



OCVLC NEWSLETTER



From the Executive Director

BY ROSEMARY BREWER

It's hard to believe that 2023 is coming to a close! It's been a busy year for the attorneys and advocate at OCVLC. Looking back, we've provided assistance and advocacy to more than 300 victims across the state, with issues ranging from victims' rights pretrial through post-conviction. Our wonderful advocate Mickey has assisted a number of victims with Crime Victims Compensation and the Address Confidentiality Program, as well as supporting victims through hearings and trials. We have seen our newest attorneys, Rachel and Jack, successfully representing victims of domestic violence and stalking in a number of contested protective order proceedings, and our staff attorney Vicky, who is at the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services a few days a week, representing victims to protect their right to privacy. Our Senior Staff Attorney, Emily, has provided trainings to attorneys and advocates throughout the state, including with Mickey at the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence conference for advocates in Bend.

OCVLC is incredibly fortunate to have such dedicated staff. And behind the scenes is Pam, our Finance Manager, who makes sure we have everything we need to be able to do the work we do and is excellent at planning our annual gala. Our staff is focused on our mission of ensuring victims have a voice and a meaningful role in the criminal justice system. It's rewarding to know we're making a difference. Recently, one of our clients sent us the following:

"I can't express how grateful I am that you were by my side at today's hearing. This week has been rough, but your guidance and support helped me so much. Your work matters, and is so important. Thank you thank you thank you!"

Hardy Myers Gala - Save The Date!

April 25th 2024

SAVE THE DATE

THE SIXTH ANNUAL HARDY MYERS GALA

Thursday, April 25, 2024

THE LOFT at 8th Ave | 2010 SE 8th Ave, Portland

<https://auctria.events/2024HardyMyersDinner>

This year we'll be trying something new! Rather than dinner, we'll be serving delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinks so our guests can mingle, connect with others, and enjoy the evening.



Domestic Violence Resource Centers - Portland Metro Area

DV resource centers provide a collaborative system and safe space to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking. From restraining order hearings to accessing safe housing resources, these centers focus on providing comprehensive support from multiple agencies in one office. OCVLC has staff attorneys co-located at two different centers in Oregon: The Gateway Center in Portland and the Family Justice Center in Beaverton.

October was Domestic Violence Awareness month. In honor of the survivors we serve and all those that work every day to support them, we have highlighted three Oregon DV resource centers in the Portland metro area.

The Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services (Multnomah County)

The Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services first opened its doors in September 2010 as a “one stop shop” for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Multnomah County. The center is located at 10305 E. Burnside Street, and survivors can reach the Center via bus or the MAX.¹

The Gateway Center uses an “advocacy first” approach to its services and aims to serve survivors in a holistic manner. Advocates at the Gateway Center are trained to provide culturally-specific and trauma-informed direct victim advocacy, safety planning services, domestic violence education, protective order facilitation, and connections to other community-based resources.



EVERY1KNOWSSOME1
Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Intake Process

Survivors are encouraged to call the Center directly for a phone intake as walk-in services are not available. The phone number is 503-988-6400. The phone lines are open Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm. Once a survivor completes the initial phone intake, an advocate will connect them with the appropriate resources. Community partners located at the Center are offering in-person services by appointment only. If a survivor wishes to receive in-person services, the survivor can request that during the initial phone intake.

The Center is continuously seeking feedback from the survivors its serves through a survey, and changes to its intake process have been made according to the feedback received.

Domestic Violence Resource Centers - Portland Metra Area (Continued)

Services Offered

Since its inception, the Gateway Center has partnered with multiple community-based, and some system-based, organizations in an effort to create a “one-stop shop” for survivors. The current on-site partners at Gateway are:

Community-based advocacy agencies:

- YMCA
- Bradley Angel
- Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)
- NAYA
- El Programa Hispano Catolico
- LifeWorks NW (Adult Therapeutic Services)
- Impact NW (Parent / Child Therapeutic Services)
- Volunteers of America
- Disability Awareness Resources Team (DART)
- Raphael House Survivor Recovery Mentors

System-based partners:

- Multnomah County District Attorney's Office
- Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
- Department of Human Services

Legal Services:

- Legal Aid Services of Oregon
- Oregon Crime Victims Law Center
- Catholic Charities Immigration Services



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Mes de la Concientización sobre la Violencia Doméstica

In addition to the regular services offered by the Center's partners, the Center also serves as a place for the community partners to offer workshops and support groups, including parenting workshops², gentle yoga and guided meditation groups, and faith based support groups.

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Over the last 13 years, the Center has provided countless services and support to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Multnomah County. Since its founding, Gateway is estimated to have served 20,000 adult survivors and at least 10,000 child survivors.

Family Justice Center of Washington County

In Washington County, the Family Justice Center (FJC) is a collaboration of multiple agencies aimed at providing wrap-around services for victims. Every victim that visits FJC will be given an assessment form to help evaluate the appropriate services needed. Through the multiple on-site partners at FJC, victims can receive assistance with a variety of issues, including help applying for restraining orders, housing assistance, crime reporting, safety planning, counseling, legal aid, and more. Drop-in child care is available for victims while receiving services at the center, and victims can also access the on-site food pantry, showers, and basic needs supplies as well.

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Domestic Violence Resource Centers - Portland Metro Area (Continued)

At FCJ, on site partners that can assist victims include the Domestic Violence Resource Center, the Sexual Assault Resource Center, Community Action, Safety Compass, Sequoia Mental Health Services, and others. Additional off-site partners available by appointment include Family SkillBuilders, Adelante Mujeres, Disability Rights Oregon, and the Victim Rights Law Center.

OCVLC attorneys are on-site at FJC every Monday and Thursday from 9am-4pm, available for walk-in help regarding contested restraining orders, questions about the criminal justice process, or to complete an intake for ongoing legal representation.

Beginning in January 2024, victims will be able to attend contested restraining order hearings from the Family Justice Center. This allows victims to attend hearings from a safe, remote location rather than having to be in the same courtroom as their abuser, providing a sense of safety to an otherwise difficult situation. Additionally, in the coming years the FJC will be expanding into the Family Peace Center in a new and larger building, providing even more services to survivors. The new location will include CARES Northwest and help provide expanded access to medical assessments, trauma therapy, advocacy and prevention surrounding child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

The Family Justice Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4pm at 735 SW 158th Ave, Suite 100, Beaverton, OR 97006. For more information visit fjcw.org.

A Safe Place Family Justice Center for Clackamas County

A Safe Place Family Justice Center (ASP-FJC) is located centrally in Oregon City, in a secure building on Warner Milne Road. Following numerous lengthy strategic planning sessions in 2013, this center was created by public and non-profit partners and other consultants. They service thousands of survivors every year. On their website they state, "In 2019 there were 4,621 visitors to A Safe Place with an average of 19 visits per day."

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With 11 partner agencies located onsite and 10+ offsite, ASP-FJC provides many valuable services and resources to victims in Clackamas County. Onsite Partners victims may access:

- Clackamas County Children, Family, and Community Connections
- Clackamas County Circuit Court
- Clackamas County District Attorney's Office – Domestic Violence/Vulnerable Adult Unit
- Clackamas County District Attorney's Office – Victim Assistance Program
- Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Domestic Violence Response Team (DVERT)
- Clackamas Women's Services
- Legal Aid Services of Oregon
- Oregon DHS Adult Protective Services
- Oregon DHS Self-Sufficiency Services
- Safety Compass
- Abuse Recovery Ministry Services.

Domestic Violence Resource Centers - Portland Metro Area (Continued)

At ASP-FJC, survivors can walk in during their operating hours or call in advance to schedule an appointment. They are greeted by a receptionist who asks basic information about what kind of services they are seeking. The Center and their team seek to reduce re-traumatization of victims whenever possible by limiting the instances victims must share their story. Following an initial greeting, victims are given access to a waiting room while they wait to speak with a trained advocate. That advocate listens to them and assesses their goals. Depending on their needs, victims then meet with partner agencies either at that time or with follow-up appointments.

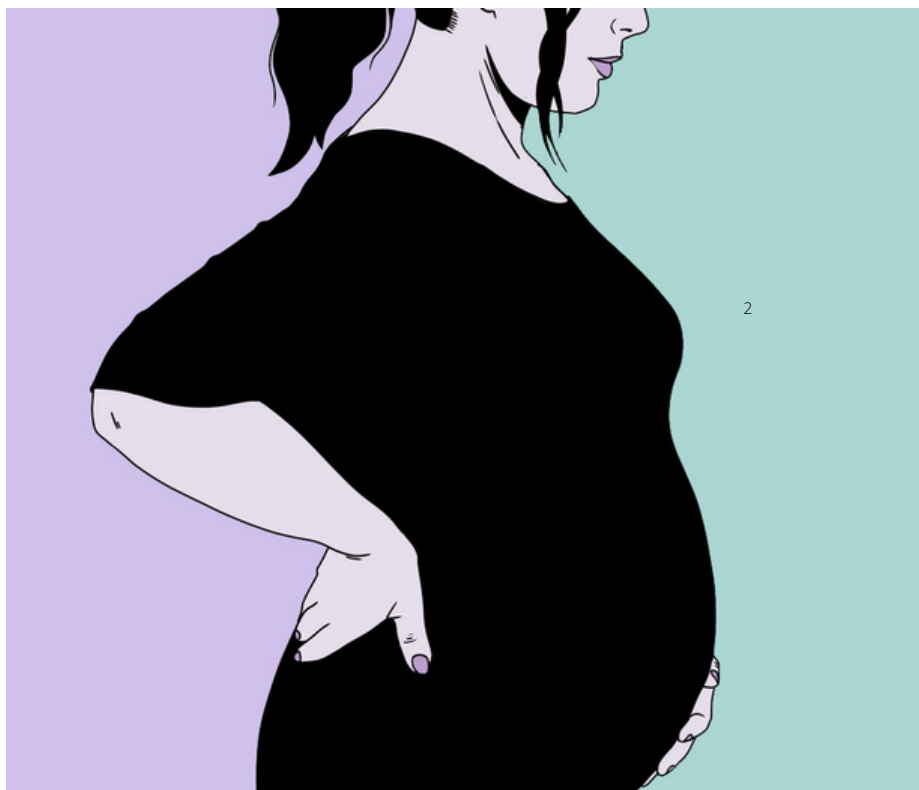
Services offered by the Center include:

- Safety planning and support
- Speaking to someone knowledgeable about domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or abuse against older adults and people with disabilities
- Discussing ways to stay safe
- Finding out about housing and other basic resources
- Applying for a temporary order of protection or filing a police report
- Learning about the court process and legal issues
- Attending a support group or receive counseling
- Learning about financial empowerment
- Talking with service providers from different agencies in one visit

<https://asafeplacefjc.org>
(503) 655-8600

256 Warner Milne Rd
Oregon City, OR 97045

Monday-Thursday 8 AM–4 PM
Friday 8 AM–1 PM
Saturday and Sunday Closed



EVERY1KNOWSSOME1
Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2023

OCADSV Annual Conference 2023

On October 31st OCVLC's Senior Staff Attorney Emily La Brecque and Victim Advocate Mickey Karnas presented at the annual Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV) conference at Sunriver, Bend, Oregon. The conference theme was 'Inspiring Creative Explorations.' We presented to community Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocates from across the state on the topic of Oregon civil protection orders: 'Anatomy of a Protective Order Case - Strategies, safety considerations, & updates'

If your office or organization is interested in learning more about OCVLC's presentations about victim rights in Oregon, Oregon civil protective orders, or our services please visit: <https://www.ocvlc.org/request-a-training.html>



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Senior Staff Attorney Emily La Brecque & Victim Advocate Mickey Karnas

Case Summaries

BY EMILY LA BRECQUE

OCVLC was contacted by a victim of domestic violence who had a contested restraining order hearing later that same week. The respondent's behavior and threats had escalated since he had been served with the restraining order, and the victim was concerned for her safety. Despite the short timeline, an OCVLC attorney was able to work with a translator to assist the victim in preparing for the hearing. The attorney represented the victim at the hearing, after which the court upheld the victim's restraining order against the respondent.

An OCVLC attorney represented a victim of sexual assault. The case was originally referred to OCVLC by the District Attorney's office as the victim needed assistance with a stalking protective order against her perpetrator, as well as assistance with the criminal case for the sexual assault. The case took more than four years to resolve, partly due to COVID related delays, and partly due to continued requests by the defense team to postpone the trial. With the help of an OCVLC attorney, the victim was able to meaningfully participate in the criminal case and have her voice heard, especially when it came to securing a trial date. The OCVLC attorney was able to work with the victim ahead of the trial to prepare her and eventually the victim was able to testify at the trial. The jury returned a guilty verdict.

This quarter our advocate was able to complete applications for Crime Victims Compensation (CVC) for three victims in Oregon, and successfully enroll four victims in the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP). CVC is an Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) program to assist victims of violent crime with expenses associated with the crime. Financial assistance is one of the most common needs a victim experiences in the aftermath of a crime. ACP is a free mail forwarding service provided by the DOJ. It helps survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking shield their physical address, and can be used as a part of their safety plan.

A victim of domestic violence was referred to OCVLC after being served with a Family Abuse Preventive Act restraining order. The petitioner in that case had recently been convicted for assaulting the victim, and as a result of this filing the victim/respondent lost access to their children, lost their housing, and lost an important job opportunity. An OCVLC attorney represented the victim at the contested hearing and an OCVLC advocate attended to support. The restraining order was dismissed on the attorney's motion for a directed verdict. As a result the victim was able to reapply and be hired for the job, was reunited with their children, and was able to find housing. OCVLC then successfully referred the victim to a family law attorney.

OCVLC was contacted by a couple that our attorneys previously helped to obtain a Stalking Order. The respondent requested that the Stalking Order be either dismissed or modified, less than a year after the order was granted. At the hearing, our attorneys were able to show the judge that there was not a significant change in circumstances to warrant dismissing the Stalking Order, and that modifying the order would also be inappropriate.

An OCVLC attorney assisted a victim in renewing a FAPA restraining order. The client was extremely fearful of seeing the respondent in court and was worried about her nervousness affecting her testimony. At the hearing, the attorney was able to use testimony from other witnesses, including the respondent, to minimize the amount of information needed from the victim. Ultimately the judge found that it was reasonable for the victim to still be fearful and renewed the restraining order for another year.