**Genesis House**

**Lorain County Safe Harbor**

**Services:**

* Shelter
* Legal Advocacy
* Community Education
* Survivor Support Groups
* S.A.F.E. a companion animal fostering program for folks in shelter
* M.A.P. (Men’s Anti-Violence Program)

P.O. Box 718

Lorain Ohio 44052

[www.genesishouseshelter.org](http://www.genesishouseshelter.org)

**24 Hour Hotlines**

(440) 323-3400

(440) 244-1853

1-866-213-1188

**Facebook:**

Lorain County Safe Harbor/Genesis House

**Twitter:**@GenesisHouse1

**Instagram**: genesishouseshelter

 

**Legal Advocacy Program**

**Genesis House has legal advocates in each municipal court in Lorain County to work with victims of domestic violence.**

**What is a Legal Advocate?**

A legal advocate is someone who provides assistance and support to survivors as they engage with the criminal or civil legal system. While the advocate is not a lawyer, and therefore cannot offer legal advice or representation, they serve as a guide and as a liaison between the courts and their clients.

**When would I need a legal advocate?**

For many victims of domestic violence, going through the legal system is a new and very confusing experience. When you come to court to address your victimization, you should consult with an advocate to ensure that all your legal needs are being met.

**Going to court can be scary.**

**Genesis House can be there with you every step of the way.**

Our Mission is to Provide a Family-Focused Range of Services for Victims of Domestic Violence

**WHAT OUR LEGAL ADVOCATE CAN DO FOR YOU?**

* Accompany you to hearings to obtain a protection order
* Inform you of your legal rights as a victim of domestic violence
* Keep you updated on the status of your legal proceedings
* Offer you other Genesis House

services like shelter and support groups

* Assist you in creating a safety plan
* Talk to you about domestic violence, offering some information about the dynamics of an abusive relationship

**Understanding Domestic Violence Laws in the State of Ohio**

**Ohio Law protects victims of DV by punishing those who commit the following offenses against a family or household member:**

* Intentionally or recklessly causing bodily injury
* Threatening the use of force or causing fear of physical harm
* Menacing or stalking
* Committing any act with respect to a child that would harm or threaten to harm a child’s health or welfare
* Committing a sexually oriented offense

**How is domestic violence punished in Ohio?**

* Factors such as prior offenses or history of domestic violence are considered during sentencing.
* People experiencing domestic violence may be eligible for a protection order in either civil or criminal court.

**What other legal recourses do victims have to protect themselves?**

* The remedies and legal protections to victims include: civil protective orders, temporary protective orders, civil lawsuits to recover expenses such as medical bills or suffering damages, custody or spousal support orders.

**PROGRAMA DE APOYO LEGAL:**

Genesis House tiene personal en cada corte municipal del condado de Lorain para trabajar con las víctimas de la violencia doméstica y proveer apoyo y consejos sobre el proceso legal.

**Nuestros consejeros pueden:**

* Decirle cuáles son los derechos legales de la víctima de un crimen
* Ofrecer apoyo y motivación a lo largo de los procedimientos criminales
* Acompañarlos a las audiencias judiciales para obtener una orden de protección
* Ofrecerle otros servicios de Genesis House como refugio y grupos de apoyo
* Asistirle en crear un plan de seguridad
* Hablar con usted sobre la violencia doméstica, ofreciendo información sobre la dinámica de una relación abusiva

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

* **Do I need an attorney to get a protection order**?

No, but you will have to speak with a judge in person to explain why a protection order is needed.

* **What’s the difference between a Civil Protection Order (CPO) and a Temporary Protection Order (TPO)?**

*Both are court orders for the abuser to have no contact with the victim.*

* A **CPO** can be obtained by the victim going to court and asking the judge for help. A CPO may contain provisions such as evicting the abuser from the victim’s home or awarding temporary child custody.
* A **TPO is** ordered by a judge in connection with a criminal domestic violence case. It may order the abuser not to commit any further acts of abuse and to stay away from the victim.