



Civil Attorney Preferred Providers

If you have been a victim of abuse and you are interested in suing the person or organization responsible for you abuse, you may wish to consult with an attorney. In civil court, a person who has experienced abuse can file their own action against the perpetrator. The victim decides what the complaint does and does not include, and how the case proceeds, including whether a settlement will be offered or accepted. A victim usually hires an attorney to file and pursue the civil case, but typically the victim does not pay the attorney up front or as the case goes on.

Lawyers who do this kind of work often provide legal consults with a client for free to hear about the potential case. Then the lawyer decides whether or not to accept the case for representation. If the lawyer takes the case, typically the lawyer is paid on a contingency basis, which means that the lawyer only gets paid if and when the victim gets a settlement or a verdict after trial. Typically an attorney working on contingency will take one-third (33%) of the total settlement or verdict amount. If the victim's case is not successful, the attorney does not get paid. Victims can sue individual people and can also sue institutions such as schools and religious institutions. The only remedy of a civil lawsuit is a money judgment.

Free Services at Vera House

- **Help finding a local attorney to represent victims in civil cases:** [The Legal Project at Vera House, Inc.](#) has trained local attorneys about abuse as well as how to represent survivors in a trauma-informed way. The listed attorneys have participated in local training on trauma-informed representation:

Martin Lynn, Esq.
The Lynn Law Firm
101 S. Salina Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315) 474-1267

Dorina Armani, Esq.
4300 W. Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13219
(315) 468-1052

- **Help finding a non-local attorney to represent you in a civil case for sexual abuse or cyber sexual abuse.** We are also familiar with two New York State attorneys who represent victims of sexual abuse and cyber sexual abuse.

C.A. Goldberg PLLC
16 Court Street, 33rd Fl
Brooklyn, NY 11241
(646) 666-8908

Marsh Law PLLC
151 East Post Road, Ste 102
White Plains, NY 10601
(646) 751-8378

- [Advocacy Services](#) - Vera House advocates can provide emotional support, accompaniment to court or to appointments with other service providers, and provide safety planning.
- [Clinical Services](#) - Vera House therapists are available to see clients for therapy.
- [Survivors' Network](#) - a group of survivors and staff who are committed to giving voice to all survivors and victims of sexual and domestic violence through community presence, advocacy, education, peer support and engagement while honoring all lived experiences. Contact survivorsnetwork@verahouse.org.

If you would like more information, please email the Legal Project at legal@verahouse.org