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What we are...

LACASA is a non profit organization. LACASA believes the crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse must be eliminated from our society; therefore, LACASA supports victimized adults and children, educates the community and encourages positive action. Legal Advocates at LACASA are responsible for knowing the laws and legal hurdles faced by survivors of domestic violence. All of our services for survivors, their friends and families are free and confidential.

What we are not...

Legal Advocates are not attorneys. We are not authorized to give legal advice. We can never represent you in Court. We do not work for the police or the Prosecutor's office. We will not pressure survivors to follow a certain course of action. We are a source of information and referral, to provide legal options to survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and child abuse.

LACASA also offers...

24 Hour Crisis Lines, Emergency and Transitional Shelter, Counseling, Support Groups, On Call Response, Child Abuse Services, Sexual Assault Recovery Assistance, Children and Youth Services, Friend and Family Member Services, Batterer's Treatment Groups, Prevention and Education Services, Systems Change and Community Coordination.

Resources

LACASA 24-Hour Toll-Free Crisis Line

866-522-2725

LACASA Legal Advocacy

517-548-1350

Livingston County Prosecutors Office

Victim/Witness Coordinator

517-546-1850

Livingston County Jail

517-546-2440

Legal Aid

517-546-8555

Livingston County Clerk's Office

517-546-9816

Friend of the Court

517-546-0230

Abuse crosses all lines, including race, gender, sexual orientation, physical/mental abilities, age, religion and income.

LACASA is committed to serving all individuals.

Mission Statement

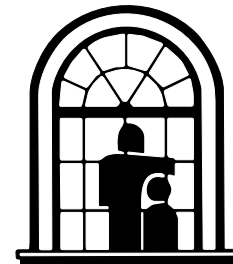
LACASA believes that crimes of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse must be eliminated from our society; therefore, LACASA supports and shelters victimized adults and children, educates the community and encourages positive action.



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LEGAL INTERVENTION PROJECT

Legal Advocacy for Survivors of Domestic Violence



LACASA

Working to end domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

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Legal Advocacy Services

Legal Advocates provide free, confidential, and non-judgmental legal advocacy to survivors of domestic violence. A Legal Advocate can help you to navigate the legal system. LACASA's Legal Advocacy services include:

Criminal Justice Advocacy

A Legal Advocate can accompany you to court, police departments, meetings with attorneys and prosecutors. We can explain the criminal prosecution and assist you in testifying. We will facilitate your participation in pre-sentence investigations and help you write a victim impact statement. If you choose not to participate in the legal process we can work to keep you informed of the case status.

Civil Advocacy

Legal Advocates can help you complete and file the paperwork needed to obtain a Personal Protection Order (Restraining Order). Assistance may also be provided for completing forms to access Crime Victims Compensation.

On Call Services

After the police make an arrest they may page a member of LACASA's On Call Team. If they are paged, someone from the On Call Team can contact you to answer questions that you may have, discuss options, and help you plan for your safety. The On Call Team does not work for the police and information that you share with them is confidential.

REMEMBER...YOU ARE NOT ALONE
Abuse can happen to anyone.



Frequently Asked Questions

◆ What happens if my assailant flees and the police don't arrest?

If you feel unsafe, ask them to take you to a safe place; a friend, family member, or LACASA's shelter. The police will file an incident report and the prosecutor may still decide to prosecute your assailant.

◆ What happens when my assailant is arrested?


Your assailant will be booked and may spend up to 20 hours in jail. At arraignment your assailant may be issued a No Contact Order as part of the bond conditions. You can call the Livingston County Jail to find out when your assailant will be released from jail.

◆ What is a No Contact Order?

A No Contact Order is a condition of bond that is usually set at arraignment. It will prohibit your assailant from having any contact with you (face to face, written, or telephone). Your assailant will be ordered out of your home if you live together. The order holds until your assailant is acquitted or sentenced or may last throughout probation. If your assailant violates the order you may call the police or prosecutor to report the offense.

◆ How can I get a No Contact Order dropped?

If you are having contact with your assailant you need to make an appointment to discuss this with the prosecutor's office. They may require you to meet with a LACASA Legal Advocate to complete a safety plan.



◆ What is a Personal Protection Order and how can I get one?

A PPO is a civil order that is enforceable to a specific date entered by the Judge (usually for one year). A PPO can have much broader and also more specific protections than a No Contact Order. The paperwork is available at LACASA and the Clerk's office. You may file on your own, hire an attorney, or LACASA can assist you.

◆ When there is an arrest, do I press the charges against my assailant?

The prosecutor, not you, will press the charges against your assailant. **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A CRIME AND THE PROSECUTION IS NOT WITHIN YOUR CONTROL.** You are not responsible and cannot be blamed for pressing charges, nor do you have the ability to drop the charges.

◆ Do I have to testify?

If the case goes to trial you will most likely be subpoenaed to testify as a witness. If you feel that it is unsafe to testify or your assailant is pressuring you not to testify you may discuss this with a Legal Advocate. All conversations will be confidential, we can help you determine the best course of action for your safety.

◆ What if the assailant and I are the same gender?

Domestic Violence can happen in a relationship regardless of race, religion, income, gender, or sexual orientation. LACASA services are available to all survivors. There may be additional issues you are facing and a LACASA Legal Advocate can discuss these with you.

