

COURT ADVOCACY SERVICES



THE COURT SYSTEM CAN BE CONFUSING AND INTIMIDATING — WE CAN HELP

Court Advocacy Services of Metropolitan Family Services provides a team of advocates at the Centralized Domestic Violence Court in Chicago to help domestic violence survivors as they pursue an order of protection and/or criminal charges.

ABOUT US

Our History

Court Advocacy Services was established in 1984 by the Jane Addams Hull House Association to empower survivors of domestic violence to obtain the safety and justice to which they are entitled. Court Advocacy Services is now a part of Metropolitan's family of comprehensive services supporting survivors of domestic violence.

Our Philosophy

Court Advocacy Services provides assistance in a non-judgmental, empathetic way by empowering survivors of domestic violence to make their own decisions based on their own unique circumstances.

SERVICES

Our services are offered to assist survivors of domestic violence regardless of sexual orientation, race, color, age, disability, religion, gender, gender identity, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, marital status, economic status, culture, and language. Our services are offered by trained domestic violence advocates. **All services offered through our program are FREE of charge and CONFIDENTIAL.** We are here to assist and support domestic violence survivors. Services are available in English, Spanish and Polish.

How We Can Help

Becoming a client of our program allows advocates to help in the following ways:

- Accompany survivors to court on all court dates
- Remain available by telephone to answer any questions
- Develop an individualized safety plan
- Explain the court process and ensure survivors understand all their options on each court date
- Explain the Illinois Domestic Violence Act and client's legal rights
- Contact survivors about the court's response to their case when clients are excused
- Provide information on enforcing Orders of Protection and filing criminal charges
- Help clients submit applications to the Crime Victim Compensation Fund for possible reimbursement of certain crime-related expenses
- Provide referrals for counseling, shelter and other services as needed
- Provide legal assistance referrals to Metropolitan's Legal Aid Society as needed



555 West Harrison Street
Suite 2200, Chicago, IL 60607
312-325-9175 // www.metrofamily.org

Thank you to our funders: The Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, the Illinois Attorney General's Office, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, the Illinois Department of Human Services, and United Way.