

I came to Guyana Legal Aid Clinic in October 2010 because of domestic violence issues I was having with my husband. I had been struggling in the relationship for some time and knew that I would need to take a lawyer if I ever wanted to break free of my situation.

I did not know where to start, but after seeing a notice on television for the Guyana Legal Aid Clinic and hearing my neighbor mention it, I decided to come in.

On my first visit to the clinic, I was impressed by how I was able to get through to speak to a lawyer so quickly. The front staff dealt with my matter fast and were courteous. The matters that I was dealing with were private and embarrassing, and I felt that the staff did their best to make sure I had privacy.

When it was my time for my interview with the lawyer and I walked into the office, not only was I not sure what I wanted to do at that time, I was not even sure of how much of what had happened to me I would feel comfortable sharing. But the lawyer I met with made me feel at ease and I was able to open up and tell my story.

We went to court and I got a restraining order against my husband. I did not get everything that I asked the court for, but I was able to do something to improve my situation for myself and my children.

My situation has improved but I am still facing challenges. Even though I have obtained court orders against my husband he has still not left me in peace. Every day is still a bit of a struggle for me, but I have hope now that things will eventually get better.

I am now in the process of trying to start my own catering business. I know that doing this on my own will be harder and take longer, but at least I no longer have someone whispering in my ear telling me that I can't do it. I know that I can and I will get there soon, hopefully sooner than later.

I think that if I did not have any other choice than to pay for a private lawyer, I would still be in my house and in my relationship. Before I came to the legal aid clinic, I thought that if a person did not have money they would just have to stay put and find a way to deal with their problems. I know now different.

Coming to the Guyana Legal Aid Clinic helped me to take a step forward as to what I know I needed to do in my life. It also made me realize that there is help that is available for women and they do not have to stay in a bad situation. I have told others that I know in similar situations to come to the legal aid clinic because they can also get help, both for them and their children.