

We provide compassionate legal services to survivors. Connect with us to learn more about your legal options.

## WHO WE ARE

The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance is Virginia's leading voice on sexual and domestic violence. We provide help, information, and support by phone, text, and chat through our 24/7/365 statewide hotline, and through our legal services team, the Project for the Empowerment of Survivors. The Action Alliance is an advocacy organization that champions trauma-informed and survivor-driven policies. Finally, the Action Alliance is a member services organization that provides training and technical assistance to over 60 member agencies across Virginia.

Visit our website at [www.vsdvalliance.org](http://www.vsdvalliance.org) to learn more.

One caller said our legal services were "a light in the darkness" during a very difficult time.

Another said our services were an "unexpected gift" during a time of crisis.

Please call, text or chat us today. We are here to help.



CALL  
800.838.8238



CHAT  
[vadata.org/chat](http://vadata.org/chat)



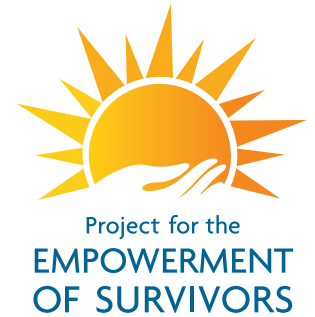
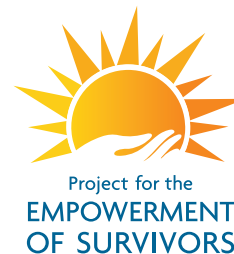
TEXT  
804.793.9999

### Local Resources:



Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence  
**ACTIONALLIANCE**

[vsdvalliance.org](http://vsdvalliance.org) | [legal@vsdvalliance.org](mailto:legal@vsdvalliance.org)



# Legal help for survivors of abuse

This project was supported by VOCA New Initiative Victim Assistance Grant Program grant #17-A4105VW15 awarded by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

# We provide legal help throughout Virginia.

The Project for the Empowerment of Survivors (PES) is an initiative offered through the Statewide Hotline of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance.

This initiative expands current hotline services to provide trauma-informed legal information, advice, and referrals to callers throughout Virginia who are experiencing sexual or intimate partner violence, dating violence, human trafficking and hate crimes.

## GOAL

The goal of PES is to offer survivors of violence, particularly those who are traditionally underserved, an opportunity to find answers to legal questions, to gain insight into additional legal issues, to carefully weigh legal options on the phone and through chat and to be linked with both legal advocacy and legal services in their communities.

The PES has three components: trained advocates, attorneys and volunteer law students who can answer calls and chats from survivors with legal questions or concerns; a referral network of trained community-based attorneys who can provide direct legal representation; and a Legal Assistance Fund that provides monetary support to underserved victims of violence who need legal representation.

## ISSUES

The Project for Empowerment of Survivors provides access to information and support on a number of issues facing victims of violence. These issues include, but are not limited to, advice and information related to safe housing, protective orders, employment accommodations, name changes, immigration issues, access to public benefits, child custody and support, termination of parental rights, crime victim compensation and Title IX related issues. The PES offers survivors the opportunity to identify the actions that will best ensure safety and healing from the trauma of the violence they have experienced and a support system that will improve the likelihood of success as they move forward.

## FUNDER

The Project for the Empowerment of Survivors is funded by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services' "New Initiative Victim Assistance Grant Program".

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS) ABOUT OUR SERVICES

### CAN YOU REPRESENT ME IN COURT OR PREPARE COURT PAPERS FOR ME?

Even though we cannot represent you in court or prepare court papers for you, we can give you legal information and advice over the phone. Sometimes we can connect you to a lawyer in your community who can represent you in court and prepare documents for you.

### DOES YOUR SERVICE COST ANYTHING?

It is always free for you to speak with us. We may be able to find an attorney in your community to represent you. A referral attorney may charge a fee.

Call 800-838-8238 to connect with an advocate today.

You can also log on to [vadata.org/chat](https://vadata.org/chat) or text 804-793-9999. Our services are confidential.

### I DON'T QUALIFY FOR LEGAL AID. CAN I STILL CALL YOU FOR HELP?

Yes.

### ARE YOUR LEGAL SERVICES CONFIDENTIAL?

Yes. Any information that you share with us is confidential.

### WHAT IF I DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH?

We have access to a "language line" that helps us communicate with you in your own language.