



# Lexington Police Department

Lexington, Kentucky

## GENERAL ORDER

BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

### **G.O. 1993-07E Victim and Witness Assistance**

Rescinds: GO 1993-07D

References: CALEA Chapter(s)

Effective Date: 12/08/14

Distribution Code: B | All Department Employees

Originally Issued: 1993

## **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to outline a Division of Police member's responsibilities to provide support, information and guidance to victims and witnesses of criminal offenses and non-criminal incidents. The purpose of this policy is also to establish the role and responsibilities of the Victim Advocate Program.

## **II. POLICY**

It shall be the policy of the Division of Police to ensure that all members treat victims and witnesses with fairness, dignity, and respect throughout the criminal justice process and to ensure that they are made aware of assistance that is available to them based on their particular needs. [Additional community partner service providers are listed in the Appendix of this policy.]

It shall also be the policy of the Division of Police Victim Advocate Program to offer assistance to victims of serious crimes during the preliminary stages of the investigation.

Personnel will abide by the law enforcement roles and responsibilities as outlined in KRS 421.500-421.575 and the Kentucky Crime Victim Bill of Rights Handbook. All data, files and records pertaining to victims and witnesses shall be kept confidential and protected, except when acting in accordance with applicable laws.

## **III. DEFINITIONS**

**Crime Victim:** Generally, a person who has been physically and/or emotionally injured due to the occurrence of a crime. Victims include individuals who have been direct targets of violence or property loss or damage, their family members, and people who experience emotional trauma as a result of witnessing such an incident.

**Victim:** As used in KRS 421.500 to 421.575, "victim" means an individual who suffers direct or threatened physical, financial, or emotional harm as a result of the commission of a crime classified as stalking, unlawful imprisonment, use of a minor in a sexual performance, unlawful transaction with a minor in the first degree, terroristic threatening, menacing, harassing communications, intimidating a witness, criminal homicide, robbery, rape, assault, sodomy, kidnapping, burglary in the first or second degree, sexual abuse, wanton endangerment, criminal abuse, or incest. If the victim is a minor or legally incapacitated, "victim" also includes a parent, guardian, custodian or court-appointed special advocate.

If the victim is deceased and the relation is not the defendant, then the following relations shall be designated as “victim” for the purpose of exercising those rights contained in KRS 421.500-421.575:

1. The spouse;
2. An adult child (if 1. does not apply);
3. A parent (if 1. and 2. do not apply);
4. A sibling (if 1. to 3. do not apply);
5. A grandparent (if 1. to 4. do not apply).

Provisions of the Victims Bill of Rights apply to all felony and misdemeanor proceedings in a district or circuit court of the Commonwealth, and to individuals who have suffered direct or threatened physical, financial, or emotional harm as a result of the commission of a crime classified as any of the following:

- Stalking
- Unlawful Imprisonment
- Use of a minor in a sexual performance
- Unlawful transaction with a minor in the first degree
- Terroristic Threatening
- Menacing
- Harassing Communications
- Intimidating a Witness
- Criminal Homicide
- Robbery
- Burglary in the first or second degree
- Rape
- Assault
- Sodomy
- Kidnapping
- Sexual Abuse
- Wanton Endangerment
- Criminal Abuse
- Incest

“Victim” shall also mean a resident of this state who is injured or killed by an act of terrorism, as defined in 18 U.S.C sec. 2331, committed outside the United States.

**WITNESS:** A person who, as determined by the law enforcement agency, has information or evidence relevant to the investigation of a specified crime. When the witness is a minor, the term “witness” includes an appropriate family member. Witness does not include defense witnesses or anyone involved in the crime as a perpetrator or accomplice.

**VICTIM ADVOCATES:** Civilian employees of the Division of Police who provide preliminary services to victims of serious crimes.

#### **IV. VICTIM ADVOCATE PROGRAM**

A. The Victim Advocate Program seeks to provide a variety of preliminary services to victims of serious crimes through referrals, advocacy and support.

B. The assistance provided by the advocates will ensure the victim's rights are protected and that the victim is treated with dignity and respect throughout the criminal justice process.

C. The Division's Victim Advocate Program provides preliminary services to victims of the following criminal offenses, excerpted from the Kentucky Crime Victims Bill of Rights:

- Stalking
- Unlawful Imprisonment
- Terroristic Threatening
- Menacing
- Harassing Communications
- Intimidating a Witness
- Criminal Homicide
- Robbery
- Burglary in the first or second degree
- Rape
- Assault (including Domestic Violence related assaults)
- Sodomy
- Kidnapping
- Sexual Abuse
- Wanton Endangerment
- Criminal Abuse

D. Members of the Victim Advocate Program, with the approval of the designated BOI Special Victims Section supervisor, may also:

1. Provide preliminary services to victims of other types of criminal offenses,
2. Provide assistance to other law enforcement agencies within Fayette County
3. Provide assistance to members of law enforcement agencies in other jurisdictions.

E. Services provided by members of the Victim Advocate Program include (and are not limited to):

1. Crisis Intervention
2. Guidance
3. Case Status
4. Emotional Support
5. Assistance with Criminal and Civil Court Proceedings

F. Division personnel requesting the formal assistance of the Victim Advocate Program members will

submit a request to the designated supervisor of the Bureau of Investigation Special Victims Section. This supervisor will review requests with the advocates as needed to determine whether the request adheres to the guidelines of this policy. Requests received by advocates from outside agencies will be reviewed with and approved by the designated BOI SVS supervisor, for information purposes.

G. The victim advocates will regularly communicate with various BOI investigative supervisors to:

1. Facilitate the prompt identification of crime victims to assist
2. Stay current on case status of crime victims being assisted
3. Ensure information obtained by the advocates is efficiently shared with case investigators.

## **V. VICTIM AND WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROCEDURES**

A. In accordance with KRS 421.500 through 421.575, law enforcement personnel shall ensure that victims receive information on available protective, emergency, social, and medical services upon initial contact with the victim and are given information on the following as soon as possible:

1. Availability of crime victim compensation where applicable;
2. Community based treatment programs;
3. The criminal justice process as it involves the participation of the victim or witness;
4. The arrest of the accused; and
5. How to be registered to be notified when a person has been released from a detention facility.

See Section E. "Preliminary Investigations" (below) regarding utilizing Form #156 (Community Resources for Victims and Witnesses), as well as additional options available to officers that help ensure that victims receive appropriate initial services information.

B. Law enforcement officers and attorneys for the Commonwealth shall provide information to victims and witnesses on how they may be protected from intimidation, harassment, and retaliation as defined in KRS 524.040 or 524.055.

### **C. Critical Needs of Crime Victims**

Victims of crime experience a variety of physical, psychological and social needs, including:

1. Safety: Protection from perpetrators and assistance in avoiding re-victimization
2. Support: Assistance to enable participation in the criminal justice system processes and repair of harm
3. Information: Concise and useful information about the victims' rights, criminal justice

system process, and available victim services

4. Access: Ability to participate in the justice system process and have ready availability to support services
5. Continuity: Consistency in approaches and methods across agencies through all stages of the criminal justice process
6. Voice: Opportunities to speak out and be heard on specific case processing issues and larger policy questions
7. Justice: Receiving the support necessary to heal and seeing that perpetrators are held accountable

#### D. Initial Officers' Response

Any of the following measures are appropriate and are authorized for responding officers to complete for a victim of crime:

1. Immediately ascertain that the victim or victims are at a safe location
2. Trauma Assessment: The officer should conduct an immediate evaluation of the situation, including:
  - a. The need for first aid or emergency medical attention
  - b. The need for crisis intervention, defusing any volatile situation, interviewing the victim and identifying his or her most pressing needs, and developing a plan of action to meet those needs.
3. Once the incident is stable, develop a supportive presence by reassuring the victim that he or she is no longer in immediate danger.
4. Officers dealing with a victim of a crime should respond quickly, listen attentively, show concern for the victim's plight, reassure the victim and help overcome the victim's sense of fear and helplessness and be sensitive to the victim's special circumstances. Officers must avoid insensitive and unnecessary questioning and any comments or attitudes suggesting that the victim contributed to his or her victimization.
5. Safety and security measures: Facilitate securing the premises of a home or apartment to prevent re-victimization.
6. Conflict mediation: Officers may offer assistance in resolving neighborhood or acquaintance disputes by making appropriate referrals.
7. Shelter and other emergency aid: Assist victims with locating alternative housing as needed.
8. When responding to a domestic violence-related incident during regular business hours,

officers may offer to put the victim in immediate contact with a victim advocate by phone.

#### E. Preliminary Investigations

At the point of initial contact with the victim or witness, and after emergency assistance has been rendered, the initial responding officer or the victim advocate (if applicable) should render the following services to include, at a minimum:

1. Offer information to the victim or witness about applicable rights and services (e.g., counseling, medical attention, compensation programs or emergency financial assistance and victim advocacy) utilizing Form #156 (Community Resources for Victims and Witnesses).
2. Advise the victim or witness about what to do if the suspect or the suspect's companions or family threatens or otherwise intimidates him or her.
3. Inform the victim or witnesses of the case number (if known) and subsequent steps in the processing of the case. The case number may be supplied on Form #156.
4. Provide a telephone number that the victim or witness may call to report additional information about the case or to receive information about the status of the case.
5. Establish an extra patrol for the victim or witness, if appropriate. Form 636 (Bureau of Patrol Extra Patrol Form) shall be utilized for this purpose. For exigent circumstances, extra patrol requests may be referred directly to a Bureau of Patrol sector commander for immediate assignment.
6. Strongly encourage the victim to contact the Division immediately if they are threatened or intimidated by anyone as a result of reporting the crime, or if they learn of any new information regarding the case.
7. Officers and victim advocates shall be attentive to crime victims with special needs. Victims with physical, mental, or emotional impairments, as well as child and elderly victims should be attended to in a manner that best supports their life conditions and specific situations. A combination of service provider referrals that can work collaboratively to meet the unique needs of these victims may be a more appropriate approach.
8. Officers and victim advocates shall also be sensitive to the cultural needs of crime victims by ensuring access to translator services when appropriate.

#### F. Follow-Up Investigations

1. A victim or witness should be recontacted within ten days of the initiation of an investigation, and periodically thereafter, to determine whether needs are being met, if in the opinion of the investigating officer, a supervisor, or the Police Chief, the impact of a crime on a victim or witness has been unusually severe and has triggered above-average need for victim or witness assistance.
  - a. Whenever there is a significant traumatic incident which requires additional victim or

witness assistance, the victim or witness will also be informed of the services of the applicable community partner agencies, including those listed in the Appendix of this policy. The officer may also request assistance from a Division victim advocate.

2. The investigating officer or assigned victim advocate (which includes advocates from outside the Division of Police) shall explain to the victim or witness the procedures involved in the prosecution of their cases and their role in those procedures, if not an endangerment to the successful prosecution of the case.
3. The scheduling of photo arrays, interviews and other required appearances should be done at the convenience of the victim or witness whenever feasible, taking into consideration the physical, financial and emotional state of the victim or witness as well as the resources available to the Division. The Division of Police, if feasible, will provide transportation as needed so the victim or witness can attend these appearances.
4. Where permitted by law or rules of evidence and if feasible, victim or witness property taken as evidence by the Division will be promptly returned (except for contraband, disputed property, and weapons used in the course of the crime). The Division shall promptly return a victim's property held for evidentiary purposes unless there is a compelling reason for retaining it. Photographs of such property shall be received by the court as competent evidence in accordance with the provisions of KRS 422.350.
5. Within ten (10) days of receiving a copy of a police report with viable investigative information, the investigating officer or detective shall attempt to contact the victim and:
  - a. Provide the victim with the investigative officer's name, assignment and phone number
  - b. Convey the importance to the Division to solve his/her case
  - c. Reference the case number
  - d. Provide an update on the status of the case
  - e. Obtain additional information regarding the offense
  - f. Explain the procedures required for a successful prosecution of the case
  - g. Schedule interviews or required appearances
6. Each BOI section or unit shall establish a system of recordkeeping to ensure that follow-up duties have been performed.

#### G. Services Provided to Victims or Witnesses upon Arrest, During Post-Arrest Processing, and While Awaiting Trial of a Perpetrator

1. Victims and witnesses should be provided information on Victim Information and Everyday Notification (VINE) (1-800-511-1670) so that they may register for the notification of the

release of a perpetrator. It is also appropriate for an officer to contact victims and witnesses with updated information concerning the perpetrator, including: arrest, the criminal charges, the date of arraignment, the immediate custody status (citation or incarceration) and bail bond information, when available.

#### H. Services Provided During and After Trial

1. Criminal justice orientation: Officers and victim advocates should be prepared to and should voluntarily provide information on the criminal justice process and the victim or witnesses' responsibilities in that process.
2. Officers may offer victims and witnesses escort and transportation to court whenever necessary to ensure that they reach the proper court.
3. In order to reduce fear or provide comfort, it is appropriate for the investigating officer to accompany victims or witnesses to the courtroom and stay with them during the proceedings, especially when there is reason to believe that a victim or witness may experience fear of reprisal, intimidation or extraordinary apprehension about testifying. When possible, victims and witnesses should be segregated from the defendant.
4. A victim or witness who so requests shall be assisted by law enforcement agencies and attorneys for the Commonwealth in informing employers that the need for victim or witness cooperation in the prosecution of the case may necessitate absence of that victim or witness from work.
5. Letters of Disposition: The officer in charge of the criminal investigations or the arresting officer may send letters to victim or witnesses involved in criminal prosecutions notifying them of the disposition of the case and expressing the Division's appreciation for their participations in the prosecution of the case.

#### I. Assistance to Victims or Witnesses Who Have Been Threatened, Intimidated or Fear Further Victimization

The Division of Police will treat threats received by a victim or witness, or a victim's or witness's concerns of intimidation or further victimization with sensitivity and concern.

1. The Division will provide appropriate assistance to victims or witnesses who have been threatened or who, in the judgment of the responsible officer, express specific, credible reasons for fearing intimidation or further victimization.
2. Protective measures may be implemented and extended to protect a victim or witness to whom there is a real and tangible danger of serious physical harm from an assailant.
3. The specific level of danger of physical harm required to implement these affirmative protective measures will be determined by the best judgment of the responding officer, the investigator, or a supervisor.
4. Protective measures may include any of the following:



- a. Traces and/or recordings of telephone threats
- b. Patrol officers notified and extra patrol directed specifically to the victim's or witness's neighborhood and home
- c. Escorts or surveillance from the victim's or witness's home or business to his or her car to ensure that he or she is not being stalked or followed.
- d. Field investigation records made of any suspicious individuals in the area of the victim or witness's home or business.
- e. Persuading the victim or witness to take up temporary residence at a relative's home or at a hotel until an arrest is made, an injunction is obtained, or during the trial.
- f. Documentation of all reports of threats or intimidation to be read at roll calls.

#### G. Potential Danger to Victims or Witnesses in Other Jurisdictions

Whenever an officer becomes aware of a potential danger or threat to a victim or witness in another jurisdiction, the officer shall:

1. Contact a supervisor of the appropriate law enforcement jurisdiction and advise him or her of the circumstances of the incident and the nature of the threat and request that reasonable precautions or protective measures be taken by that agency.
2. Document the name of the supervisor who was notified, his or her agency, and all pertinent information on the proper police report.

#### H. Notification of Threat from Other Sources

Whenever a police officer becomes aware of a threat to a victim or witness in Fayette County, or in any other jurisdiction, the officer shall promptly attempt to advise the victim or witness of the circumstances and nature of that potential threat, and will attempt to offer appropriate assistance and to inform the victim or witness of alternative options available to deal with that threat.

#### I. Providing Victim and Witness Assistance Information

The Division of Police serves as the single point of contact for making victim and witness assistance and information available 24 hours a day.

1. If a victim or witness calls E911 requesting assistance information, the call will be dispatched to an officer.
  - a. The officer will promptly make contact with the victim or witness, either in person or on the phone as circumstances dictate, and provide the requested assistance information.
2. Each officer is responsible to be aware of the victim and witness assistance supplied by the

Division of Police as outlined in this policy, including the services available through the Division's Victim Advocate Program.

3. Each officer is also responsible to be aware of services offered to victims and witnesses by other governmental and private sector community partner organizations as outlined in the appendix of this policy.

#### J. Public Education

The Division of Police will periodically inform the public and media about the victim and witness assistance services provided by the Division of Police. Members of Community Services, in conjunction with the Special Victims Section, shall be responsible for informing the public utilizing various options, including the news media, articles, brochures, the Division's website and presentations. Topics may include, but are not limited to, how to minimize risks of victimization and the availability and roles of various victim and witness government and community partner services.

#### K. Liaison with Other Agencies Involved in Assisting Victims and Witnesses

The Division of Police is committed to the ongoing establishment and development of cooperative partnerships with other agencies and organizations which provide support and assistance to victims and witnesses. Interagency cooperation and information sharing on a regular basis are vital components of providing accurate referrals, of maintaining effective communications and of enhancing the ability of the agencies to work together to improve the services provided to victims and witnesses.

#### L. Triennial Review of Victim and Witness Assistance Needs and Available Services

The Division of Police will conduct a triennial documented review of victim and witness assistance needs and the available services within the community to address these needs. The review will include:

1. The extent and major types of victimization
2. An inventory of general service needs of crime victims and witnesses
3. The availability of victim and witness assistance within the community;
4. Identify if there are any victim or witness needs which are currently not being met by other community partner agencies, and determine whether there are any identified unmet needs that are appropriate for the Division to provide.
5. The lieutenant of the Special Victims Section shall complete this review triennially. The report shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police for his or her review.

#### M. The Supervisor's Responsibilities

The designated supervisor of the Special Victims Section shall have overall responsibility for administering and coordinating the Division's role in victim and witness assistance. Specific

responsibilities include:

1. Line supervision of all civilian employees and volunteers who are directly involved in victim and witness assistance efforts.
2. Liaison with other criminal justice agencies, governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations concerned with victim and witness needs and rights.
3. Coordinating in-service and roll call training as needed on victim and witness rights and needs, and the role of law enforcement in meeting those rights and needs.

#### N. U Visa

The U nonimmigrant status (U visa) is set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity. Congress created the U nonimmigrant visa with the passage of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (including the Battered Immigrant Women's Protection Act) in October 2000. The legislation was intended to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute cases of domestic violence, sexual assault, tracking of aliens and other crimes, while also protecting victims of crime who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse due to the crime and are willing to help law enforcement authorities in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity. The legislation also helps law enforcement agencies to better serve victims of crimes.

A person may be eligible for a U nonimmigrant visa if:

1. He or she is the victim of qualifying criminal activity.

#### Qualifying Criminal Activities:

- a. Abduction
- b. Abusive Sexual Contact
- c. Blackmail
- d. Domestic Violence
- e. Extortion
- f. False Imprisonment
- g. Female Genital Mutilation
- h. Felonious Assault
- i. Fraud in Foreign Labor Contracting
- j. Hostage
- k. Incest
- l. Involuntary Servitude
- m. Kidnapping
- n. Manslaughter
- o. Murder
- p. Obstruction of Justice
- q. Peonage
- r. Perjury

- s. Prostitution
- t. Rape
- u. Sexual Assault
- v. Sexual Exploitation
- w. Slave Trade
- x. Stalking
- y. Torture
- z. Trafficking
- aa. Witness Tampering
- bb. Unlawful Criminal Restraint
- cc. Other Related Crimes

1. Includes any similar activity where the elements of the crime are substantially similar.

2. Also includes attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of the above and other related crimes.

2. He or she has suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of having been a victim of criminal activity.

3. He or she has information about the criminal activity. Persons under the age of 16 or unable to provide information due to a disability, a parent, guardian or “next friend” may possess the information about the crime on the person’s behalf.

a. A “next friend” is a person who appears in a lawsuit for the benefit of an alien victim. The “next friend” is not a party to the legal proceeding and is not appointed as a guardian. Persons under the age of 16 or unable to provide information due to a disability, a parent, guardian or “next friend” may assist law enforcement on the person’s behalf.

4. He or she was helpful, is helpful, or is likely to be helpful to law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of the crime.

5. The crime occurred in the United States or violated U.S. laws.

6. The person is admissible to the United States. If not admissible, a person may apply for a waiver.

One of the documents a person must complete and submit as part of the U visa process is Form I-918, Supplement B, U Nonimmigrant Status Certification.

1. The Form I-918, Supplement B, must be signed by an authorized official of the certifying law enforcement agency (The Chief of Police, or his or her designee). The official must confirm that the U visa applicant was helpful, and currently being helpful, or will likely be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the case.

- a. This Division is not the sole certifying agency in Lexington-Fayette County.
- b. When the Division receives a request for a certifying signature, the application shall be forwarded to the Bureau of Investigation.
- c. The BOI Special Victims Section is responsible for researching records to determine if the applicant is a cooperating victim of a qualifying crime that meets the criteria for a U visa.
- d. The Special Victims Section lieutenant will forward a recommendation to the Chief of Police concerning the approval of the U visa application.
  1. Recommendations to the Chief will be provided only when the applicant's case has not yet been prosecuted.
- e. Applications which meet established guidelines and are determined to be under the Division of Police's purview may be signed by the Chief of Police, or his or her designee, and returned to the requesting party for submission. Recommendations will be based on whether:
  1. The applicant's victim status meets the criteria, spirit and intent of the U visa program;
  2. The applicant cooperates with the Division at all stages of the investigation;
  3. The applicant follows instructions to facilitate prosecution;
  4. Other criteria described in the U visa program.
- f. When a U visa applicant's case has been prosecuted, the U visa application will be forwarded to the prosecutor's office that handled the prosecution.
  1. This Division will request that the prosecutor make the decision on whether to sign the application, based on the applicant's cooperativeness with the prosecution and other U visa criteria.
- g. When forwarding applications, the Special Victims Section lieutenant shall provide prosecutors with documentation and information concerning the applicant's cooperativeness with this Division's investigation.
- h. If an application is transferred to another agency for consideration, the Bureau of Investigation will send notification to the person or entity submitting the application notifying them that the application has been forwarded.

#### O. T Visa

In October 2000, Congress created the "T" nonimmigrant status by passing the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (VTVPA). The legislation strengthens the ability of law enforcement

agencies to investigate and prosecute human trafficking, and also offer protection to victims.

Human trafficking, also known as trafficking in persons, is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers lure individuals with false promises of employment and a better life. Traffickers often take advantage of poor, unemployed individuals who lack access to social services. The T Nonimmigrant Status (T visa) is set aside for those who are or have been victims of human trafficking, protects victims of human trafficking and allows victims to remain in the United States to assist in an investigation or prosecution of human trafficking.

A person may be eligible for a T visa if:

1. He or she is the victim of trafficking, as defined by law
2. He or she is in the United States [et al] due to trafficking
3. He or she complies with any reasonable request from a law enforcement agency for assistance in the investigation or prosecution of human trafficking (or is under the age of 18, is unable to cooperate due to physical or psychological trauma).
4. He or she demonstrates that he or she would suffer extreme hardship involving unusual and severe harm if he or she was removed from the United States.
5. The person is admissible to the United States. If not admissible, a person may apply for a waiver.

An applicant is encouraged to submit Form I-914, Supplement B, Declaration of Law Enforcement Officer for Victim of Trafficking in Persons, to show law enforcement agency support. Form I-914, Supplement B serves as the primary evidence that a person is a victim of trafficking and that he or she has complied with reasonable requests from law enforcement.

1. Form I-914, Supplement B, is required to be signed by the officer who is identified on the form as the “certifying officer”. The certifying officer’s supervisor is also required to sign the form.

**[The APPENDIX begins on the next page.]**

APPENDIX

Effective Date: 12-08-14

Lexington-Fayette County Emergency and Community Resources

Adult Probation Department [LFUCG]

[Provides supervision of misdemeanor offenders on probation from Fayette District Court and manages a work-release program for felony and misdemeanor offenders from Fayette Circuit and District Courts. Probation officers attempt to contact victims to ask their opinions regarding work release for offenders, and present their opinions to the sentencing judge. If work release is granted, officers attempt to notify victims before it takes effect.].....(859) 425-2680 www.lexingtonky.gov

GreenHouse 17 (Formerly Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program) (24-Hour Hotline)

[GreenHouse 17, formerly Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program, is an advocacy agency committed to ending intimate partner abuse in families and the community. The agency’s emergency shelter is situated on a 40-acre property in rural Fayette County. From this location and three satellite offices located throughout the agency’s 17-county service area, the following services are provided to nurture lives harmed by intimate partner abuse: 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, transportation advocacy, medical advocacy, individual and group support, parenting support, children’s programming, case management, referrals, service coordination, emergency financial assistance, and financial literacy training. All services are provided free of charge.].....(859) 233-0657 24-Hour Crisis Hotline.....1-800-544-2022 http://greenhouse17.org

Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center (Assistance Available 24 Hours)

[Provides free and confidential counseling and support to victims of sexual violence and to their families and friends. Services include a 24-hour crisis hotline, group and individual counseling, hospital and legal advocacy, information and referral, and professional consultation.] .....1-800-656-4673 (OR) (859) 253-2511 www.bluegrassrapecrisis.org

Chrysalis House

[Provides long-term residential substance abuse treatment and specialized support services to chemically dependent women admitted to Chrysalis House. Services for Chrysalis House clients include assessments, individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, case management, assistance with obtaining protective orders and filing criminal charges, safety planning, victim advocacy, community referrals, job readiness training, parenting classes, children’s services and community education.] Admissions.....(859) 254-6026 OR 800-713-0954 www.chrysalishouse.org

Community Action Council

[The Council offers a variety of services to help meet the needs of low-income families. Programs vary, and may include child development, clothing, emergency assistance, family services, financial assistance, food, housing, senior services, and youth services. Services are provided in Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties.].....(859) 233-4600 OR 800-244-2275  
http://commaction.org

Division of Community Corrections

[The Division of Community Corrections provides for the incarceration of adult offenders. Citizens may call the listed numbers to obtain information on an inmate in custody or to obtain information on bond and current charges for an inmate in custody.]  
Information on inmates in custody.....(859) 425-2700  
Bond and current charges information.....(859) 425-2602  
http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=176

Domestic Violence Prevention Board [LFUCG]

[The Domestic Violence Prevention Board (DVPB) is a coordinating council that brings together citizens, agencies, and public officials to strengthen Fayette County’s response to family violence. The DVPB continually assesses the availability, accessibility, and quality of services to victims of domestic violence and their families, and develops policies and programs in the community to prevent domestic violence and promote effective intervention. The DVPB troubleshoots system level problems and provides information and referral services to victims.].....(859) 258-3803  
www.lexingtonky.gov

Fayette Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office

[Prosecutes all felony criminal matters of domestic violence. This office has crime victim assistance staff who help victims access appropriate community resources, keep victims informed as their cases proceed through the criminal justice system, provide accompaniment in court, assist in filing crime victim compensation forms, and help prepare Victim Impact Statements for Circuit Court.]  
.....(859) 246-2060  
www.lexingtonprosecutor.com

Fayette County Attorney’s Office

[Prosecutes all misdemeanor charges involving domestic violence. This office has advocates available to help victims file emergency protective orders (EPOs) and criminal charges. Advocates make referrals to community resources, explain the court process, provide accompaniment to court, and help file crime victim compensation claims. They also provide crisis counseling, help with safety planning, and can provide educational materials. The advocates keep the prosecutor informed of the victim’s needs and expectations. They are also available to discuss court options for those who have not yet filed anything.].....(859) 254-4941  
www.fayettecountyattorney.com



Fayette County Sheriff’s Office

[Amanda’s Center for Local Resources is a central information point that connects victims of domestic violence to services available within the community. Amanda’s Center operates within the Office of the Fayette County Sheriff as a collaborative community response to family violence and gives victims access to the resources they need to be safe. Through Amanda’s Center, advocates work with victims to guide them through the legal process.].....(859) 252-1771  
www.fayettesheriff.com

Fayette County District Court

[The Fayette County District Court is open 24 hours, seven days a week for access to obtaining emergency protective orders and emergency custody orders.]  
Domestic Violence.....(859) 246-2248  
Criminal/Traffic.....(859) 246-2228

Friend of the Court [LFUCG]

[The Office of the Friend of the Court (FOC) provides assistance in filing pro se (without legal representation) motions regarding Family Court issues, such as child custody and visitation. The FOC performs custody and timesharing evaluations and facilitates meetings between parties to negotiate agreements regarding timesharing, and supervises timesharing in cases not involving domestic violence.].....(859) 246-2222

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

[By authority of the Kentucky Adult Protection Act, the Cabinet is mandated to investigate all reports of spousal abuse and will assist in providing protective services to victims and their dependent children. This can include accompaniment to court, crisis counseling, and assistance in securing health, financial, legal, and housing services.]  
Ombudsman.....1-800-372-2973  
<http://chfs.ky.gov/>

Legal Aid of the Bluegrass

[Provides free civil legal assistance to victims of domestic violence. Services available to victims regardless of income include: assistance in obtaining Domestic Violence Orders (DVOs), including representation at DVO hearings, and with related matters of temporary child custody, support and visitation; assistance with immigration; and general civil legal services for victims 60 years or older. Services available to victims depending on income eligibility include: assistance with divorce, custody and visitation (not related to DVO), housing issues, consumer issues, disability and public benefits denials, employment issues, and bankruptcy.].....(859) 233-4556 (OR) 800-928-4556  
www.kyjustice.org/legal-aid-bluegrass-lexington

Lexington Division of Police Victim Advocate Program

[The Division’s Victim Advocate Program focuses on providing preliminary support, assistance and referrals to victims of certain crimes, as listed in this policy.].....(859) 258-3700 OR (859) 258-3469

Arbor Youth Services

[Provides safe alternatives for at-risk children, youth and their families through services and referrals. AYS provides the following services to children, youth and families throughout Kentucky: emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis intervention, safe place services, counseling and case management, parenting support, and other services. AYS is licensed by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services as a private child care facility.] .....(859) 254-2501  
www.arborky.org

The Nest- (A Center for Women, Children and Families)

[Provides at no charge: drop-in crisis day care and age appropriate activities for children under 6, parenting classes, necessary supplies for infants/children and community referrals, adult and child individual and family therapy with a focus on survivors of domestic violence and/or childhood abuse, domestic violence support groups, and general counseling.].....(859) 259-1974  
www.thenestlexington.org

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky

[Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky (PCAK) is the Commonwealth’s only statewide non-profit organization committed to preventing the abuse and neglect of Kentucky’s children. The agency has a variety of programs and services aimed at reducing and preventing child abuse and neglect. PCAK provides a toll-free, statewide, 24-hours a day/7 days a week parent resource and referral help line-offering parents and caregivers a lifeline of support and services.]  
Parents Information Line.....1-800-244-5373  
www.pcaky.org

Salvation Army of Central Kentucky- Arnold Hangar Lodge

[The Arnold Hangar Lodge provides emergency shelter for homeless families and single women with 24 hour/7 day housing, meals and support services which are designed to aid the residents’ re-entry into independent living. The Lodge provides emergency shelter for a period of 30-60 days. Additional services provided include a savings program; intensive case management and counseling services, referral services assistance in obtaining housing and jobs, life skills training, child care, and after school programs.].....(859) 252-7706  
[http://www.use.salvationarmy.org/use/www\\_use\\_LexKentucky.nsf](http://www.use.salvationarmy.org/use/www_use_LexKentucky.nsf)

SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) Program [Division of Police]

[Provides a comprehensive response to victims of sexual assault who are age 14 and above.]  
.....(859) 258-3700

Kentucky Department of Corrections Division of Probation and Parole

[Provides supervision of offenders released to the community on probation or parole. Probation and Parole Officers are sworn peace officers and arrest offenders violating the terms of their release.

Provides a variety of services, including substance abuse and sex offender treatment, through staff members of the Kentucky Department of Corrections, Division of Mental Health.].....(859) 246-2177

Sunflower Kids Supervised Visitation Center

[Provides supervised visitation and monitored exchanges in a safe and positive environment when a parent must be monitored while interacting with their child(ren) or to prevent contact between parents during exchanges of children due to safety concerns. Families who have experienced child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking can be court ordered for visitation and exchange services. Services are also available for parents and child(ren) who have experienced separation, divorce, removal of child(ren), and/or alienation of child(ren). Temporary and long-term supervisory services are available.].....(859) 268-0487  
www.sunflowerkids.org

Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)

[The VINE program is a free, anonymous, computer-based telephone and e-mail notification system that alerts victims (who have registered with VINE) about a change in the custody status of their offender. This service is available statewide on all misdemeanor and felony cases. This system now includes data from county jails, prisons, mental health facilities and juvenile detention centers.]  
.....1-800-511-1670  
<http://corrections.ky.gov/victimservices/Pages/VINE.aspx>

University of Kentucky:

Police Department.....257-1616  
[Responds to all reported incidents of dating and domestic violence occurring at UK.]

Targeted Assessment Program (TAP).....245-5109  
[Provides free individualized services to families with children who have low incomes and are experiencing barriers to self-sufficiency such as domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health issues and learning problems.]

Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Program.....257-3574  
[Provides support and advocacy services to UK students, faculty and staff who have been impacted by violence.]

United Way 2-1-1 Health and Human Services Information

[Provides callers with information ranging from where they can find help for critical issues such as food, shelter and safety to when local civic organizations meet, information on volunteering or making a donation. Information and referral service for the following counties: Anderson, Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine, Madison, Montgomery, Scott and Woodford.].....2-1-1 OR (859) 313-5465  
www.211.org