
The Franklin County

blueprint
for safety

**The Franklin County and City of
Columbus Court Guide:
Information on Sexual Assault, Domestic
Violence, and Stalking**



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Introduction

Sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking are meant to intimidate, hurt, and control another person. If something like this happened to you, it was not your fault. The person that did this to you is to blame. You did not deserve it, ask for it, or cause it to happen.

Crime victims are often scared to talk about what happened to them. They may not know how the court system works or may be afraid of what will happen to them, their family, or the abuser. While these are normal feelings and concerns, **there are places you can go for help if you have been the victim of sexual assault, domestic violence or stalking.**

The agencies listed in this booklet work with diverse groups of people. They will work to link you with services or connect you to programs that can help you. This booklet is not a total list of community resources. Crime victims should look up agencies in this booklet for more information about resources.

A victim **may** also be able to receive financial compensation through the Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Program if they meet certain criteria. Contact this program directly for more information, 614-466-5610.

Remember, YOU are not responsible for the offender's behavior and you cannot control or change their behavior.

Notes on Your Case



Remember, you are not alone. The prosecutors have advocates to help you get through the courts and there are community agencies where you can get support. Make notes on your case then use this *Guide* to gain information and connect with resources you need.

How Can This Guide Help You?

This Guide is meant to help you understand how to access the court complex, parking, know basic court terms, and know who is there to help you through it all.

Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking may have difficult emotions and expectations about what can and cannot happen when a case ends.

In both misdemeanor and felony cases, advocates are there to walk you through the process, help you feel safe while in the building, and offer local resources to help and support your needs.

Your safety and well-being are the priority while your case is being heard. After your case is heard, advocates can help you with any questions you have about the court. Community-based advocates can help you with longer term support.

Use this Guide as a tool and ask questions when you don't understand what is happening. You have a right to know what is happening and to voice your concerns about the outcome. This guide will help you know what options you have while the case is in the court.

Courthouse Information

- ◆ In this booklet is a map of the Franklin County Court Complex (page 8) and a map of the downtown area (page 9). There is parking all around and bus routes to take you there directly.

- ◆ There are parking garages close by.
 - The Fulton Street Parking Garage can be entered from either Mound Street or Fulton St.
 - The Front Street Parking Garage can be entered from Front Street.
 - The Columbus Commons Parking Garage is also close, and can be entered from either Main St. or Rich St.
 - Parking in these garages is limited.

- ◆ If you park in an open parking lot, the cost is different based on where it is located. You should bring extra cash and leave plenty of time to walk to the court building.

- ◆ All downtown parking meters were taken out and replaced with mobile app parking or parking ticket machines. To park on the street, you will pay using the **ParkColumbus app** or use the instructions on the nearest parking ticket machine.

If you have a court hearing, it is better to park in a garage or lot, so you do not run over the paid meter time and get a ticket.

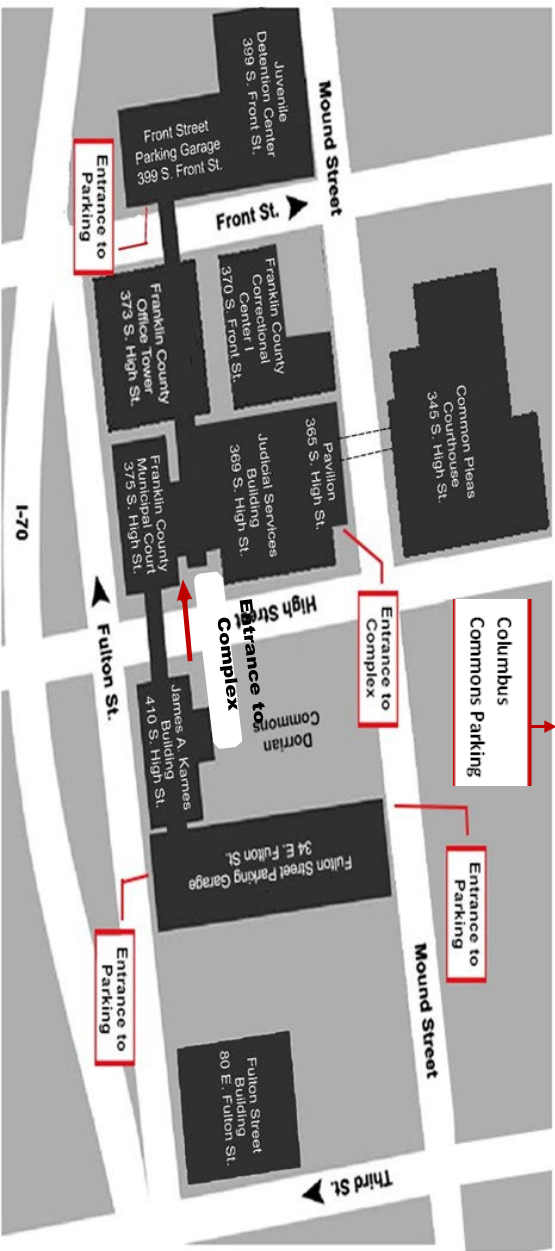
For bus information, call COTA at (614) 228-1776 or visit www.cota.com

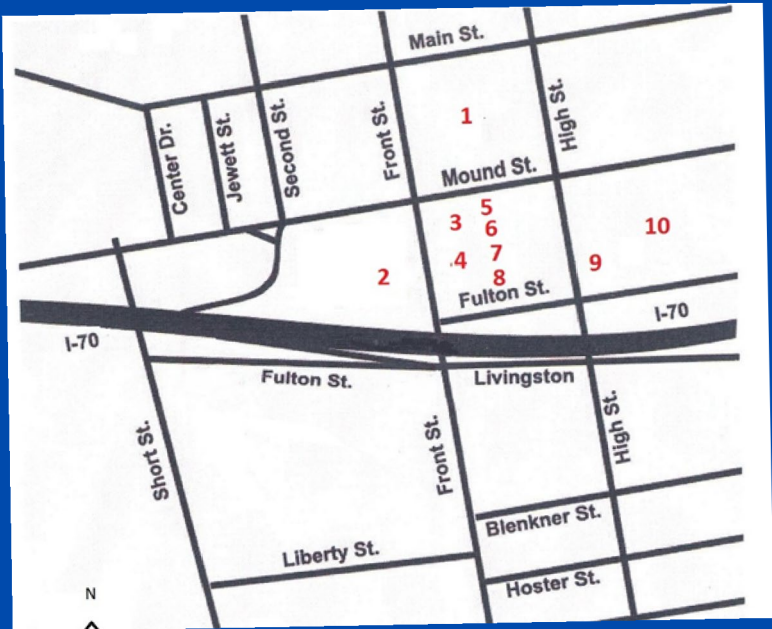
If you are not sure where to go in the courthouse when you get there, security staff may be able to direct you to the right building.

NOTES: The courts are guarded buildings. You cannot bring in any weapons or things that could be used as a weapon, such as a pocketknife or mace. You have to go through security and a metal detector. If a weapon is accidentally brought into the building, you will need to leave it with security or return to your car.



Franklin County Government Complex Parking and Facilities Map





1. Franklin County Common Pleas Courthouse
2. Juvenile Detention Center & Front Street Parking Garage
3. Franklin County Corrections Center I
4. Franklin County Courthouse/Office Tower
5. Pavilion
6. Franklin County Judicial Services Building
7. Atrium
8. Franklin County Municipal Court
9. James A. Karnes Building
10. Fulton Street Parking Garage

What Do the Charges Mean?

In most cases, a misdemeanor (see page 18) in Ohio is a crime punishable up to one hundred eighty days in jail (6 months). A misdemeanor can be increased to a felony based on criminal history and how bad injuries are for the victim. A defendant cannot be sent to prison on a misdemeanor. All felonies (see page 23) are punishable by up to six or more months in prison. Felonies can also be sentenced to local jail time.

Sexual Assault: Sexual assault occurs when someone forces or pressures you into a sex act without your consent.

Domestic Violence: Domestic violence occurs when your spouse, intimate partner, or family or household member makes threats with words and/or weapons, attempts to cause, or causes you bodily injury. Bodily injury includes hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, biting, or strangling.

Stalking: Stalking occurs when someone's repeated acts cause you mental distress and/or fear of bodily harm. For example following you, calling, threatening or contacting you repeatedly after being told to stop.

All of the noted are crimes of violence. If you are a victim of any of these or other violent crimes, make sure you are physically safe and call 911. If you have been hurt and do not want to call 911, think about getting medical care.

If You Have Been A Victim of Sexual Assault...

Get medical care at a local hospital. The emergency department (ED) staff can collect physical forensic evidence with your permission, and they will note any injuries in the medical record if you wish.

Franklin County's local hospital EDs have full support services for victims of sexual assault. EDs have Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE), who are trained in forensic nursing and evidence collection. Advocates who help, are experts in supporting survivors of sexual assault, and able to come to the ED and be in the exam room or waiting area.

For the best evidence collection results: do not take a bath, douche, brush your teeth, go to the bathroom, smoke, or change clothes before going to the hospital. If you change your clothes, bring the clothes you were wearing at the time of the assault with you to the hospital.

If you are the victim of a sexual assault, you can contact the Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO) 24-hour Rape Crisis Helpline at (614) 267-7020. You may also call toll free, the *Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network* (RAINN) at 800-656- 4673 (HOPE).

If You Have Been A Victim of Domestic Violence...



Your safety and the safety of your children are more important than anything else. If you are afraid that your partner may hurt you, advocates can help you create a safety plan and talk about what you can do.

- ◆ Call CHOICES domestic violence program's 24-hour hotline at (614) 224-4663.
- ◆ Plan ahead for a place to go if your partner threatens you or makes you feel unsafe. If there's a place or person you trust to stay with that isn't known to your partner, that is the best option. Otherwise, go to a neighbor, friend or family member you trust to help you and/or your children.
- ◆ Decide on a door or window to exit quickly and safely to escape. Keep your keys and purse or wallet in the same place to quickly grab as you exit.

- ◆ Do not challenge your partner if they've had too much to drink or on drugs. Try not to change the way you act with them. Any changes are likely to be noted and cause them to try and keep you from doing anything to stay safe or seek help.
- ◆ Try to save any cash, if possible, extra clothing, extra house or car keys, and any important documents for you and your family. Important documents could include social security cards, birth certificates, divorce and custody papers, passports, VISAs and immigration papers and bank account information. If you need to leave the house in a hurry, think about where you can safely keep these things, such as with a friend or relative or in a work or gym locker.
- ◆ If you use social media, a home computer/tablet and electronics such as Alexa, change your passwords and do not auto save them. If you can, use someone else's phone or computer to make the changes. If you plan on leaving and share a phone plan, turn off the location permissions so you can't be tracked.



If You Have Been A Victim of Stalking...

- ♦ Call the police and make a report each time something happens. Have an officer give you a card with the report number before they leave. They may not immediately file charges, so it is important a report is filed for every incident.
- ♦ Contact the **Columbus City Prosecutor's Office Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit (614) 645-6232**, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. They will talk to you about what to document, safety plan and link you with resources.
- ♦ Do not throw away anything that could be used as evidence. Keep all letters, text messages, voicemails, gifts, and anything related to the crime.
- ♦ Make a timeline of as many incidents that you can remember.
- ♦ Change your routine often. Take a different route to work and shop at different stores, if possible. Change your work schedule and alert your employer and employer's security with photos of the offender (if known). If possible, add cameras to the exterior of your home.

NOTES: If the police file a charge, you can check on the case by contacting the Franklin County Clerk of Courts. If the police did not file a charge, or you are unsure if charges were filed, contact the Columbus City Prosecutor's Office Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit (614) 645-6232, or the Franklin County Prosecutor Office (614) 525-3555.

If your Case Goes to Court



In Franklin County, criminal cases are heard in either:

Franklin County Municipal Court - This court is responsible for misdemeanor cases. These cases are handled by the Columbus City Attorney's Office. They can be reached at (614) 645-7483.

Franklin County Court of Common Pleas - This court is responsible for felony cases. These cases are handled by the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office. They can be reached at (614) 525-3555.

If you are not sure whether you are a victim of a misdemeanor or felony crime, you can call either prosecutor's offices listed above. You must have either the defendant's name or the case number when you call.

A legal advocate or victim witness assistant will be able to help you through the entire court process.

IMPORTANT:

- ◆ Always wear proper clothes to court. If you are unsure what to wear, call the prosecutor, victim witness assistant, or a legal advocate.
- ◆ Some judges will not allow small children in the courtroom. Some information talked about in court can be very scary for children to hear. Try to find someone to watch your children while you are in court or bring someone with you to watch them while you are in court.
- ◆ If you are interested in getting a protection order, please see page 18 for information, or contact a legal advocate or victim witness assistant.
- ◆ If you need an interpreter, one will be provided for you at no cost. If possible, please let the person helping you know ahead of time so they can get an interpreter in time for the hearing date.
- ◆ A safe place to wait is available to you if needed.



Steps in the Prosecution of a Misdemeanor

Misdemeanor charges may be filed by the police, or the police may send you to the City Prosecutor's Office (Intake Department) to file a criminal complaint.

Misdemeanor cases are prosecuted by:

Columbus City Attorney's Office
Prosecutor's Division
375 S. High St., 7th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 645-7483
www.columbuscityattorney.org

Please call the City Prosecutor's Office Intake Department to make an appointment before you go at (614) 645-7483. **Appointments are required.**

Once the defendant is arrested, or summoned (ordered to appear in court), the court process works as follows:

1. Arraignment

- ♦ Arraignment is the first court date after a defendant is arrested. This is in courtroom 4D of court building 375 S. High St., Columbus, 4th floor. The room is at the end of the hall.

- ♦ If you want the court to order a criminal protection order (see page 18) at this time, you must be present. A protection order is a court order for the defendant to have no contact with the victim while they have court hearings. If a protection order isn't wanted, you do not need to be in court.
- ♦ A Judge will set a bond, which is how much it will cost the defendant to get out of jail. Based on the amount, the defendant may or may not be able to get out of jail.
- ♦ You should get a call from a domestic violence legal advocate very early the morning of a misdemeanor arraignment.

To find out if a defendant is in or out of jail, contact the VINE program, 1-800-770-0192 or www.vinelink.com. The VINE program alerts you by email, text, and/or phone, if someone is released from jail or their status changes.



1. Pre-Trial Conference

- ♦ The case is set with a Judge.
- ♦ The victim is sent a subpoena (court order) to be in court, through mail or in person, but may ask the prosecutor to be on telephone standby.
- ♦ The prosecutor and defense attorney (for the defendant) share information and evidence.
- ♦ The defendant can plead guilty to the original charge(s) or to another charge and get sentenced. If the prosecutor and defense attorney do not agree at this stage of the hearing, the case will be given a new date.

2. Trial/Plea

- ♦ The case can go to trial in front of a Judge or jury. After hearing all of the evidence, a decision is made whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty of the charges.
- ♦ The defendant can still plead guilty at this stage and choose not to have a trial.
- ♦ The case can be continued a few times at this stage.
- ♦ The victim will most likely have to testify at trial.
- ♦ The victim will not have to testify if a plea agreement is reached.
- ♦ The victim will be informed of plea agreements.
- ♦ The victim has a right to be in court during the plea and may make a Victim Impact Statement to the court before the defendant is sentenced.

3. Sentencing

- ♦ The victim has the right to give a Victim Impact Statement at the sentencing hearing. If you need help, a victim advocate is available.
- ♦ The Judge decides what the sentence will be for the defendant. This could be from probation and/or a fine to jail time, depending on the crime.

4. Appeal

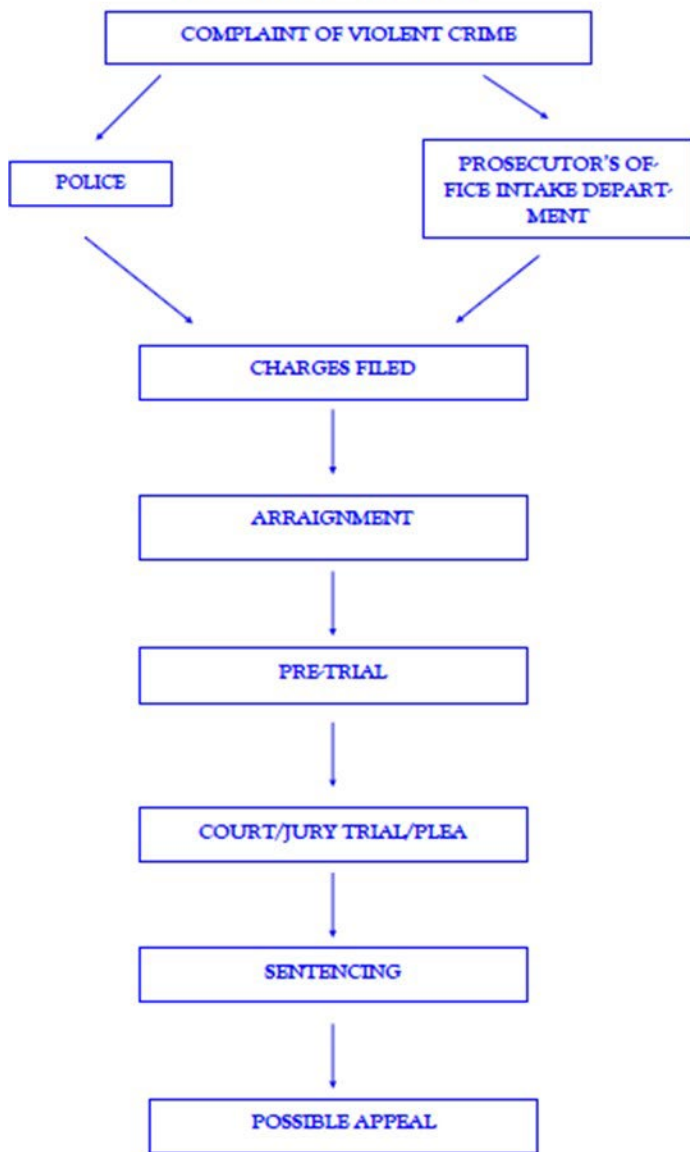
- ♦ The defendant and their attorney may, in rare

circumstances, challenge the sentence of the court. An appeal (challenge) is not common in misdemeanor cases.

- ◆ If the defendant accepts the plea agreement, there is usually no appeal (a challenge to the trial outcome.)

NOTES: Only the prosecutor may dismiss charges. It is not up to you if charges will be dismissed. There are many cases set every day in each courtroom. If worried about your safety, a safe place to wait is available to you. You can ask an advocate where to check in. Please expect to wait. You may be here for a few hours. It may help to bring a support person or something to read or do while you wait. If you park on the street, be sure to watch the time, so you don't get a ticket.

MISDEMEANOR CASES



Steps in the Prosecution of a Felony

Felony charges are filed by the police. Felony crimes are very serious and can result in the defendant being sent to prison.

Felony charges are prosecuted by:

Franklin County Prosecutor
373 S. High St., 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 525-3555



www.prosecutor.franklincountyohio.gov

If you contact the police about a felony, a detective should investigate the complaint. When the detective believes they have enough evidence, they file charges in municipal court to start the felony process.

1. Municipal Court Arraignment for Felony Cases

- ◆ This arraignment (sometimes called an “initial appearance”) is the first court date after a defendant is arrested. This is in courtroom 4D of court building 375 S. High St., Columbus, 4th floor.
- ◆ The defendant enters a plea regarding their guilt or innocence (almost always "Not Guilty" at this stage).
- ◆ A Judge will set a bond, which is how much it will cost the defendant to get out of jail.

- Victims MAY go to the felony arraignment in Municipal Court but are not required to unless they are requesting a criminal protection order (see page 30).
- A Victim Witness Assistant from the County Prosecutor's office may assist a victim at the initial appearance, but, typically, does not have contact with felony victims until charges have been indicted by the Grand Jury.

If you have any questions about Municipal Court arraignment, call the Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit at 614-645-6232.

To find out if a defendant is in or out of jail, contact the VINE program, 1-800-770-0192 or www.vinelink.com. The VINE program alerts you by email, text, and/or phone, if someone is released from jail or their status changes.



After Municipal Court arraignment, a County Prosecutor will look the case over and decide what felony charges, if any, should be presented to the Grand Jury. If there is not enough evidence, a representative from the County Prosecutor's office or law enforcement agency will contact you.



2. Grand Jury

- ♦ The case is presented to the Grand Jury who decide whether or not criminal charges should be filed, and if so, what charges are appropriate.
- ♦ The victim may be required to testify at the Grand Jury hearing.
- ♦ The Grand Jury is not open to the public and what happens is confidential.
- ♦ If the Grand Jury decides there is enough evidence to go forward with charges (indictment), a Victim Witness Assistant (advocate) will contact you. If it is not indicted, a representative from the County Prosecutor's office or law enforcement agency will contact you.
- ♦ If the defendant has not already been arrested, a warrant or a summons to appear at the Felony

Arraignment will be issued.

3. Common Pleas Felony Arraignment

- ♦ The defendant enters a plea (always 'Not Guilty').
- ♦ A Judge will set a bond, which is how much it will cost the defendant to get out of jail. Based on the amount, the defendant may or may not be able to get out of jail.
- ♦ A criminal protection order can be requested at this point. If a protection order was granted in Municipal Court, it will be transferred to Common Pleas Court.

To find out if a defendant is in or out of jail, contact the VINE program, 1-800-770-0192 or www.vinelink.com. The VINE program alerts you by email, text, and/or phone, if someone is released from jail or their status changes.



4. Pre-trial Conference or Hearings

- ♦ The trial court judge may schedule a pre-trial meeting to talk about the case with the prosecutor and defense attorney. The victim is usually not required to be present.

NOTES: There will likely be many trial/hearing dates. Continuances (getting a new court date) are normal and not about the strength or importance

of a case. Most often, the trial date will be continued for the court's scheduling purposes.

5. Trial or Plea

- ♦ The victim may be expected to appear, but at certain times may be placed on telephone standby by the prosecutor.
- ♦ The case can go to trial where a judge or a jury, after hearing all the evidence, decides whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty of all charges.
- ♦ The victim will most likely have to testify at trial.
- ♦ The victim will not have to testify if a plea agreement is reached. The victim will be told of pleas negotiations and agreements and has a right to be present during the plea.

6. Pre-Sentence Investigation (P.S.I.)

- ♦ If the defendant pleads to the charges or is found guilty, a pre-sentence investigation report is sometimes prepared.
- ♦ The PSI provides the Judge information needed to correctly sentence the defendant.
- ♦ The victim may have a Victim Impact Statement in the report.



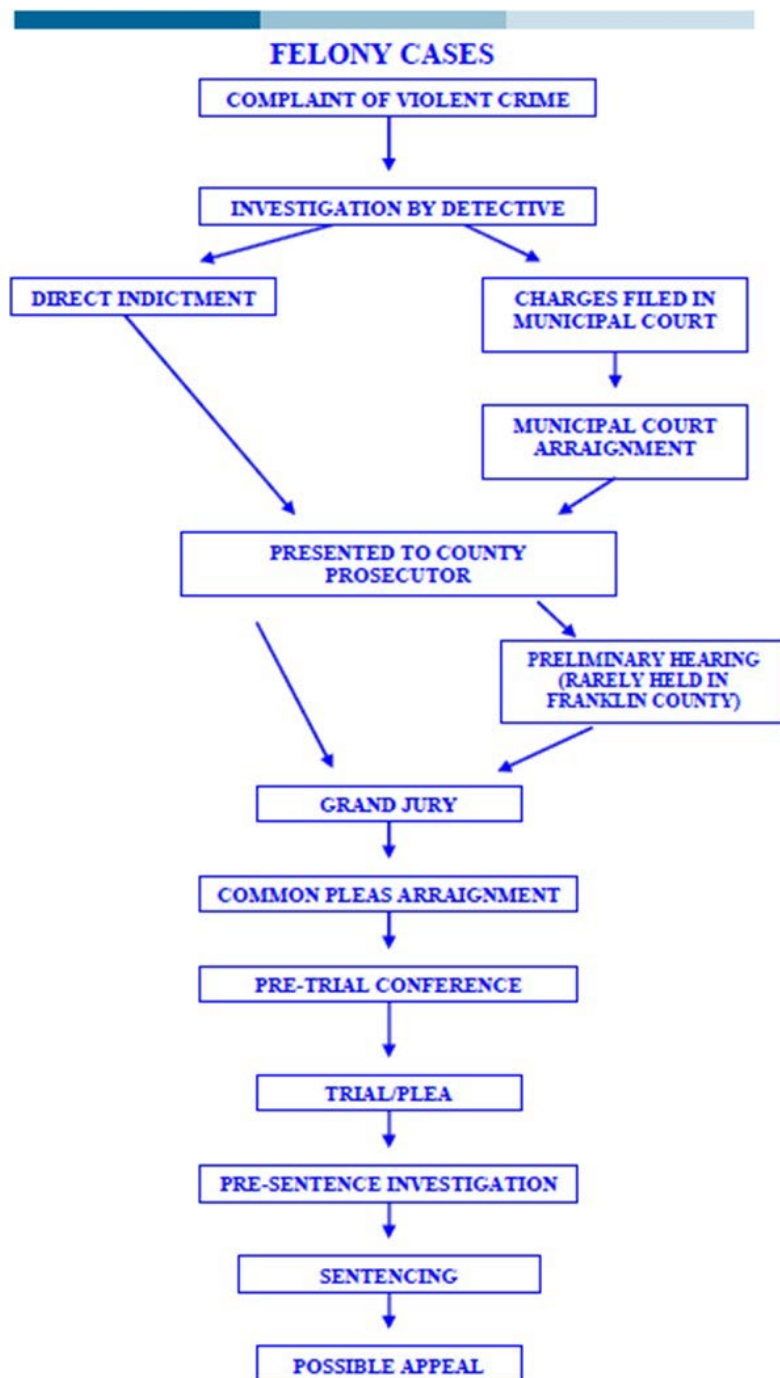
7. Sentencing

- ♦ The victim has the right to make a written and/or oral Victim Impact Statement at the sentencing hearing. A Victim Witness Assistant can help you prepare a Victim Impact Statement.
- ♦ The Judge decides the sentence for the defendant. This could be from probation and/or a fine, to prison time, based on the crime and other factors.

8. Appeal

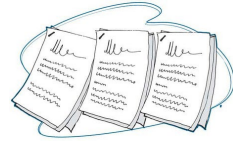
- ♦ If the defendant is found guilty, their attorney will likely appeal (fight the outcome) the verdict and/or the sentence of the court.
- ♦ If the defendant accepts a plea agreement, there is usually no appeal.

NOTES: Only the prosecutor may dismiss charges. It is not up to you if charges will be dismissed. There are many cases set in each courtroom every day. If worried about your safety, a safe place to wait will be provided to you. You can ask an advocate where to check in. Please expect to wait. You may be here for a few hours, so prepare by bringing a support person or something to read/do while you wait. **If you park on the street, be sure to watch the time so you don't get a ticket.**



Protection Orders

Victims of violent crimes may be able to get a protection order. A protection order is a temporary order to help with safety and protection to victims of certain crimes.



There are four kinds of protection orders that police can enforce with charges.

1. Domestic Violence Temporary Protection Order (DVTPO)-criminal order
2. Criminal Protection Order (CRPO)- criminal order
3. Civil Protection Order (CPO) - civil order
4. Stalking Sexually Oriented Offender Protection Order (SSOOPO) - civil order

NOTES Related to Protection Orders:

- ♦ A 'Stay Away Order' is ordered by a Judge as part of bond and **CANNOT** be enforced by the police, only by the issuing Judge.
- ♦ Use the right words to explain what kind of order you have. **A Restraining Orders** is issued in divorce cases and **CANNOT** be enforced by the police. It is a civil issue and handled in Domestic Relations Court.
- ♦ There must be a criminal charge filed to request DVTPO or a CRPO. The prosecutor will help you in getting either a DVTPO or CRPO. **The CRPO are only good while the criminal case is open.**

- ◆ Criminal charges do not have to be filed to get a CPO or SSOOPO. An attorney is not required, but it is recommended that you get help from a lawyer in order to request a CPO or SSOOPO.
 - **The Family Protection Center (FPC)** has an advocate and clerks on site to help with your paperwork and to make sure you can apply for a protection order. The FPC is located at 373 S. High St., 6th Floor, Columbus. Check-in at the window for services.
- ◆ There is no court fee for Protection Orders.
- ◆ If you aren't sure if you can get a PO or have a question, you may contact an advocate at the City Attorney's Office at (614) 645-6232 or the County Prosecutor's Office at (614) 525-3555.
- ◆ No Contact Orders are given as a part of a probation order.

A protection order is for people who fear for their safety. When a protection order is issued, the offender can have no contact with you, even if you want them to. Only a Judge can change the terms and limits of the order. Violations of a Protection Order is a crime. The offender can be arrested for violating the protection order.

If you have questions about criminal or civil protection orders, please call the Columbus City Prosecutor's Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit at (614) 645-6232 or the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office Victim Witness Assistance Unit at (614) 525-3555.

When you have a Protection Order...

- ◆ **Make sure you have a copy of your Protection Order with you at all times! Take a picture of it and have a photo on your phone. Make multiple copies to keep in different locations (work, home, car).**
- ◆ When a protection order is issued and needs to be served on the offender, it is best to stay somewhere besides your home until service is completed (for a few days). **To learn if the protection order was served on the offender call the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (614)-525-3343 option #4.**
- ◆ Have no contact with the offender while a protection order is in place.
- ◆ Do not ask the offender into your home or to meet you someplace else. Even if you ask them to come over, this is a violation of the protection order and they can be charged.

- ♦ Take a copy of the protection order to your neighborhood police station so they have a copy on file.
- ♦ Change your door locks and keep your doors and windows locked. If you rent, ask your landlord about changing them. If you own and cannot pay to have them changed, call an advocate. Put strong sticks or poles in the windows and sliding glass doors.
- ♦ Alert neighbors, co-workers, schools, and daycare centers to call police if offender is seen at your home, work, or school.
- ♦ Be around people when you can in case you are contacted or approached by the offender. Witnesses to the violation are very important.
- ♦ Always be aware of what is happening around you. If the offender often shows up places you are, they may be tracking you by GPS on your car or phone. Go to a local phone store or mechanic to have them check for a tracking devices.

Common Terms in Criminal Court

Arraignment: First time the offender is legally informed of the criminal charges. Arraignment court is also where initial bond (see below) is set or changed, and Protection Orders may be given.

Bond: After an arrest, a judge will decide what it will cost to make sure the defendant comes in court. There are 3 types of bonds:

- ◆ **Recognizance/Unsecured Appearance Bond (ROR)** – allows the defendant to get out of jail on their signature (no money needed to be let out).
- ◆ **Appearance Bond** – the defendant must give the court 10% of the bond amount plus a court fee before being let out.
- ◆ **Cash/Surety Bond** – defendant must pay the entire bond amount in cash or hire a bail bondsman (a bondsman’s non-refundable fees are 10% of the entire bond).

Complaint: The official sworn statement of the charges that gives the statute under which the defendant was arrested.

Continuance or Continued: A delay of a court hearing to another day, for example “The case will be continued.”

Court (or Bench) Trial: A trial before a judge, not a jury.

Defendant/Offender: The named person on a criminal charge.

Defense Attorney: A lawyer hired or appointed to represent the defendant (can be either public or private).

Evidence: Anything shown in court to support a case. Can include testimony by the victim, defendant or another witness, documents, photographs, items of clothing, weapons, and police or medical records.

Felony: A first-degree felony (F-1) is a serious crime, while a fifth-degree felony (F-5) is the least serious charge. Ohio has a range of sentences that goes with the crime based on the degree charged. Certain misdemeanor offenses can be increased to a felony based on a criminal history and case factors of the crime.

Grand Jury: A group of people who consider cases presented for felony indictment. Proceedings are confidential and closed to the public.

Indictment: Formal felony charges returned by the Grand Jury. May be one or more charges – each charge is called a ‘count’.

Legal Advocate or Victim Witness Assistant:

Employee of the prosecutor’s office who assists the victim in navigating the court process.

Misdemeanor: Charges filed as a misdemeanor, related to domestic violence and stalking, are a first-degree misdemeanor (M-1). This is the most serious crime without it being a felony. What is charged is based on the facts of the crime and how it is defined in the Ohio legal statute.

Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Program: A program where a victim of crime may apply for reimbursement of costs (such as medical bills, lost wages, material losses, or counseling) as a result of the crime victimization (1-800-584-2846).

Plea Agreement: When a defendant agrees to plead guilty, often to a lesser charge, in order to avoid a trial.

Preliminary Hearing: An initial hearing to decide if there is sufficient evidence to go forward with felony charges. These are rarely held in Franklin County.

Probable Cause: A showing prior to a trial that there is enough evidence against the defendant to proceed with the case.

Probation/Community Control: A sentence that requires the defendant to report to a probation officer, and to follow the rules as ordered by a judge, (for example: attend counseling, maintain employment, obtain drug and alcohol screening) in order to stay out of jail or prison.

Prosecutor: The attorney who represents the State of Ohio in a criminal case.

P.S.I. (Pre-sentence Investigation): Report that is prepared by the Probation Department in order to provide the judge information needed to sentence the defendant.

SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner): Nurses who are specially trained in the field of forensic nursing and the collection of evidence for sexual assault kits.

Subpoena: A court order for a victim or witness to appear in court.

Summons: A court order for a defendant to appear in court.

Trial: Where the defendant takes their case for hearing before members of the jury or a judge.

Victim Impact Statement: Written and/or oral statement from a crime victim, in their own words,

about how a crime has affected them.

VINE (Victim Information & Notification Everyday):

VINE is a free service allowing victims to call and find out if their offenders were released from jail or prison. Victims can also register their phone numbers anonymously with VINE to be automatically notified when there is a change in their offender's status (1-800-770-0192 or www.vinelink.com).

Warrant/Capias: A term used for an order issued by a judge when the defendant does not appear in court

Resources

Advocating Opportunity - Provides legal services and advocacy for trafficked and exploited persons.

(855) 855-1945

www.advocatingopportunity.com

ASHA—Ray of Hope - Provides support and advocacy for individuals and families affected by domestic violence, especially in the South Asian community.

(614) 326-2121

www.asharayofhope.org

Asian American Community Services - Serves victims of crime and their families.

(614) 220-4023, or 24-hour helpline (614) 266-4208 www.aacsohio.org

BRAVO (Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization)

Provides comprehensive individual and community programs for survivor advocacy and support to LGBTQI survivors.

(614) 294-7867, or text (614) 333-1907

www.bravo-ohio.org

Capital University Law School Family Advocacy Clinic

Serves victims of family violence, is comprised of a Civil Protection Unit (CPU) and a Child Custody Unit (CCU).

(614) 236-6779

The Center for Family Safety and Healing

Adult Services - Offers community-based advocacy, counseling and support services for victims of domestic violence.

Child Advocacy Center - Provides a medical assessment and treatment, with interviews of children and family who experienced child abuse, neglect or exposure to violence. (614) 722-8200
www.nationwidechildrens.org/tcfsh

Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging - Delivers services that help older adults and individuals with disabilities remain safe and independent in their homes.

(614) 645-7250
www.coaaa.org

CHOICES (Domestic Violence 24-hour hotline) -

Provides counseling, shelter, crisis intervention, education, community and legal support and advocacy to central Ohio residents facing domestic violence.

(614) 224-4663
www.choicescolumbus.org

Columbus City Prosecutor's Office, Domestic Violence & Stalking Unit - Manages prosecution and provides education, support, crisis intervention, safety planning and overall assistance to victims of domestic violence and stalking.

(614) 645-6232
www.columbuscityattorney.org/prosecution-dv.aspx

Columbus City Prosecutor's Office - Processes in person criminal misdemeanor complaints.
(614) 645-7385
www.columbuscityattorney.org

Columbus Division of Police (non-emergency)
(614) 645-4545
www.columbuspolice.org

Hands on Central Ohio - Connects people living in Franklin County with social, health, and government services.
(614) 221-6766, or 211
www.handsoncentralohio.org

Huckleberry House - Helps Central Ohio youth struggling with homelessness, family conflict, poverty and violence.
(614) 294-5553
www.huckhouse.org

Jewish Family Services - Helps individuals and families achieve economic self-sufficiency and emotional stability.
(614) 231-1890
www.jfscolumbus.org

Legal Aid Society - Gives free legal help to people with low incomes and limited savings.
(614) 241-2001 / 1-800-246-4420 (Franklin & Madison Counties) or 740-383-2161 / 1-888-301-2411 (Delaware, Morrow and Union Counties)
www.columbuslegalaid.org

Mt. Carmel Crime and Trauma Assistance Program -

Offers outpatient mental health counseling for those impacted by trauma.

(614) 234-5900

www.mountcarmelhealth.com/ctap-services

National Human Trafficking Hotline - Connects victims and survivors of sex and labor trafficking with services and supports to get help and stay safe.

(888) 373-7888

www.humantraffickinghotline.org

Net Care Access (24-hour mental health services) -

Provides 24-hour mental health and substance abuse crisis intervention and assessments to all residents of Franklin County, 365 days per year.

(614) 276-2273

www.netcareaccess.org

Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center - Ensures that Ohio state and federal crime victims know of their rights, their voices are heard, and their rights are protected and enforced.

(614) 848-8500

www.ocvjc.org

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Office of Victim Services - Provides crime victims advocacy, crisis intervention, resources, and registers for inmate status notifications.

(614) 728-1976

www.drc.ohio.gov/victims

Ohio Hispanic Coalition - Improves the well-being of Latinos through advocacy, education and access to services.

(614) 840-9934

www.ohiohispaniccoalition.org

Ohio State STAR Trauma Recovery Center - Identifies, educates, and treats those who have survived trauma and the people who support them.

(614) 293-7827

<https://medicine.osu.edu/departments/psychiatry-and-behavioral-health/star/for-survivors>

Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Program - Offers aid to victims of violent crimes in possibly assisting with expenses such as counseling, medical bills, lost wages, and funeral expenses.

1-800-584-2846 or (614) 466-5610

www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Victims/Apply-for-Victims-Compensation

Our Lady of Guadalupe Center- Provides services including a food pantry, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, nutrition classes, preventative health screenings, legal and immigration consultations and referrals, and comprehensive case management.

(614) 221-5891

<https://colscss.org/our-lady-of-guadalupe-center/>

Safe at Home Program (Ohio Secretary of State) - Provides survivors of domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, rape, or sexual battery a safe and

secure substitute address. The address is designated by the Secretary of State's Office to serve as their address and hides their address from public record.

NOTE: To apply for the *Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program*, contact The Columbus City Prosecutor's Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit, CHOICES or The Center for Family Safety and Healing. Contact information is listed above.

Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio (SARNCO) - Provides advocacy and emotional support along with medical and social services for victims of sexual assault. This includes hospital and legal advocacy support.
24-Hour Helpline - (614) 267-7020
www.ohiohealth.com/sarnco

Somali Community Association of Ohio - Provides advocacy and promotes self-sufficiency for families through employment, education, cultural and social support and economic empowerment.
(614) 262-4068
www.somaliohio.org

Southeast, Inc. - Provides community mental health, primary care, dental, alcohol and drug treatment, vocational, housing and homeless services, (614) 225-0990
www.southeastinc.com

Suicide Prevention 24-hour Hotline - Operates 24-hour support if you or someone you know is thinking of suicide.
(614) 221-5445

The Trevor Project: LGBTQI+ Youth Suicide & Crisis Prevention - Provides counselors, answers, information, connection to others, and tools you need to help someone else.

VINE (Victim Information & Notification Everyday) - Manages confidential source for updated inmate custody status in county jails, available through calls, text, or email.
1-800-770-0192
www.vinelink.com

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To request additional copies, please contact:

The Franklin County Prosecutor's Office, Victim Witness Assistance Unit (614) 525-3555

