

## Deaf Women Against Violence Closes Its Doors

On September 12, 2003, Deaf Women Against Violence (DWAV) closed down and ceased providing services. The organization's Board has filed for a Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

DWAV's Board of Directors released a statement explaining that ongoing litigation between DWAV and a previous landlord were threatening to drain funding from grants and donations--money meant to support the agency's services for deaf survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Slowdowns in grants and donations during the national recession have also taken a toll on DWAV, like many other nonprofits. Additionally, delays in the re-funding of a major grant from the Federal Office of Violence Against Women so disrupted DWAV's cash flow that necessary staffing levels for services could no longer be maintained.

Other agencies for the deaf and hard of hearing are able to provide referrals to help anyone who needs legal assistance or information about how to get protection from a batterer:

DCARA  
877-DCARA88 TTY  
877-DCARA99 voice  
[www.dcara.org](http://www.dcara.org)

California Center for Law and the Deaf (CalCLAD)  
877-DEAFLAW voice/tty  
[www.deaflaw.org](http://www.deaflaw.org)

Legal Center for Families  
510-451-9261 voice  
[www.lcff.org](http://www.lcff.org)

Upon DWAV's withdrawal from the "Christy Smith, Deaf 'Survivor'" fundraising events on September 22 and 23, DWAV's portion of the proceeds from the event were designated to support the Deaf Women's Legal Project (DWLP).

## DeafHope Plans to Offer DV/SA Services

Deaf Hope announced plans to offer emergency advocacy services for survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault, and to add the following services as soon as possible:

- 24-Hour TTY Hotline
- Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing
- Advocacy Services
- Statewide Training to establish Deaf-run domestic violence and sexual assault services in other cities in California
- Resource Center for agencies and professionals to obtain information about starting a nonprofit, legal, interpreting, and/or advocacy issues impacting Deaf survivors
- Training and Technical Assistance for advocacy organizations, criminal justice professionals, child protective services, law enforcement, policy makers and others to improve services for Deaf survivors
- Workshops and events to increase awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault within the Deaf community

**For help with a domestic violence emergency, email [services@deaf-hope.org](mailto:services@deaf-hope.org)**

For more information, visit the DeafHope website at [www.deaf-hope.org](http://www.deaf-hope.org) or email Board chair Kate Bennitt at [kate@deaf-hope.org](mailto:kate@deaf-hope.org).

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