

What are the warning signs that an abuser is dangerous?

Several risk factors have been associated with increased risk of murder in a violent relationship. These include:

- The physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year.
- You have separated during the past year.
- Your abuser:
 - owns a gun, has ever used a weapon or threatened to use a weapon against you in the past
 - is unemployed
 - has threatened to kill you
 - has avoided being arrested for past incidents of domestic violence
 - has ever forced you to have sex
 - is a problem drinker or uses illegal drugs
 - controls most or all of your daily activities
 - is violently and constantly jealous of you
 - has threatened or tried to commit suicide
 - threatens to harm your children
 - follows or spies on you
 - destroys your property
- You believe your abuser is capable of killing you.

Legal options may offer some protections but are not a guarantee of safety. An advocate can assist with safety planning and linkage with local community resources that can help.



Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center

Lucas County

Toledo Municipal Court Advocates
2460 Cherry Street
Toledo, OH 43608
(419) 244-3053 Option 1

Domestic Relations Court Advocate

(419) 213-2708

Ottawa County

Municipal & Common Pleas Court Advocate
323 Buckeye Blvd.
Port Clinton, OH 43452-1914
(419) 734-3266

www.fcappc.org



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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Court Advocacy Program

FAMILY
and
Child
ABUSE PREVENTION CENTER



Did you know?

Nearly one-third of American women are physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women in the U.S. – more than car accidents, muggings and rapes combined.

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of violent and abusive behaviors, including physical, sexual, psychological, economic and emotional abuse that adults or adolescents use to exercise **power and control** over their intimate partners.

Domestic violence is a crime when the following are present:

- A physical assault or a threat has occurred. A threat to cause physical harm has been made that causes the victim to fear for his or her safety.
- There is a relationship between the parties, such as a blood relationship, (i.e. brother, sister, parent, uncle, etc.); the parties are or at one time were married; the parties share a child in common; and/or the parties live together or have lived together within the last 5 years.

The Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program

The Court Advocacy Program is here to help. The Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program provides information on domestic violence and legal options available to victims. Advocates accompany victims to court, provide support, assist with safety planning, and link victims to other helpful community resources.

Advocates are available on-site in the following courts in Lucas and Ottawa Counties:

- Toledo Municipal Court
- Lucas County Domestic Relations Court
- Ottawa County Municipal Court
- Ottawa County Common Pleas Court

There is no fee for services.

Why do victims need a court advocate?

Because the legal system is complex and confusing, many victims do not follow through and get the help they need. According to the Ohio Attorney General's Office, it is the right of all victims to have a court advocate to speak on their behalf. Advocates are not lawyers, nor will they provide legal advice, but they will walk each victim through the legal process and give them the information and support needed. Research shows that victims who work with

advocates have a more positive outcome, reduced risk of re-abuse, report higher quality of life and social support, and have less difficulty obtaining community resources over time (Sullivan and colleagues 1999).



Protection Orders

There are two types of Protection Orders in Ohio:

Temporary Protection Orders (TPOs) accompany a criminal charge. TPOs are granted when the abuser is arrested and has appeared in front of a judge and the victim has safety concerns. A TPO orders the abuser out of the home and to have no contact with the victim while the criminal case is pending in court. A temporary order lasts until the criminal case is resolved. A violation of this order can cause the offender to be arrested and charged with a first degree misdemeanor punishable by 6 months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

Civil Protection Orders (CPOs) offer more lasting and comprehensive protection than temporary orders. A request for a CPO can be made even if there are no criminal charges against the abuser. A civil protection order may:

- Order the abuser to have no contact with you or your children
- Evict the abuser from the home
- Award temporary custody of the children
- Require the abuser to see a counselor
- Forbid the abuser from owning or buying firearms
- Grant any other relief that the court considers equitable and fair

A CPO lasts up to a maximum of five years. A violation of this order can also result in a first degree misdemeanor.