

## **Good Things Utah, Wealth of free knowledge at Timpanogos Legal Center for domestic violence victims**

Surae: One of the biggest reasons people may stay in a relationship with domestic violence are for financial reasons and thankfully, there are resources to help. And joining us now to share more is Brooke Robinson from Timpanogos Legal Center. Welcome to the show.

Brooke: Thanks.

Surae: Brooke, tell us a little bit about that reason. Usually it is financial reasons and what options do people have if they are in a violent relationship.

Brooke: So a lot of people in domestic violence relationships are really stuck. They're facing violence at home, but if they leave the relationship, they might be struggling financially. Trying to find housing right now is so difficult, they're trying to find a maybe new job for someone that may have not been working as much, are now trying to support themselves and a family on one income when they are used to two. By having legal resources, it can really open so many doors because they're able to get the legal resources that they need. They're able to get effective court orders and I don't think everyone realizes that there are a lot of resources available if someone might not be able to afford a full priced attorney.

Surae: So, number one, it is trying to get them to a safe place, right? And it is also maybe a little bit of convincing the person this is the right choice even though financially, it might not look like the right decision.

Brooke: Yes, safety is always gonna be the most important thing. Safety for the survivor and for their family. There are other resources out there, so although it might look bleak right at the beginning, there's a lot of options to try and help get them financial as well as physical safety and stability.

Surae: And when we talk about safety first, protective orders is an option. Maybe that first layer. What is it? What can it do?

Brooke: A protective order a civil court order. There's many different types. The most common type of protective order is a cohabitant abuse protective order. And so you can file with the court to try and get an order that would provide protection against your abuser from coming to certain addresses, your home, to stay away from you, from workplaces. It can also provide temporary orders regarding custody or who can be in a certain address or residence.

Surae: Do you need a police report in order to get a protective order?

Brooke: It's not required. It can be very helpful evidence in trying to get it in place.

Surae: And what legal resources are there, aside from that protective order, that people should do after that step?

Brooke: So I kind of wanna brag about Utah. We have so many legal resources that are available. We have so many great people in the state that are serving and trying to help when it comes to access to justice. There's a lot of great programs. The Utah courts has a great website at [UTCourts.gov](http://UTCourts.gov). There's a lot of information there. There's also a program called MyPaperwork, where you can draft certain types of legal documents for protective orders, divorce, custody. We have the Self-Help Center through the Utah courts that can help give survivors legal information. There's lots of free legal advice clinics and there's also the Utah State Bar has Access to Justice office with so many great resources as well as other partners that provide full representation, like Utah Legal Services and Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake, as well as my organization at Timpanogos Legal Center helps self-represented parties.

Surae: And a lot of these resources are free. And people need to take advantage of that when you're talking about that financial hook that you think that you can't get out of. But there are resources available and free to the public. [TimpLegal.org](http://TimpLegal.org) is the information you need to get in touch with them and also that phone number. Thank you so much, Brooke. I think that is such important information.

Brooke: Thank you.

Surae: And we will be right back, everyone.