

The MLPC is a partnership among: Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO), Mercy Children's Hospital, ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital, and University Pediatrics at the University of Toledo Medical Center.

## KEEPING YOUR FAMILY SAFE FROM VIOLENCE

Violence affects millions of families each year. Over three million children witness violence in their homes each year. Witnessing and experiencing violence can have significant long term effects on children: depression, behavioral issues and even developmental delays. If you or your children are experiencing violence, you can take steps to protect yourself.

If you believe that your children have been abused, you may request an investigation by contacting **Lucas County Children Services** at **(419) 213-CARE (2273)**. You are responsible for keeping your children safe. If you allow your children to be abused or neglected, you may be investigated by Children's Services.

### Obtaining a Civil Protection Order

If you are being abused, threatened, hit, or if you feel unsafe in your home, you can protect yourself and your children by obtaining a Civil Protection Order (CPO). A CPO can help stop or prevent domestic violence. A CPO is a court order that can:

- » Stop an abuser from entering your home, school, or place of employment
- » Grant you custody of your children
- » Requires the abuser to pay monthly support
- » Require the abuser to attend counseling
- » Grant possession of the residence, motor vehicle and other possessions
- » Forbid the abuser from owning or purchasing firearms

### You can file a CPO if you have been abused or threatened and you are in fear for your safety and:

- » You currently live with the abuser as a spouse or partner (including same-sex partners)
- » The abuser has lived with you as a spouse or partner at any time in the last five years
- » You are related to the abuser by blood or marriage and you have lived together at any time in the last five years
- » You used to be married to the abuser
- » You have children with the abuser

### How do you file a CPO?

To file a CPO, go to the Lucas County Domestic Violence Resource Center on the second floor of The Family Court Center. An advocate can assist you with completing the necessary paperwork. Be as specific as possible about the incidents that have occurred which have caused you to fear for your safety.

- » You may be granted an immediate CPO (called an *ex parte*, or *one-sided*, order). This will be in effect until a hearing.
- » You will receive a date and time for a full hearing to occur within 7-10 days. You **MUST** attend this hearing or your case will be dismissed. You do not need an attorney, but it may be helpful, especially if the abuser has legal counsel.

### Resources:

Lucas County Domestic Violence Resource Center	(419) 213-2700
Victim Assistance 24-Hour Crisis Response Team	(419) 245-3324
Lucas County Children Services	(419) 213-CARE (2273)



Any legal information provided in this publication is the sole responsibility of ABLE. This publication is intended only as general information and should not be relied on as specific legal advice for any individual case or circumstances. **For legal advice applicable to your individual situation, please ask your medical provider for a referral to the MLPC, contact Legal Aid Line at 1-888-534-1432, or consult with an attorney of your choice.**

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