



# Lorain County Safe Harbor

a collaborative community effort to provide a responsive system of care for victims while also raising awareness about domestic violence

## Legal Advocacy Program

Gain essential information on how survivors of domestic violence can receive legal support through Lorain County Safe Harbor's Legal Advocacy Program. It will outline the role of legal advocates, including assistance with civil protection orders (CPOs), court accompaniment, legal document preparation, and connections to legal aid services. Additionally, it will highlight other available legal resources, such as victim assistance programs, housing-related legal aid, and confidential legal consultations.

**DETAILED PLAN INSIDE**

## **Legal Advocacy Program at Lorain County Safe Harbor**

Navigating the legal system can be overwhelming, especially for individuals experiencing domestic violence. At Lorain County Safe Harbor, our **Legal Advocacy Program** provides guidance, support, and critical resources to help survivors understand and exercise their legal rights.

### **What Can a Legal Advocate Do for You?**

Our trained legal advocates are here to support you every step of the way. While they do not provide legal representation, they can:

- **Explain legal options** – Help you understand your rights and available protections under the law.
- **Assist with protection orders** – Guide you through the process of obtaining a Civil Protection Order (CPO) or Temporary Protection Order (TPO) to help ensure your safety.
- **Provide court accompaniment** – Offer emotional support by attending hearings and legal proceedings with you.
- **Help with legal paperwork** – Assist in completing necessary forms related to restraining orders, custody, or divorce.
- **Connect you with legal resources** – Refer you to attorneys, legal aid services, or pro bono programs that can provide direct representation.

### **Additional Legal Resources for Victims**

In addition to our advocacy services, survivors of domestic violence have access to various legal protections and support systems, including:

- **Civil Protection Orders (CPOs)** – These court orders can help prevent an abuser from contacting or coming near you.
- **Temporary Protection Orders (TPOs)** – Issued during a criminal case, a TPO provides immediate safety measures.
- **Legal Aid Services** – Free or low-cost legal assistance is available for survivors seeking help with restraining orders, child custody, divorce, and housing rights.
- **Victim Compensation Programs** – Some survivors may be eligible for financial assistance to cover medical bills, relocation costs, and legal fees.
- **Law Enforcement & Prosecutor Support** – Victims can work with law enforcement officials to pursue criminal charges and seek justice.

At **Lorain County Safe Harbor**, we are committed to ensuring that survivors have access to the legal support and resources they need to build a safe and secure future. If you or someone you know needs legal advocacy, contact us today to learn more about how we can help.