

## Home violence curbs stronger

ATU 8/7/81

# Carey signs consumer 'bill of rights'

**Associated Press**

NEW YORK — Surrounded by legislative sponsors, Gov. Hugh L. Carey signed bills Thursday to strengthen the laws against domestic violence and create a "consumer bill of rights" for residential customers using gas and electricity services.

The domestic violence bills deal with streamlining the process for getting court-ordered protection for victims of domestic violence and to allow the court to grant custody of a child to a parent or relative while a protection order is in effect.

"This legislation clearly sets forth the law's first priorities: stopping violence, obtaining protection for the

victim and ending family disruption," Carey said during ceremonial signings at his Manhattan office.

"Domestic violence isn't going to go away in a hurry" he said, adding that only a series of such bills will help "stem the tide of domestic violence of this sort."

Under the new bills, magistrates are authorized to grant a protection order when Family Court is not in session and the court is authorized to withhold the location of a domestic violence victim to protect him.

In addition, the law requires that payment be made for any medical care received while under court protection.

The other bill signed Thursday con-

cerned consumers.

"This new Bill of Rights ... will serve as national model for protection of utility consumers," Carey said.

Among other things, the measure requires utilities to provide advance notice of proposed terminations of service and offer customers deferred payment plans; personally contact the elderly, blind and disabled 72 hours before shutoff and respond formally to all requests for service.

The bill also does away with deposits for new customers after Jan. 1, 1982 except in special cases and prohibits termination of service in the case of customers with certified medical emergencies.