



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
Western District of New York

Paul R. Warren
Clerk of Court

Buffalo (716) 551-4130
Rochester (716) 263-3148

**PROTECTION AFFORDED TO VICTIMS
OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

No. 00-02

July 1, 2000

Debtors who are victims of domestic violence are provided protection in bankruptcy cases. The Court requires a written statement or affidavit advising the Court that the debtor is a domestic violence victim. An address at which service upon the debtor is to be accomplished must be provided. The debtor need not provide a residential address on the petition if domestic violence is at issue. Venue is established by the debtor's assertion on the petition page.

Attorneys and debtors are strongly encouraged to carefully review all schedules and statements to ensure that the debtor's residence is not disclosed in some other fashion. For example, if the debtor's current landlord is also a creditor, it is suggested that authorization from that party is obtained to affect proper service at an alternate address.

The personnel of the Clerk's office are not permitted to grant privacy requests and preferences of individual debtors regarding service at their residence. Unless otherwise ordered, the debtor's mailing address will be entered into the Court's automated system as the debtor's address for service purposes. Residence addresses provided in addition to a mailing address will be added to the mailing matrix.

Please direct questions regarding this issue to the Clerk's Office at the telephone numbers listed above.