



Ashland County
Rape Crisis Domestic Violence
SAFE HAVEN

How Can a Court Advocate Support You?

A court advocate can help you navigate the legal system, answer questions, offer support, and provide information and resources by

- Offering emotional support
- Providing information on your rights as a victim of crime and options available to you
- Assisting you with filing for a protection order
- Answering your questions about the legal process and laws related to sexual violence, domestic violence, and stalking
- Facilitating communication between you and prosecutors, law enforcement, or other justice system personnel
- Accompanying you to court and meetings with a prosecutor or law enforcement officer
- Assisting you with completing a victim's impact statement
- Assisting you with applying for Crime Victims' Compensation and registering for VINELink
- Assisting you with accessing community resources
- Assisting you with developing an individualized safety plan

**Court Advocates CANNOT
provide legal advice.**

**Safe Haven Advocates are a
confidential resource!**

419-289-8085



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Safety Tips in Court

Arriving at the Courthouse

- Try to arrive at the courthouse early or at a different time than the offender to avoid seeing them alone. An advocate can meet you so that you can walk in together. Bring a friend or family member so you don't have to be alone.
- Ask a friend or family member to drop you off at the entrance if they cannot be with you during the hearing.

Inside the Courthouse

- Arrange with court personnel or an advocate to wait in a safe area away from the offender.
- Stay with whomever you arrived with (friend, family, advocate).
- Ask the bailiff to keep the offender away from where you are located.

Leaving the Courthouse

- Ask the bailiff/judge to let you leave the building first while the offender waits in the courtroom at the end of the hearing.
- Request that court security, a bailiff, or a law enforcement officer escort you to your vehicle.
- Have someone pick you up from the exit, if able.

24/7 Anonymous Hotline 419.289.8085
www.safehavenofashland.org

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