

Visitation and Order of Protection Litigation

Sanctuary for Families is representing Ms. M, who began experiencing abuse from the father of her son when she was 7 months pregnant. While she was pregnant, he pushed her into the bathtub, causing her to have a premature birth. Other abuse includes hitting Ms. M, pushing her down stairs, and threatening to kill her. Their child witnessed several incidents of abuse and was initially afraid to see his father after Ms. M separated from him.

Ms. M received a final order of custody in 2019 from Kings Family Court, granting her primary physical and legal custody with visits to the father. During one of the visits the child reported an incident of sexual abuse and Ms. M went back to court and filed a petition to modify visits. She obtained an emergency suspension of visits. The case has stalled due to the pandemic, but the parties have returned to court and it appears the abuser intends to contest the petition to modify visits. Sanctuary is seeking pro bono co-counsel to assist in helping Ms. M obtain a final order of suspended and/or supervised visits, permission to relocate to Pennsylvania with the child, and an order of protection.