

VICTIM SAFETY AND RIGHTS INFORMATION

DOMESTIC AND DATING VIOLENCE You have a right to be safe from abuse by an intimate partner. Free and confidential help is available for you and your family.

- National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-(800) 799-SAFE (7233) or TTY 1-(800) 787-3224, can connect you with LOCAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS for shelter for victims and their children, 24/7 crisis lines, support groups, court accompaniment, children's services, and referrals to helpful community programs. See map on reverse for local program locations and phone numbers.
- Get medical attention as needed. Document and photograph any injuries and areas of pain. Some injuries, like bruises, need to be photographed again as they change.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

- National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-(800) 656-HOPE (4673) can connect you with LOCAL SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS CENTERS for 24/7 crisis support, hospital and legal accompaniment, counseling/therapy, children's services, and community referrals, even if the abuse occurred years earlier. See map on reverse for local program locations and phone numbers.
- If the incident was recent, preserve evidence of the assault--do not bathe, change clothes, or brush your teeth. Go to a hospital for treatment and evidence collection. A sexual assault examination and other related tests should be conducted within 96 hours following the assault-whether or not you choose to talk with a police officer or victim advocate at that time. The exam shall be paid for by the Kentucky Claims Commission. Even with no apparent physical injuries, this exam is important for your own health and protection (risks for sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy), and the evidence collected will be available for any legal action at a later date, if needed.

CHILD ABUSE If a child or adolescent has been physically or sexually abused, resources and support services are available at your local Children's Advocacy Center. Go to www.kacac.org to find local programs.

- If the incident occurred recently, go to a hospital for treatment and evidence collection. Even if the abuse was not recent, a medical examination may still be appropriate. You may be referred to a Children's Advocacy Center for the exam and follow up support services.

PROTECTIVE ORDERS Protective Orders can help victims of domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking by: directing the abuser to have no contact or communication with the victim and to leave a shared residence; providing the victim with temporary custody of children; and providing other relief needed to prevent further violence and abuse (e.g., confiscation of weapons, custody of pets, etc.). Your location should remain confidential on court records. No fees or attorney are required.

- After a full court hearing, a long-term order can be issued for up to 3 years.
- If the abuser violates a temporary or long-term protective order or Conditions of Release after an arrest, report it to the police, the County Attorney, or the court! The abuser may be arrested or held in contempt of court.
- Local domestic violence programs are able to provide court accompaniment. Contact your local programs to speak to an advocate as soon as possible. See map on reverse for local program locations and phone numbers.
- Call your local Legal Aid program to find legal representation in your case.

CRIMINAL CHARGES

Criminal Prosecution: In addition to filing for a protective order, you may be able to file a criminal complaint with local law enforcement or the County Attorney where the abuse took place.

VICTIM INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION EVERYDAY (VINE)

1-(800) 511-1670 or www.VINELink.com or VINELink mobile application. VINE provides information and notifications on offenders in jail or prison in Kentucky (e.g., release, escape, change of custody status, etc.), updates regarding protective order status and service, and protective order court dates.

