

SAFETY PLANNING TIPS

If you are still in the relationship:

- Consider safe places to go if an argument occurs; avoid rooms with weapons and no exits.
- Keep a journal of all threats and incidences of abuse.
- Keep numbers of friends or family to use in emergencies; make sure these are kept in a safe place.
- Always have a charged cell phone with you.
- Talk with trusted people, and establish a code word or sign so they can call police if needed.
- Think about what you will say if your partner becomes violent.
- Take photos of any visible injuries.
- Visit the doctor/hospital to document injuries.
- Keep copies of important documents (birth certificates, social security cards, insurance policies) with a friend or family member.
- Don't be afraid to call police when in danger.
- Prepare an emergency bag; form plan for escape.
- Consider obtaining an order of protection.

If you have left the relationship:

- Change your phone number and screen all calls.
- Document and save contacts, messages, injuries or other incidents involving your abuser.
- Change all passwords and remove personal information from social media sites.
- If the abuser has a key, change the locks and install a security system.
- Avoid traveling and staying alone.
- Plan how to get away if confronted by an abusive partner.
- If necessary to do so, meet your abuser in a public place.
- Change routes you take to work, school and home, and change stores you shop at frequently.
- Notify school and work of your situation.
- Consider getting a post office box for mail.
- Ask friends and family to keep your location and contact information private.

Adapted from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and The National Domestic Violence Hotline

Family Advocacy Clinic

303 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-236-6779
www.law.capital.edu

Capital University

1903 Law School

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Funding

The Family Advocacy Clinic is funded by The Center for Family Safety and Healing and operates under the umbrella of the Capital University Legal Clinic, Capital University Law School, Columbus, Ohio.



Purpose

The purpose of the Family Advocacy Clinic (FAC) is to provide legal assistance and or representation to victims of domestic violence who cannot afford to hire private counsel.

Civil Protection Unit

Lorie L. McCaughan, Esq.
Supervising Attorney

The Family Advocacy Clinic Civil Protection Unit provides legal representation to victims of domestic violence to secure Civil Protection Orders and assists clients with housing needs, employment concerns, and divorce and dissolution proceedings. The Civil Protection Unit is staffed by three full-time attorneys and two victim advocates who work in conjunction with the City of Columbus Prosecutor's Office, Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit.

Assistance with the Civil Protection Order process is available on a first-come, first-served basis from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. within the Domestic Violence Unit on the 17th floor of the Franklin County Municipal Court, located at 375 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

Individuals who have already obtained an Ex parte Civil Protection Order and who wish to have legal representation at the Civil Protection Order Final Hearing or who would like to discuss other legal issues should call 614-236-6779 to set-up an appointment.

Contested Child Custody Unit

Danny W. Bank, Esq.
Supervising Attorney

The Contested Child Custody Unit provides legal representation to victims of domestic violence in cases where child custody is, or is likely to be, contested. This clinical program is staffed by two full-time attorneys and legal assistance is provided in domestic relations and juvenile court cases. Individuals interested in applying for legal representation by the Contested Custody Unit should call 614-236-6779.