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West Suburban Bureau

🕒 Mar 9, 2006 4:59 pm US/Central

New Hotline Helps Domestic Abuse Victims Stay Safe

Abuse Victim Can Get Information On Abusers Over The Phone

Hotline: 1-866-559-8030



Mike Puccinelli
Reporting

(CBS) DuPage County is taking unprecedented steps to empower victims of domestic violence.

CBS 2 West Suburban Bureau Chief Mike Puccinelli spoke with an abuse victim who says the new system could change her life.

It's a phone system that DuPage County Sheriff's Department officials say is unlike any other in the state.

A service aimed at people like Alia, who will be immediately notified when a protective order has been served against their abuser after they sign up.

Alia says learning that her husband has been served will cause her to change her habits.

"I will be more vigilant and careful where I go," she said.

Maryiam Gilani is coordinator at Hamdard Shelter, where Alia has been staying. She says victims need to know when an order is served because that's typically when they're most at risk.

"That's the time when most of the murders and stalkings happen," Gilani said.

Alia says she often feared for her life.

"I couldn't take the abuse anymore. I took it for 7.5 years. It was too much," she said.

She took her kids and left her husband.

"He threatened me a lot of times that he would kill me if I leave him," Alia said.

Now, this young mother is living in fear.

Sheriff's department officials say knowing exactly when an order is being served can help victims take precautions.

"It's important so they can devise their own safety strategy," said Michael Blazek.

It's a strategy that Gilani believes can save lives.

"We have been waiting for this for a long time," she said.

Each year in DuPage County, thousands of people like Alia are granted orders of protection.

Those people can now find out when those orders are being served and when they're scheduled to expire by calling 1-866-559-8030.

It's free of charge and is available 24 hours a day.

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