

domestic & sexual violence

Prevention Coalition



A SURVIVOR'S HANDBOOK

FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE,
SEXUAL VIOLENCE, AND STALKING

YOUR GUIDE TO FAYETTE COUNTY

- PROTECTIVE ORDERS
- CRIMINAL CHARGES
- RESOURCES

Important Information & Contacts



Law Enforcement

Report No: _____

Officer: _____ P: _____

Detective: _____ P: _____

Advocate: _____ P: _____

Protective Order

Judge: _____ Case No: _____

Lawyer: _____ P: _____

Advocate: _____ P: _____

Criminal Case

Judge: _____ Case No: _____

Prosecutor: _____ P: _____

Advocate: _____ P: _____

Other Contacts

Name: _____ P: _____

Name: _____ P: _____

Name: _____ P: _____

VINE

Four Digit PIN: _____

Important Dates & Information

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You Are Not Alone

If you have been assaulted, threatened, stalked, or forced sexually by your partner, you may feel embarrassed, afraid, and overwhelmed. You may have many doubts about what to do and how to get help.

There are many people in our community who **believe you** and want to **help and support you**.

Supportive services in our community include assisting you in understanding and participating in the criminal justice system and responding to your emotional and physical needs. Victim advocates can assist you in choosing services that are right for you. Many of these services are available free of charge.

About This Book

This book provides basic information about the court process in Fayette County relating to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking as well as information about community resources. We encourage you to read it slowly, a little at a time, and keep it with you as a reference.

The information in this book is not meant to provide specific advice and **should not be relied on in place of legal representation**. This information is based on laws in effect in January 2018. However, remember that laws change. If you have questions about how the laws apply to your situation, seek the advice of an attorney.

About Domestic & Sexual Violence & Stalking

Domestic or dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking are **serious crimes**. No one has the right to assault, threaten, stalk you, or force you to have unwanted sexual contact. **You have the right to be protected**.

These crimes can happen to anyone regardless of race, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, age, ability, sexual orientation, religion, gender, or gender identity. These crimes occur in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationships and can happen to intimate partners who are married, living together, dating, or separated.

If you think you are being abused, sexually assaulted, or stalked, but aren't sure you qualify for services, speak with an advocate about your options.

Equal Protection



Equal Protection

Laws and procedures presented here apply to all people **regardless of sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, ability, race, national origin, language, or immigration status.** You have the right to all protections and services described in this book.



Immigrants & Refugees

All people in the United States, **regardless of immigration or citizenship status,** are guaranteed basic protections under both civil and criminal law. Whether you are a documented or undocumented immigrant, you have the right to:

- Receive help from the police
- Legally separate or divorce without the consent of your partner; ask for custody of your children and financial support
- File criminal charges
- File for a protective order for you and your children
- Access supportive services in the community, such as counseling, safety planning, emergency shelter, and more

You have the right to file for a protective order 24 hours a day, seven days a week!

If you are an undocumented immigrant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking, you may qualify for legal status in the US through special visas available to victims of crime. For more information on your legal rights, consult with a qualified immigration attorney. If you are unable to afford a private attorney, some agencies provide free or low-cost legal services.

- Maxwell Street Legal Clinic at 859-233-3840.
- Legal Aid of the Bluegrass at 859-233-4556
- Kentucky Refugee Ministries at 859-226-5661



Language Access

If you are deaf or have difficulty reading, writing, speaking, or understanding English, you have the right to an interpreter in certain situations.

All agencies receiving federal assistance, including courts, hospitals, public benefits offices, and many community agencies, must provide services that are accessible to persons with limited English proficiency. Kentucky courts must provide interpreters during court proceedings when needed. You or your victim advocate can notify agencies of your need for interpretation services.

It is never appropriate to have children or the offender act as interpreters. While it is the victim's choice to use other family members or friends, best practice is to use interpreters with medical or legal interpreter training. In situations involving domestic and sexual violence and/or stalking, using an untrained interpreter can increase risk of harm to the victim.

Not providing a timely interpreter or a translation may be national origin discrimination. If you have questions or feel your rights have been violated, you may contact the U.S.... Department of Justice Civil Rights Division at 1-888-848-5306.

For agencies receiving federal funds, directly or indirectly, there should be **no charge to clients for the use of interpretation services.**

Telephone and video interpretation is available in many different languages through a variety of services.

GLOBAL LEX: The Office of Multicultural Affairs is located at GLOBAL LEX, an international center where residents and our international population can obtain information, access programs and services, and connect with staff of local government and community service providers. Global Lex staff is fluent in various languages, including Spanish, Arabic, French, Japanese, and German, and has access to telephone interpreter assistance in over 240 languages. Contact Global Lex by calling 859-246-4333.

Your Legal & Service Options



Legal & Community Options

There are two primary legal options for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking: protective orders and criminal charges. **Victims can use one or both options.**

Protective Orders: A protective order is protection from future abuse by setting limits on offender behavior. The person the order is filed against will not go to jail unless the order is violated. The order can help protect you whether or not you want to remain in the relationship. During the protective order process, the judge makes decisions based on a “preponderance of evidence,” meaning the judge believes it is more likely than not that violence has occurred.

Criminal Charges: A criminal complaint is a request for the judge to issue criminal charges against a person accused of committing a crime. A criminal charge lets the offender know violence is unacceptable and illegal. For a criminal conviction the judge or jury must believe “beyond a reasonable doubt” violence has occurred.

Protective Orders & Criminal Charges: Sometimes victims file for a protective order and a criminal complaint is filed. Criminal charges and protective orders are two separate court procedures that can result in separate orders and/or consequences. What happens in one court procedure does not affect what happens in the other court procedure. A change to one order, such as a dismissal or amendment, does not automatically apply to the other.

Community Services: Many agencies in our community provide safety and support for victims and are available regardless of whether or not you seek protection through the court. Physical and emotional support services are available including shelter, therapy, support groups, advocacy, and more. For more information on these services, see the Community Resources section beginning on page 29.



Who May Apply

Who may apply for a protective order?

To apply for a protective order in Fayette County, all three of the following must be true:

1. You must be a resident of Fayette County or have fled to Fayette County as a safe place
2. You are seeking protection from:
 - Someone to whom you are or were legally married
 - Someone with whom you have a child in common
 - Someone with whom you are currently living or have lived with in the past
 - A current or past dating partner with whom you have or had a romantic or intimate relationship
 - Someone who sexually assaulted you (a stranger or a known person)
 - Someone who is stalking you (a stranger or a known person)
 - A family member: a parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, or any other person living in the same household as a child if the child is the alleged victim

AND

3. You believe you are in immediate and present danger of violence, meaning the person from whom you are seeking protection must have either:
 - Physically injured or assaulted you
 - Sexually abused or assaulted you
 - Threatened to physically injure or assault you
 - Done something to place you in fear that you are about to be injured, assaulted, or abused

You may request that your children be included in the protective order.

A petition may be filed by an adult family member on behalf of a minor family member. Minors may also file on their own behalf.



**When &
Where to
Apply**

Where do I file for a protective order?

You have the right to apply for a protective order 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

There is NO fee to request a protective order and an attorney is not needed to file a petition.

You must apply for a protective order in person.

	Fayette Circuit Courthouse 120 N. Limestone Domestic Violence Office 4th Floor, Office C452 Phone: 859-246-2248
Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	

	Fayette District Courthouse 150 N. Limestone Fines Room 1st Floor Phone: 859-246-2228
Monday - Friday 4:00 pm - 8:00 am Weekends & Holidays	



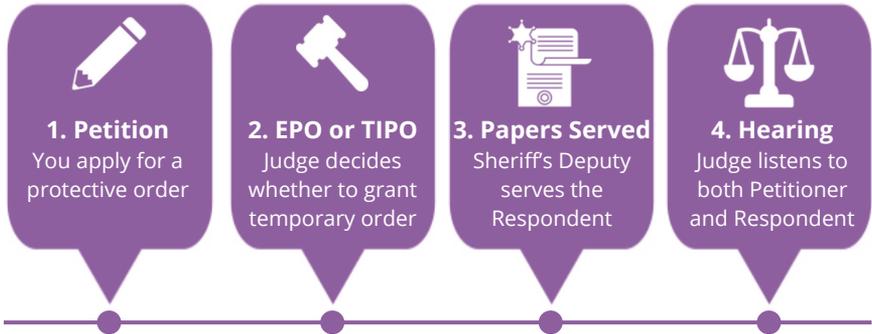
**Who Can
Help**

Who can help me with the protective order?

You may want to speak with a victim advocate before applying for a protective order. Advocates from Amanda's Center, the County Attorney's Office, GreenHouse17, and The Nest can provide support in filling out a petition for a protective order and during the court process. To learn more about advocates see page 26.

While it is not required to hire an attorney for the protective order process, you may wish to do so for the hearing. Having legal representation can help present your case more effectively and assist with obtaining the relief you are seeking. This may be especially important if the offender will be represented by an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, Legal Aid of the Bluegrass, the Nest, or other agencies may be able to provide legal representation at no cost to you. For more information about these agencies, see the Community Resources section beginning on page 29.

Protective Orders (Civil/Family Court Procedure)



Step 1 Petition

- At the courthouse, a clerk will give you a blank petition to fill out. On the petition and throughout the protective order process, you are known as the petitioner and the person you are requesting protection from is the respondent. You should:
 - Describe the most recent acts of abusive or threatening behavior and any history of abuse the respondent has committed against you
 - Describe any injuries in detail
 - State whether weapons were involved
 - Describe any fears of future harm or why harm is likely to occur without protection

Your statements will be made under oath before a clerk.

Under "Motion for Relief" you may ask for any of the following:

- No contact - an order to stop the respondent from making any contact with you including calls, letters, messages, etc. (see page 12)
- No violent contact - an order to stop the respondent from abusing or threatening you (see page 12)
- Vacate - an order for the respondent to vacate the residence you share
- No property damage - an order for the respondent not to sell or destroy any family property
- Custody - an order for temporary child custody



- Other relief or assistance needed to stop the abuse - you have to be specific. For example, you might ask that child support be addressed, that the respondent be ordered to a certified batterer intervention program, or that a substance abuse assessment be completed.

NOTE: While you can request the respondent remain up to 500 feet away from a specific location (such as your house, work, school, etc.), this means the respondent will be given this address. If the respondent does not already know where you live or work, it may be safer to simply request the respondent remain 500 feet from you at all times and places.

If you are in a hospital, nursing home, or are physically unable to come to the courthouse to file a petition, a sheriff's deputy is available to come to you to assist in filing for a temporary protective order. Call the Office of the Fayette County Sheriff at 859-252-1771 for assistance.

Step 2 EPO or TIPO

- ● A judge will review your petition and decide which of the requests, if any, will be granted. The clerk will give you a copy of the judge's decision. If a temporary protective order is issued, **keep a copy of it with you at all times.**

The temporary order will either be an Emergency Protective Order (EPO) or a Temporary Interpersonal Protective Order (TIPO). The judge will determine which to issue based on your relationship with the respondent.

The judge may issue a court summons instead of a temporary order if he or she thinks there is no immediate danger. If this happens, you will be given a date for a hearing to decide if a protective order will be issued.

If your petition is denied, it does not mean you are not at risk. It may be that your situation as described does not legally qualify for a protective order. If this happens it is very important you speak with an attorney and/or advocate as soon as possible to explore your legal options and discuss supportive community services that are available.

Step 3 Papers Served

- ● ● After a judge grants a temporary order or issues a summons, a sheriff's deputy will immediately try to serve the respondent with a copy and a notice of the hearing. If you have any information on the respondent's location, tell the Office of the Fayette County Sheriff. This will help in their efforts to serve the respondent. The Office of the Fayette County Sheriff can be reached by calling 859-252-1771.

NOTE: The temporary order is not in effect until the respondent has been served.

Once the respondent is served with a copy of the temporary order, it is effective until a court hearing is held (within 14 days). If the hearing date is not on your paperwork, call the clerk's office at 859-246-2248.

You may need to take extra safety precautions if you think the respondent may try to harm you after being served with the order. For information on how to be notified when an order is served and other ways to enhance the safety of you and your loved ones, see pages 27 and 28.

To report a violation of a protective order call the police or return to court to file a complaint. This is VERY important. The order will only work if everyone involved takes it seriously.

Step 4 Hearing

- ● ● ● **It is very important you attend the hearing.**

Even if the respondent has not been served by the date of the hearing, **you still need to appear in court** to let the judge know if you still need protection; otherwise, the judge may summons you or take action against you. When you appear you may ask the judge for permission to be excused from returning to court until the respondent has been served. If this request is granted, it is your responsibility to stay in touch with the Office of the Fayette County Sheriff. They can let you know when the respondent is served and the new court date when you should appear. The Office of the Fayette County Sheriff can be reached by calling 859-252-1771.

After the respondent has been served, the hearing will take place. The hearing may occur at your next court date or at a later date determined by the judge. You should be prepared at the hearing to present anything you want the judge to consider. This is your time to tell the judge about the abusive or threatening incidents and present any evidence and witnesses you have (for more on evidence see pages 22-25). You should inform the court of any safety needs you or your child have, any child support or child visitation and custody issues, any alcohol, drug, or domestic violence assessments the respondent may need, and any other assistance needed to stop the abuse. You may also request the confiscation of firearms by the Office of the Sheriff.

The respondent will be allowed to speak and present evidence, as well.

If the judge believes abuse has occurred and may occur again, a long-term protective order can be issued for up to three years. This will be either be a Domestic Violence Order (DVO) or an Interpersonal Protective Order (IPO). The judge will decide which order to grant based on your relation to the respondent.



Hope Cards

The Office of the Fayette County Sheriff issues Hope Cards to victims of domestic and interpersonal violence in Lexington who are granted DVOs or IPOs. The laminated, wallet-sized cards can be easily carried in a wallet, pocket, or purse, and provide law enforcement with critical information regarding a valid order of protection. One side of the card contains the case number, expiration date of the DVO or IPO, name of the petitioner, name of the respondent, respondent's date of birth, a physical description of the respondent, and the respondent's photo. The other side contains conditions ordered against the respondent, such as the court's order for the respondent to vacate a shared residence. Each protected party is provided their own Hope Card. If you are able, present the Hope Card to law enforcement when they arrive on the scene.

Children



Visitation

During the protective order process, you may have concerns about the safety of your children. While children may be included in your protective order, it is still likely the offender will have reasonable visitation (also called time-sharing).

The judge can decide on custody and visitation based on what he or she thinks is in the best interest of your child. If the judge finds visitation with the offender may seriously endanger your child's physical, mental, or emotional health, the judge may order supervised visitation or another arrangement.

Supervised visitation is when the non-custodial parent spends time with his or her child under the supervision of a family member, friend, or professional visitation monitor. The supervisor must see and hear the parent and child interact at all times during visitation.

Monitored exchange is the assisted transfer of a child from one parent to the other, often without parents interacting with each other. Only the exchange is monitored. After a child is transferred, the parent and child have unsupervised visitation.

You and the respondent may be able to agree on a mutual friend or family member to supervise visits or exchanges. If not, GreenHouse17 Children's Safe Exchange and Visitation program is available and can be reached at 859-268-0487.

Keep in mind supervised visitation is often only a temporary arrangement.



Time Sharing Assessment

If you have concerns about your or your child's safety when alone with the respondent, you may ask the judge for a time-sharing assessment by the Friend of the Court's Office.

When the Friend of the Court is appointed to your case, a specialist will do an assessment by separately interviewing you, the respondent, and the child (if age-appropriate.) The specialist will make a recommendation to the judge about time-sharing based on how abuse has affected the child and their relationship to each parent, along with other factors the specialist believes are important for the judge to know.

More About Protective Orders



No Contact & No Violent Contact

What do “no contact” and “no violent contact” mean?

Protective orders are sometimes called “no contact” or “no violent contact” orders depending on what protections you ask for and what the judge grants. Judges may specify what each term means on the order.

“**No contact**” orders usually include:

- No face-to-face contact
- No contact by phone, text, mail, email, etc.
- No social media contact or content about you
- No written correspondence
- No gifts, flowers, etc.
- No third party contact, meaning the respondent cannot ask someone else to contact you on their behalf
- Restriction of a specific distance from you, up to 500 feet

“**No violent contact**” orders the respondent to stop abusive behavior but still allow communication with you. These orders often include:

- No abusive physical contact
- No physically restraining or holding against will
- No threats, harassment, or intimidation

Sometimes the judge will also order the respondent not to follow you or stalk you.

Make sure you understand the conditions of your order before you leave court. You can ask either the judge or a victim advocate any questions you have for clarification.



Violations

What if the respondent violates the order?

Violation of a protective order (EPO, TIPO, DVO, IPO) in any way is a serious matter. If the order states “no contact,” there should be no contact between you and the respondent. If the respondent violates the order in any way, you can:

- Call the police to report the violation.
- Go back to the court that issued the order and ask that the respondent be held in contempt of court for violating the order.
- Take your police report to the County Attorney’s Office to file a criminal complaint (see more about criminal court procedures beginning on page 16).

If there is an emergency and you have concerns about your immediate safety, call 911.

Remember: a protective order cannot be violated unless it has been served. If the respondent is approaching you but has not been served with the order, call 911.



GPS Monitoring

What if the respondent substantially violates the order?

The Office of the Fayette County Sheriff has implemented a GPS Monitoring program to effectively enforce Amanda’s Law, which directly increases the safety of victims whose perpetrators commit substantial violations of their protective order. In Fayette County, when a judge determines a respondent has committed a substantial violation of an active protective order, they can order the respondent to wear an ankle monitor that records the respondent’s location 24 hours a day. Domestic Violence Deputy Sheriffs are responsible for installation of the device and monitoring the offender’s compliance.

If you believe the respondent in your case has committed a substantial violation of the protective order, please contact an advocate to discuss options. You may be able to file a motion to request the judge order the respondent to the GPS Monitoring Program.



Changing the Order

What if things change after the hearing?

Once an order is in effect only a judge can change or dismiss it. While the order was issued at your request, it was issued by the court and the conditions of the order can only be changed by a judge. This applies to even temporary changes for emergencies or special events.

If your DVO or IPO states “no contact” and you want to have contact with the respondent, you must request the court amend the order to “no violent contact.” If you have an order for “no violent contact” and there are further problems, you may request the court to amend the order to “no contact.”

To request a change, you must file a motion at the clerk’s office where you first petitioned for the order. Motions can be filed Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. You will be given a court date and both you and the respondent will have to go back in front of the judge to explain the reason for the request.



Dismissing the Order

What if I want to dismiss the order?

Dismissing the order means it will no longer be in effect. Only a judge can dismiss the order. Even if you and the respondent agree the order is no longer needed, you must file a motion for the judge to officially make the decision whether the order is to be dismissed or remain in place.

Dismissing an order does not prohibit you from filing for another order in the future if abuse occurs again.



Extending the Order

What if I want the order for a longer period of time?

Protective orders can be issued for up to three years, as decided by the judge. If you want to extend your DVO or IPO beyond the expiration date, you must file a motion with the court before the order expires and give your reason for the request. It is recommended you file the motion 30 days before the expiration date. You may request the order be extended for up to three years at a time. You can register with VINE to be notified of the order’s expiration date. (see page 27)



Firearms

Does the respondent have to give up his or her firearm?

Federal law prevents some respondents from legally purchasing, possessing, selling, or disposing of firearms. If you have a DVO, the respondent may not own or purchase a gun.

If the judge adds a firearm restriction to the protective order, the Office of the Fayette County Sheriff is responsible for confiscating firearms from the respondent. The Office of the Fayette County Sheriff can be reached by calling 859-252-1771.



Restraining Orders

How is a protective order different from an agreed civil restraining order?

If anyone asks you to dismiss your protective order in exchange for an agreed civil restraining order, you should speak with a victim's advocate before making any decisions.

While an agreed civil restraining order may include some of the same conditions as a protective order (such as no contact) it does not provide the same protections.

If a protective order is violated, you can call the police and the respondent may be arrested immediately and without a warrant. However, there are no criminal penalties for violation of an agreed civil restraining order, meaning the police cannot make an arrest. If an agreed civil restraining order is violated, you must file a motion with the court that granted it and ask the judge to hold the respondent in contempt of court.

It is important to understand an agreed civil restraining order can only be filed in a civil action, such as a divorce or child custody case. If you have no such case, there is no way to file an agreed civil restraining order.



Moving States

What if I move to another state?

An active protective order is enforceable in every state, tribal land, and U.S. Territory. It is recommended you get a certified copy of the order and register it in the state to which you move. The process of registering an order differs in each state. Find out more by contacting a domestic violence advocate.

Criminal Charges (District Court Procedure)



1. Police Report

Police make report of incident



2. Complaint Review

Co. Atty reviews evidence



3. Warrant/ Summons

Judge may issue & Sheriff serves

Step 1 Police Report

- A police report is the first step in the criminal process.

If an officer responds to a domestic violence, dating violence, or sexual violence call, he or she will investigate the incident. If the officer determines a crime has taken place, he or she may arrest the offender or file for an arrest warrant if the offender has fled the scene. The officer will make a police report, which becomes the legal record documenting the incident. The officer may or may not file charges against the abuser. For more on police involvement, see page 21.

If an officer was not called to the scene of a domestic violence incident, you may still report the incident to the police. If you are in immediate danger, call 911. Otherwise, you may report the incident by calling 859-258-3600 or in person to the Lexington Police Department at 150 East Main St.

Because additional investigation may be needed and evidence collected, it takes at least 3 days for a police report to be completed. Before moving to the next step, you should call the Police Department to make sure the report is completed. You will receive a case number and confirmation from either a detective or advocate that the report is completed.

Step 2 Criminal Complaint Review

- ● Once it has been confirmed that a police report is complete, you may contact the Fayette County Attorney's Office and



4. Arraignment

Defendant hears charges against him or her



5. Pre-Trial

Defendant enters plea, lawyers negotiate



6. Trial

Evidence is presented to Judge/Jury

make an appointment for the case to be reviewed. To schedule an appointment, call 859-226-1802.

At your appointment you will need the following:

- Valid photo ID
- Full name and complete address of the person against whom you want to file a criminal complaint, (date of birth and social security number are also helpful)
- A copy of the police report or the case number and any evidence you have including names of witnesses. (See more about evidence on pages 22-25)

The County Attorney's Office will help you prepare an affidavit in which you provide all the information related to the criminal complaint.

Your affidavit will be reviewed by a prosecutor to determine if the allegations against the offender meet the criteria for "probable cause." If the prosecutor determines there is enough evidence to prosecute, the case will then be sent to a Fayette District Court Judge for review.

Step 3 Summons or Warrant



If the District Court Judge finds the allegations in the affidavit are supported by probable cause, he or she will issue a summons or a warrant for the offender, now called the **defendant**.

Criminal Summons: A summons is an order for the defendant to appear in district court. This is a notice and not an arrest. The summons will advise the defendant to appear in court on a particular day for the arraignment.

Arrest Warrant: The defendant will be arrested, taken to jail, and arraigned in District Court.

A sheriff's deputy will try to serve the defendant with a copy of the summons or arrest warrant. If you have questions about service of papers, contact the Office of the Fayette County Sheriff at 859-252-1771.

NOTE: The issuance of a summons or an arrest warrant in no way guarantees an immediate court appearance, an arrest, that the defendant will stay in jail until the trial, or that the defendant will be found guilty.

Step 4 Arraignment



This is the first court date when the defendant appears before the judge and hears the charges against him or her. The judge will appoint an attorney for the defendant if needed, set a pre-trial date, and review bond if the defendant is still in jail. If the defendant is released, conditions of release will be determined by the judge. (see VINE on page 27 for information on notification of release).

“No contact with the victim” may be a condition of release. Check with a victim advocate to see if this applies to your case and what you should do if that condition is violated.

Step 5 Pre Trial



This is the time of investigation and resolution negotiations.



The defendant will enter a plea of “guilty” or “not guilty.” If the defendant pleads “not guilty,” there will be additional court dates. However, at any point the defendant may change the plea to “guilty.” The defendant’s plea, along with other factors, will determine how far through the court process the case will go and how long it will take.

A victim advocate will try to contact you during this time. You may contact an advocate by calling the County Attorney's Office at 859-254-4941. An advocate will also be present in court.

Step 6 Trial

- ● ● ● This is the formal hearing of the case in front of a judge and/or
- ● jury. All witnesses testify and evidence is presented. You may be subpoenaed to appear and the defendant may or may not testify. The defendant will be found guilty or not guilty.

If the defendant is found guilty, any of the following may or may not occur:

- Defendant may be fined, made to pay court costs, sentenced to jail, or any combination of these
- The defendant may receive a suspended sentence, meaning the defendant would be given jail time, but would not actually serve it unless he or she committed another crime or violated a court order.
- The defendant may be placed on probation.

More About Criminal Charges



Lawyers

Do I need to hire a lawyer?

It is the responsibility of the County Attorney to prosecute the case against the defendant. Therefore you do not need to hire a lawyer. It is important to understand that while you may be the one who filed the criminal complaint, the County Attorney represents the Commonwealth, not the victim.



Attending Court

Do I need to attend court?

Throughout the court process, you are only required to appear in court when subpoenaed. If you are subpoenaed, it is extremely important for you to go to court and be on time. However, even without a subpoena, you are always welcome to attend court. If you choose to attend, it is helpful to let your victim's advocate in the County Attorney's Office know you are coming.



Dismissing Charges

What if I want to dismiss charges?

You are not able to dismiss charges in Fayette County. Once charges have been filed, it becomes the County Attorney's Office's responsibility to prosecute the case against the defendant. Because the County Attorney represents the Commonwealth, it is the decision of the County Attorney whether to prosecute or dismiss charges.

However, the County Attorney's Office does want to help you and will take your feelings into consideration. It is important for you to share information with them and discuss any concerns you have regarding prosecution and sentencing options. To speak with a victim advocate in the County Attorney's Office call 859-254-4941.

Police Involvement



Police Report

What happens if police arrive at the scene?

When officers respond to a call they will investigate the incident. Tell the officers what happened, if the offender used or threatened to use any weapons or dangerous instruments, and show any injuries or other evidence of abuse. If there is a history of abuse or a protective order, let the officers know.

If officers identify a crime has taken place, they will make a police report. **Making a police report is not the same as filing charges against the offender.** Follow up with a victim advocate in the police department by calling 859-258-3600 to ask if the offender was charged with a crime. A detective from the Domestic Violence Unit may follow-up with you to gather additional information about the case and anything that has occurred since the original report, like whether the offender has attempted to contact you.



Arrest

Will the police arrest the offender?

If there is evidence a crime occurred, the police may arrest the offender. Officers have a duty to protect, so the offender may be arrested whether or not you want to press charges or ask that the offender not be arrested. The officer may make an arrest without a warrant. If the offender has fled the scene, officers may apply for an arrest warrant to bring the offender into police custody when he or she is located.

If the offender is arrested, he or she will be charged with a crime and taken to jail. However, the offender may be able to post bond and be released almost immediately. Because release from jail is always possible, you should **plan for your safety**. See page 27 for more information.

An offender can be released from jail at ANY TIME.

For many domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual violence related charges, “no contact with the victim” is a condition of release. A victim advocate can tell you if this applies to your case and what you should do if that condition is violated.

Evidence



Types of Evidence

No matter how small or insignificant your evidence seems, it may help others understand what you have experienced and may make a difference in what can be proven to the court.

If you do not have physical evidence or witnesses, you should not feel discouraged. While physical evidence can strengthen your case, **the most important evidence is your testimony.**

Photos: If you have visible injuries, have photographs taken for evidence. Some injuries, like bruises, may be more visible one to several days after the incident. If this is the case, have your injuries photographed again. You can request photos be taken by the Office of the Fayette County Sheriff or the Lexington Police Department. If you receive medical treatment for your injuries, you may request your doctor take photos. It is recommended you also document your injuries by taking photos. Photos taken by law enforcement may be booked into evidence for a criminal trial and therefore may not available for a protective order hearing. If photographs of your injuries exist, make sure your advocate, attorney, and judge are aware.

Other Evidence: It is important to keep all documentation and evidence related to the abuse or threats of harm you have experienced. This might include:

- Voicemail, phone call logs, and text messages
- Email and social medial posts, including messages sent by a third party
- Cards, notes, gifts
- Photos or videos
- Medical records
- Witness(es) names and contact information
- Written documentation you have kept, such as a journal or stalking log

Make sure your advocate, the police, and the court are aware of any evidence you have. The police may be able to help you preserve evidence.



Evidence for Stalking

Stalking can be very difficult to investigate and prosecute because of the personal nature of the crime. This means survivors must actively participate in the investigation and evidence collection process.

Keeping a stalking incident and behavior log can be very helpful to police and prosecutors.

- The log can be used to document:
- Information on how the stalker is targeting you, including the date, time, incident description, whether you reported the incident, who you reported it to, and their response. Note the names and contact information for witnesses.
- Any direct threats, threats made to third parties, and any gestures or things the stalker did that were not necessarily direct threats.
- Ways you have changed your life because fear or concern for your own safety or the safety of others. This may include work arrangements or accommodations for your safety, money you spent for safety or to repair property damage.
- How and when you notified the stalker you did not want contact and the stalker's response

It is also helpful to keep voicemails, text messages, emails, letters, gifts, pictures of property damage, and anything else that may serve as evidence. Using technology to film the stalker's harassing acts or to take pictures of property damage may also be useful.

Note: Any documentation provided to law enforcement or prosecutors could be introduced as evidence or inadvertently shared with the stalker. Do not include information you do not want the stalker to see.

Here are a few good resources to help you learn more about keeping a stalking log and planning for your safety:

- Stalking and Harassment Assessment and Risk Profile (SHARP): www.coervicecontrol.com

- Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center (SPARC): www.stalkingawareness.org
- OutRageUs: www.outrageus.org
- Technology Safety: www.techsafety.org



**Evidence
for Sexual
Assault**

After a sexual assault not all victims have physical trauma. However, some may have physical trauma they cannot feel or see. Having a medical exam can help identify such trauma and provide options for treatment and prevention of pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV. It is your choice whether to receive a medical exam. This exam is referred to as a SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Exam).

A SAFE serves two main purposes: 1) to provide medical care by identifying, treating, and documenting injury as well as proving appropriate medical testing when indicated and 2) to assist in the collection of physical evidence, such as DNA, in order to preserve the option to bring criminal charges for the prosecution of the perpetrator.

These exams are done by a SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner), a specially trained nurses that provides compassionate, culturally sensitive, and comprehensive medical services to victims. SANEs are also trained in evidence collection, which may be helpful if you think you may want to pursue legal action.

The Lexington Police Department has an on-call SANE available to do these exams in a specially equipped room at the University of Kentucky Hospital. However, these exams can be performed at any emergency department of your choosing. These exams are free to survivors of sexual violence and can be performed without reporting to the police.

If you choose to have a medical forensic exam (SAFE), it is important to not bathe, shower, douche, change clothes, brush your teeth, or comb or spray your hair until a medical professional says it's okay.



Evidence for Strangulation

Strangulation (sometimes referred to as choking) has been identified as one of the most lethal forms of domestic, dating, and sexual violence. It is the ultimate form of power and control where an abuser controls the victim's next breath. Offenders may use their hands, legs, arms, cords, belts, or other objects on a victim's neck.

If you have experienced strangulation or suffocation please contact a victim's advocate to discuss your safety.

While the seriousness of strangulation may not be immediately evident since many injuries are internal, being strangled can cause serious health problems, even in the long-term. If you have been strangled, please seek medical care.

If you choose to have your injuries photographed, you may request that pictures be taken of marks around your neck and behind your ears, blood-shot eyes, and any petechia (tiny red spots) around your eyes and on your eyelids and earlobes. You may also want to record your voice if it has changed as a result of strangulation.

While pictures are best, a log can also be used to record signs and symptoms of strangulation, such as difficulty speaking (hoarse or raspy voice), ringing in ears, vomiting and nausea, dizziness, trouble swallowing, loss of control of your bladder or bowels, loss of consciousness, and more.

Here are a couple of good resources to help you learn more about the seriousness of strangulation:

- Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention:
www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com
- End Violence Against Women International
www.evawintl.org/library

Advocates



About Advocates

Victim advocates are staff members of local agencies that provide free services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking. Some advocates work in the criminal justice system and others work in community based agencies.

Advocates are professionals trained to support victims of violence. They provide information and emotional support. Advocates explain the court process, make referrals for support services, and assist in determining the best options for you.

All advocates can:

- Provide information about the court process
- Help you understand what choices are available to you
- Provide information about and referrals to local agencies and resources
- Coordinate services with community agencies
- Help you in planning for your safety
- Accompany you to court

However, there are some differences in the services provided by advocates, determined largely by whether they work in a criminal justice agency or a community based agency. These include differences in:

- Limits of confidentiality
- Who initiates contact
- When contact is initiated
- How long the advocate will work with you

When working with an advocate, please check with the advocate about the level of confidentiality he or she can provide.

Keeping You and Your Loved Ones Safe



VINE

VINE, which stands for Victim Information and Notification Everyday, is a free, automated service that helps victims stay informed through access to information related to court cases and offender custody status.

You can access VINE 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

Protective Orders

Vine can provide information about the status of your protective order and will notify you of upcoming court hearings and the expiration date of the order.

Register by calling 1-800-511-1670 or going to www.registervpo.com and clicking on the state of Kentucky

Offender Custody Status

VINE can provide information about whether an offender is in jail or prison and will notify you if the offender is released, transferred, or escapes.

Register by calling 1-800-511-1670 or going to www.vinelink.com

Court Information

You can search for information on a specific criminal case (misdemeanor or felony) and register to be notified of upcoming court hearings or schedule changes in court dates.

Register by calling 1-800-511-1670 or going to www.courts.ky.gov and clicking on VINE

NOTE: To receive notification you must register. You must register for each service (custody status, court information, and protective orders) separately.

IMPORTANT: VINE is **not** required to reach you in order for the offender to be released from custody. Once you have been notified of a release, transfer, or escape you may want to re-register to confirm you want to be notified of future releases, transfers, or escapes.



Pets

Some victims may stay with or return to an offender out of fear for the safety of a pet. However, you don't have to choose between your safety and the safety of your pet. You may be able to get your pet added to a protective order.

Lexington-Fayette Animal Care and Control provides short-term emergency boarding for dogs or cats involved in domestic violence situations. To learn more, contact LFACC at 859-255-9033.

GreenHouse17, which provides emergency shelter for victims and their children, offers a temporary on-site kennel until a foster family is identified for your pet. To learn more, contact GreenHouse17 at 1-800-544-2022.



Other Protections

Ask a victim advocate about creating a **safety plan**. A safety plan helps identify risks and ways you can enhance safety. A good plan is personalized to your situation and considers different scenarios, such as when you are at work, when children are present, when there is an argument, and more.

Kentucky and Fayette County have additional protections for victims. Ask an advocate about the following and any additional programs that may assist in your situation.

- **Address Confidentiality:** the Secretary of State can keep your voter registration information private
- **Emergency Financial Assistance:** a few nonprofit agencies provide financial assistance for victims at risk of losing housing or having utilities shut off
- **Lease Termination:** KRS 383.300 allows some victims to break a rental or lease agreement to move for safety reasons
- **Safe Measures:** a few programs provide items such as alarms, cameras, lock changes, etc. to help victims remain at home safely.
- **Safety Escort:** a police officer or Sheriff's deputy may escort you or the offender when it is time to remove personal belonging from a shared residence

Community Resources

Fayette County offers a variety of services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking. Many services are free of charge. Some of the primary services available in Lexington are listed below. For help in deciding which services are best suited to your needs and to identify services not listed, speak with a victim advocate.

AMPERSAND SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTER OF THE BLUEGRASS
1-800-656-HOPE (4673) or 859-253-2511
www.ampersandky.org

Provides free and confidential services to victims of sexual violence and includes services to their families and friends. Ampersand has a 24-hour support line, provides crisis and individual counseling, medical and legal advocacy, education and awareness efforts. In addition to Fayette, we serve people in the following counties: Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, and Woodford.

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF THE BLUEGRASS
162 North Ashland Ave
859-225-5437
www.kykids.org

Reduces trauma experienced by sexually abused children by providing services in a nurturing, friendly, and safe environment. Our mission is to foster the healing and recovery process for victims of child sexual abuse. We do this by providing a child-friendly setting where a skilled team of professionals come together to investigate allegations in an unbiased, supportive location, provide therapeutic support, and offer victim assistance services. The Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass strives to improve the procedures by which child sexual abuse cases are handled. We coordinate all agencies involved in the investigation of child sexual abuse and provide education to professionals and the public about abuse. All services are provided at no cost to children and their non-offending families.

CHRYSALIS HOUSE

859-243-0972 or 859-225-9912

www.chrysalishouse.org

Provides long-term residential substance abuse treatment and specialized support services to chemically dependent women admitted to Chrysalis House. Services for Chrysalis House clients include assessments, individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, case management, assistance with obtaining protective orders and filing criminal charges, safety planning, victim advocacy, community referrals, job readiness training, parenting classes, children's services and community education.

CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER

215 W. Short St., Suite 205

859-253-3353

www.childrenslawky.org

Provides free civil legal assistance to child and adolescent victims and witnesses of domestic and sexual violence. Legal services include assistance in obtaining a protection order, whether petition filed by an adult on behalf of a minor or by a minor for him or herself; representation of children who will be called as witnesses during a protection order hearing; and civil legal advice to minor victims of family/ teen dating violence or sexual violence. These services are offered at no charge regardless of household income and is made possible by funding through the Victims of Crime Act.

LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

150 East Main Street

Emergency 911 | Non-Emergency 859-258-3600

It is the policy of the Lexington Police Department, and the overall goal of the department's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit, to provide enforcement assistance to victims of domestic/dating violence and abuse as outlined by Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) and to maintain effective partnerships with community social services agencies dealing with domestic/dating violence incidents.

Each case will be assigned to a detective and/or victim advocate within the Domestic Violence Unit for follow-up investigation and services. This follow-up process includes gathering all relevant information pertaining to the latest incident as well as documentation concerning any and all previous abuse. A primary purpose of this follow-up is to explain the criminal justice

process, describe options the victim has in regards to prosecution, and provide information about community and social service agencies that can assist and support the victim. Services provided in English and Spanish.

FAYETTE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

116 N. Upper Street, Suite 300

859-246-2060

www.lexingtonprosecutor.com

Prosecutes all felony criminal matters of domestic violence. This office has crime victim assistance staff who help victims access appropriate community resources, keep victims informed as their cases proceed through the criminal justice system, provide accompaniment in court, assist in filing crime victim compensation forms, and help prepare Victim Impact Statements for Circuit Court.

FAYETTE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Criminal Complaints: 150 N. Limestone Street, 3rd Floor

Victim Advocates: 201 E. Main St., Ste. 600

859-254-4941

www.fayettcountyattorney.com

Prosecutes all misdemeanor charges involving domestic violence. Our advocates help domestic violence victims navigate the court system, both criminal and civil. We can assist victims file emergency protective orders (EPOs/IPOs) and criminal charges, make referrals to community resources, explain the court process and possible outcomes, provide accompaniment to court, and help file crime victim compensation claims. The advocates act as a voice for the victims by keeping the prosecutor informed of the victim's needs and expectations. They are also available to discuss court options for those who have not yet filed anything. Our mission is to hold offenders accountable while ensuring victim safety and do whatever we can to help the victim traverse the often confusing and overwhelming court system.

FAYETTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

150 N. Limestone Street, Suite 265

859-252-1771

www.fayettesheriff.com

Amanda's Center for Local Resources is a central information point that connects victims of domestic and intimate partner violence to services in

the community. Amanda's Center operates within the Office of the Fayette County Sheriff as a collaborative community response to family violence and gives victims access to resources they need to be safe. Amanda's Center advocates work with victims face-to-face, guiding them through the legal process, answering questions, and referring victims to partner agencies. Amanda's Center also offers counseling sessions with a grant-funded Licensed Clinical Social Worker. A Safety Planning Deputy is available to meet with victims in their homes and assist in the development of a safety plan to fit their individual needs and take photographs for evidence collection. The Safety Planning Officer changes locks and installs security equipment at the petitioner's residence. A Court Order Monitoring Program is also available to oversee respondents' compliance with Domestic Violence Orders (DVOs) or Interpersonal Protective Orders (IPOs).

The Office of the Sheriff is responsible for service of all domestic violence process including Emergency Protective Orders (EPO), Temporary Interpersonal Protective Orders (TIPO), Domestic Violence Orders (DVO), Domestic Violence Bench Warrants, Domestic Violence Summons, and Show Cause Orders and makes warrantless arrests in cases of violation of protective orders. The Office of Sheriff maintains all intimate partner violence documents in the Law Enforcement Network of Kentucky (LINK) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), state and federal computer systems. LINK and NCIC make information regarding protective orders easily accessible to law enforcement throughout Kentucky and the United States. The Office of the Sheriff is the primary agency responsible for the confiscation of firearms pursuant to court order. These firearms remain in the custody of the Office of the Fayette County Sheriff until further orders of the court. Additionally, Deputy Sheriffs collect photographic evidence, execute Escort Orders, respond to domestic violence incidents, diffuse dangerous situations, and ensure the safety of each victim they encounter.

Rideshare Program: The Office of the Sheriff offers a Rideshare Program to assist victims of domestic and interpersonal violence who are in need of transportation assistance. The Rideshare Program allows the Office of the Sheriff to provide transportation to victims to and from court proceedings, to shelter, to the courthouse to file for a protection order, and transportation to essential appointments. Essential appointments include, but are not limited to: medical appointments for a victim or their children, housing appointments, job interviews, to help transport a petitioner's children to and from child care, school, therapy sessions, and to meet daily life needs. If you are in need of transportation assistance please contact the Office of the Sheriff at 859-252-1771 and request to speak to an Amanda's Center Advocate to schedule.

FRIEND OF THE COURT

**101 E. Vine Street, Suite 150
859-280-8222**

The Office of the Friend of the Court (FOC) is often ordered to perform custody and timesharing evaluations in custody cases. In cases involving domestic violence, stalking, child abuse, and sexual assault, Family Court Judges refer cases to a Domestic Violence Specialist for “DV Risk Assessments” to determine how child exchanges or supervised visits between the nonresidential parent and child(ren) can be safely provided.

GREENHOUSE17

**PO Box 55190, Lexington, KY 40555
24-hour crisis hotline: 800-544-2022
www.GreenHouse17.org**

GreenHouse17 is an advocacy agency committed to ending intimate partner abuse in families and the community. The agency's emergency shelter is situated on a 40-acre property in rural Fayette County. GreenHouse17 provides confidential, comprehensive services throughout the agency's 17-county service area. The following services are provided to nurture lives harmed by intimate partner abuse: 24-hour crisis hotline, 42 bed emergency shelter, legal advocacy, transportation advocacy, medical advocacy, individual and group support, parenting support, children's programming, case management, referrals, service coordination, limited emergency financial assistance, housing support, and financial literacy training. All services are offered free of charge.

GreenHouse17 operates supervised visitation and monitored exchange services in a supportive environment for children who cannot be alone with a non-custodial parent or if contact between parents needs to be prevented for safety reasons.

GreenHouse17 operates a community-sponsored farm on its emergency shelter property. The farm offers a nature-based healing environment and a source of field-to-table produce for preparation of meals for shelter residents. Further, the farm offers survivors the opportunity to establish a current work reference and learn small-business management skills.

Health and Human Services Information

211

Provides callers with information regarding resources for food, housing, health care, senior services, child care, legal aid, and more.

KENTUCKY CLAIMS COMMISSION

502-573-2290

Formerly known as the Crime Victims Compensation Program, the Kentucky Claims Commission may be able to provide financial assistance to victims of crime who have suffered injuries. This may include compensation for lost wages, medical bills, or other expenses that are the result of the crime.

LEGAL AID OF THE BLUEGRASS

300 E. Main St., Suite 110

General Intake Line: 859-431-8200

Protective Order Intake Line: 859-253-8620

www.kyjustice.org

Legal Aid of the Bluegrass represents survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking, helping them obtain orders of protection and assisting with other legal needs they may have. In addition to protective order hearings, Legal Aid of the Bluegrass provides legal assistance to survivors and other vulnerable populations in the following types of cases: divorce, custody, housing, consumer, employment, bankruptcy, public benefits, immigration, and cases impacting the elderly and disabled. All services are free of charge. Legal Aid of the Bluegrass has offices in Lexington, Covington, Morehead, and Ashland, Kentucky.

THE NEST: CENTER FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN & FAMILIES

530 N. Limestone St.

859-259-1974

www.thenestlexington.org

The Nest provides individual and group counseling to English and Spanish-speaking survivors of domestic violence. Court advocacy and legal representation are also provided for survivors filing for protective orders. The Nest also provides free respite child care for children 5 years and younger, parenting classes, and Crisis Care items such as infant diapers and formula, toiletries, car seats, cleaning supplies, food, and children's clothing. All services at The Nest are provided free of charge.

SANE (SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER)

**Lexington Police Department, 150 East Main Street
859-258-3700**

The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program provides medical/forensic exams for individuals (adolescents and adults) who have been sexually assaulted. SANE services include a physical assessment, emergency contraception, prophylaxis for sexually transmitted infections (STI), injury documentation, forensic photography, and evidence collection up to five days after the sexual assault. Services are available 24 hours a day, provided at no cost, and are confidential. Individuals can receive a Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) without filing a police report.

SISTERS' ROAD TO FREEDOM

**2350 Woodhill Dr., Suite 68
859-536-7677**

Provides assistance through food and clothing banks, school supplies, Empowerment and summer programs, and emergency assistance for utilities, medical costs, and rent.

UK TARGETED ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (TAP)

859-971-4400

Provides free services to families with open Cabinet cases to address barriers to safety and self-sufficiency including intimate partner violence. Services include assessments, safety planning, and assistance obtaining protective orders. Provides information and referrals to agencies for counseling, shelter, transportation, basic needs, housing, and employment. Eligible families must have low incomes and reside in Fayette County.

THE WELL OF LEXINGTON

**859-334-0571 or 859-229-4190
www.thewelllexington.com**

Provides a long-term residential program for survivors of sex trafficking or exploitation. We partner with community agencies to provide the following case management services: medical evaluation & care, dental care, mental/behavioral healthcare, intensive outpatient drug/alcohol rehabilitation, ongoing addiction recovery support, legal assistance, education/vocational training, employment assistance, and more. The women live together, recover together and support one another.

Campus Resources

BLUEGRASS COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE (COOPER, LEESTOWN, & NEWTOWN CAMPUSES)

Security Offices

859-246-6422 | www.bluegrass.kctcs.edu/safety_and_security

Cooper: 859-246-6794 | Leestown: 859-246-6834 | Newtown: 859-246-6659

Title IX Coordinator

For Students: 859-246-6781 | for Faculty & Staff: 859-246-6704

Assists students, faculty, and staff experiencing sexual harassment or assault on campus.

TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY

Department of Public Safety

859-233-8118 | www.transy.edu/campus/safety

Supports safety on campus and provides safety escorts for students.

Student Wellbeing

859-281-3682 | <http://www.transy.edu/campus/health-services>

Assists students with optimizing physical and mental health.

Title IX Coordinator

859-233-8502 | www.transy.edu/campus/safety/titleix

Assists students experiencing sexual harassment or assault on campus.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Police Department

859-257-1616

Responds to reported incidents of dating, domestic, or sexual violence on campus.

Title IX Coordinator

859-257-8927 | <http://www.uky.edu/eoo/title-ix>

Assists students experiencing sexual harassment or assault on campus.

Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Program

859-257-3574 | www.uky.edu/vipcenter

Provides support services to UK students, faculty, and staff who have been impacted by dating, domestic, or sexual violence.

National Hotlines

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

1-800-799-SAFE (7233) | 1-855-812-1011 (VP) | 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)

www.thehotline.org

Responds to calls 24/7, 365 days a year. Online chat available. Advocates provide free, confidential, one-on-one support for crisis intervention, information, and referrals.

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

1-888-373-7888 | | 711 (TTY)

Text BeFree to 233733

www.humantraffickinghotline.org

Responds to calls 24/7. Online chat available. Get help, report a tip about a potential case of human trafficking, or find service referrals for victims.

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT HOTLINE (RAINN)

1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

www.rainn.org

Responds to calls 24/7. Online chat available. Connects you with a trained sexual assault provider in your area. Provides free and confidential support for crisis intervention, information, and referrals.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

1-800-273-TALK (8255) | 1-800-799-4889 (TTY) | En Español 1-888-628-9454

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Responds to calls 24/7. Online chat available. Provides free, confidential emotional support for people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress and prevention and crisis resources.

NATIONAL TEEN DATING ABUSE HELPLINE: LOVEISRESPECT

1-866-331-9474 | 1-866-8453 (TTY) | En Español 1-866-331-9474

Text loveis to 22522

www.loveisrespect.org

Responds to calls 24/7. 365 days a year. Online chat available. Offers free and confidential education, support, and advocacy to teens and young adults, as well as their concerned friends and family members.

Campus Resources

Arraignment	First appearance in court when a defendant hears the charges against him or her, is appointed a lawyer, and enters a plea of guilty or not guilty
Complaint	Legal document that tells the court what you want
Contempt of Court	Behavior that violates a court order, punishable by fine or time in jail
Defendant	Person formally charged with committing a crime
Defense Attorney	Lawyer representing the defendant in a legal proceeding
Docket	List of cases scheduled to be in court on a specific day
Felony	Serious crime for which the punishment is time in prison, usually for one year or more
Hearing	Legal proceeding in which arguments, witnesses, and/or evidence are heard by the judge
Misdemeanor	Crime that is less serious than a felony for which the punishment is usually time in jail for up to 12 months
Motion	A formal request to the court in a case
Petitioner	Person who makes written request to the court to start a legal proceeding
Probable Cause	Reasonable grounds, based on facts known, to believe a crime has occurred and for making an arrest
Prosecutor	Attorney for the community who represents the interests of the general public, including crime victims, in court against people accused of committing crimes
Respondent	Person accused of threatening or abusive behavior on a protective order
Subpoena	Written order requiring a specific person to appear in court at a specific time and place
Summons	An order to appear in court
Trial	Examination of issues before a judge and jury when evidence is presented to determine whether an accused person is guilty of committing a specific crimes

Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition
Lexington Department of Social Services
200 E. Main St., Suite 328 | Lexington, KY 40507
phone: 859-258-3803 | www.lexingtonky.gov/DSVPC