

## Safety Planning

### Suggestions for leaving an abusive relationship ...

#### before you separate

...create a code word or signaling system with your family and friends to alert them to call the police.

...practice getting out of your house.

...decide what you will do and where you will go if you leave.

...leave money, extra keys, copies of important documents, extra medicine, and clothes with someone you trust.

#### after you separate

...change your locks and secure your windows.

...vary your routine.

...discuss a safety plan with your children for when you are not home.

#### at work

...inform your supervisor of your situation

...have someone walk you to your car.

### Checklist for Important Items

- Driver's license/I.D.
- Social security card
- Birth certificates
- Custody/divorce papers
- Medication/prescriptions
- Medical insurance cards
- Medical records
- Checkbook/credit cards
- Lease/mortgage papers
- School records
- Car registration/insurance
- House/car keys
- Clothes

## COUNTY CONTACTS

Prosecuting Attorney	
Barry County	269.945.1297
Calhoun County	269.969.6980
Eaton County	517.543.4801
Ingham County	517.483.6108
Sheriff Department	
Barry County	269.948.4805
Calhoun County	269.969.6450
Eaton County	517.543.3512
Ingham County	517.676.8299
Circuit Court Clerk	
Barry County	269.945.1285
Calhoun County	269.969.6530
Eaton County	517.543.4335
Ingham County	517.483.6500
Friend of the Court	
Barry County	269.945.1283
Calhoun County	269.969.6500
Eaton County	517.543.6850
Ingham County	517.483.6103
Department of Human Services	
Barry County	269.948.3200
Calhoun County	269.966.1284
Eaton County	517.543.0860
Ingham County	517.887.9400
District Court Probation	
Barry County	269.945.1404
Calhoun County	269.969.6651
Eaton County	517.543.4065
Ingham County	517.676.8422

## Additional Contacts

Shelters	
Eve, Inc.	517.372.5572
Green Gables	269.945.4777
S.A.F.E. Place	269.965.7233
SIREN/Eaton Shelter	517.543.0748
Sexual Assault Services	
Eve, Inc. Sexual Assault Program	517.614.4652
MSU Sexual Assault Program	517.372.6666
Sex Assault Services of Calhoun County	888.383.2192

**P.P.O. Advocate:**



*In partnership with  
Green Gables Haven & SIREN/Eaton Shelter*

## LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Eaton County Courthouse  
1045 Independence Blvd.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

*Legal Advocate: 517.543.4606  
P.P.O. Unit: 517.667.0091*

## Overview of Program

The Legal Advocate and PPO Advocates are representatives of S.A.F.E. Place of Battle Creek in partnership with Green Gables Haven and SIREN / Eaton Shelter. The position is designed to assist victims of domestic and sexual violence in Barry and Eaton counties, with legal issues and provide support through the criminal justice process. All services are provided free of charge and include the following:

Court accompaniment  
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Referrals to community resources  
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Assistance with Personal Protection Orders  
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Information and assistance regarding  
child custody matters and divorce  
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*The Legal Advocate and PPO Advocates can only offer guidance and support with legal matters, they cannot provide legal advice or representation.*

Did you know...a woman is beaten every 15 seconds?

Domestic violence is most often defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses force to control another person in an intimate relationship, either physically, emotionally or sexually.

Did you know...a woman is raped every 2 minutes?

There are varying degrees of sexual assault/criminal sexual conduct, however, the underlying definition is any form of sexual contact without voluntary consent.

## The Legal Process

As a victim of crime you are protected by constitutional rights in the State of Michigan. The Crime Victims Rights Act ensures victims' are treated with dignity and respect throughout the criminal proceeding and beyond. These rights include a consistent flow of information as well as special accommodations and services. For additional information about your rights, contact the Legal Advocacy Program.

Did you know . . . every county Prosecutors office in Michigan is staffed with a Victim Advocate to assist victims involved in a criminal case?

### Eaton County Victim/Witness Coordinator

Jody Strang  
517.543.4835

### Ingham County Victim/Witness Coordinator

Maria Valayil  
517.483.6259

### Barry County Victim/Witness Coordinator

Sunny Andersen  
269.945.1297

### Calhoun County Victim/Witness Coordinator

Nora Gieger  
269.969.6942

## Personal Protection Orders

A P.P.O. is a court order to stop a person from harassing you, physically or otherwise. You must show to the court that this person is interfering with your personal liberty or has threatened or committed violence against you. A P.P.O. does not apply to children you may have in common with this individual and minor children are not able to obtain a P.P.O. against a parent. Paperwork to file a P.P.O. can be obtained at the Circuit Court Clerk's office or through the Legal Advocacy Program.

## Resources

### Information Networks

You have a right to be notified of incarceration status and upcoming court dates. For more information about notification services contact the Legal Advocacy Program or visit the websites listed below.

[vinelink.com](http://vinelink.com)  
[michigan.gov/corrections](http://michigan.gov/corrections)

### Legal Services

Michigan Legal Services is a private non-profit organization providing free legal advice and representation to low-income persons in the areas of family law, housing, and public benefits. Additional assistance is provided to senior citizens in certain civil legal cases. Contact the Legal Advocacy Program for referral assistance or visit the free self-help website listed below.

[michiganlegalhelp.org](http://michiganlegalhelp.org)

### Crime Victims Compensation

As a result of the Crime Victims Compensation Act, injured victims of crime are entitled to be reimbursed for a variety of monetary losses including medical expenses, lost wages, and counseling services. Contact the Legal Advocacy Program for more information or to file a claim.

Did you know...1 in 3 women will be a victim of domestic or sexual violence in their lifetime?