diverse locations wherever it is safe and convenient for the woman.

3. Support groups. These supportive and healing groups meet once a week in 10 different towns throughout the county, in confidential and convenient locations. Support groups provide information about abusive relationships and draw upon the strength and experience of others going through similar experiences. We have established specialized support groups for Latina, Jewish, Japanese, lesbian, and Arabic women.

4. Life Skills Program. This 8 week program helps renew the skills in banking and budgeting, housing, legal rights and responsibilities, health issues, and parenting.

5. Legal Center. Provides advice and court representation to victims of domestic violence on their family law and matrimonial matters to help them secure a safer, more just, legal result for themselves and their children. Services are provided in both English and Spanish.

Women's Justice Center

Pace University Law School
78 North Broadway
White Plains, NY 10603

Phone: 914 422-4069

<http://www.pace.edu/LawSchool/bwjc/about.html>

Description: The Pace Women's Justice is dedicated to eradicating domestic violence and furthering the legal rights of women, children, and the elderly through skillful and innovative use of the law. The Center's goal is to give those who support battered women, the elderly, women with low income, victims of sexual assault and children the education and legal tools they need to stop violence against women, seek economic justice, empower the underrepresented and save lives.

The Center involves Pace law students in a number of its activities, including: the Family Court Externship Program, which is funded by the county, through which law students annually provide counseling and direct representation to over 1000 victims of domestic violence who would otherwise be unable to procure counsel.

⁴ My Sisters' Place website http://www.mysistersplaceny.org/html/msp_serv.htm

Orders of Protection⁵

An Order of Protection is a court order that is designed to protect you and your family from an abuser and to stop harassing behavior. In New York State, there are no fees to file a petition for an Order of Protection. You can get an order in Family Court, Criminal Court, or Supreme Court.

Family Court. if you are legally married to, separated, or divorced from your abuser, or if you are related by blood or marriage, or if you have a child in common with your abuser.

Criminal Court. Can only be issued after criminal charges are filed.

Supreme Court. If you are getting a divorce, separation, or an annulment.

At the appropriate courthouse (in the county where either you or your abuser lives, or where the act took place), ask the clerk for the forms that you need to file.

If your abuser violates the Order of Protection, you may file a petition claiming a violation in either the Family Court or the Criminal Court. The violation petition and a summons must be served upon your abuser, or the court may issue a warrant for his arrest. To file this petition, go to the clerk of court where you originally got your order. You may also contact the police (911) who may be required to arrest him.

The court will determine what action should be taken against the abuser if the court finds that the abuser violated the order. That may be a period of probation, incarceration, a fine, or a change in the conditions in your Order of Protection. In the case of a parolee, a violation of an Order of Protection may also result in a violation of parole.

Women's Law Initiative

http://www.womenslaw.org/NY/NY_main.htm

Information on restraining orders, legal statutes, legal definitions, downloading of court forms, and courthouse locations.

⁵ http://www.womenslaw.org/NY/NY_how_to.htm

NY City Violence-Against-Women Resources

Providence House⁶

P. O. Box 210529,
Brooklyn 11221.

Telephone: (718) 455-0197.

Description A community based residential program for women who are on New York State parole and who cannot return to their places of residence after they are released from prison. Length of stay: from 3 months to a year. Write to Providence House before you go up before the parole board or ask your parole officer for a referral. Spanish also spoken.

Two congregate residences, one for single women and one for women and their baby, provide refuge and support for women directly released from prison. Women are given referrals for housing, education, job training and other programs. A third residence provides housing for a single, working women on parole.

Safe Horizon

2 Lafayette Street

New York, NY 10007

24-hour Crime Victims Hotline: (212) 577-7777

24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 621-4673

Office: (212) 577-7700

www.safehorizon.org

New Destiny Housing Corporation

HousingLink Online

www.newdestinyhousing.org/housinglink

A web-based housing resource center for domestic violence survivors seeking safe affordable housing in New York City. This site helps domestic violence survivors and their advocates navigate the housing application process more easily.

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See also Chapter 12, "Mental Health" and Chapter 14, "Counseling and Family"

⁶ Providence House website:

<http://www.providencehouse.org/ProvidenceHouse.htm>