



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Remote Technology Project to Promote Access, Safety in Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Cases Expands to Lincoln, Mason, and Wayne Counties

For immediate release Monday, April 24, 2023

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Court officials in Lincoln, Mason, and Wayne Counties will hold public tests of a program that allows victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to file petitions and attend follow-up hearings without visiting a courthouse.

The addition of Lincoln, Mason, and Wayne Counties will bring the total number of counties participating in the Remote Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Outreach Project to seven. The other active counties are Cabell, Jefferson, Kanawha, and Ohio.

The tests are open to the public and the media is invited to attend. The events will be held at the following locations:

- 9 a.m. Tuesday, April 25, at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 8000 Court Avenue, Suite 107, Hamlin
- Noon, Tuesday, April 25 at the Wayne County Family Court, 618 Hendricks Street, Wayne
- 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 26, at the Mason County Courthouse, 200 Sixth Street, Suite 8, Point Pleasant

Previously, victims of domestic violence and sexual assault had to go in person to a magistrate court to seek domestic violence protective orders or personal safety orders, and they had to attend follow-up hearings in person. In the pilot counties, victims can still go to court, but they also have the option of participating in the court hearings remotely from another location.

An anonymous user of the program shared their thoughts on what it meant to have this remote option:

“When I found out about the option provided at the Sexual Assault Help Center where I could participate virtually, my anxiety was significantly reduced, and I finally felt like I can do this, and things will get better. I'm very appreciative that this virtual option is available for individuals facing the unthinkable.”

Below is the center, phone numbers, and office hours of each location where this program is offered in Lincoln, Mason, and Wayne Counties.

Lincoln County

Branches, Domestic Violence Center
304-529-2382: 24/7 Hotline
304-824-2600: 8:30am-4:30pm
Remote Option: 8:30am-4:30pm
(unavailable Thurs, Sat, Sun)

CONTACT Rape Crisis Center
800-884-7242: 24/7 Hotline
304-360-3695: 9am-5pm
Remote Option: 9am-5pm|M-F

Mason County

Branches, Domestic Violence Center
304-529-2382: 24/7 Hotline
304-675-4968: 8am-4pm
Remote Option: 8am-3pm
(unavailable Thurs, Sat, Sun)

CONTACT Rape Crisis Center
800-884-7242: 24/7 Hotline
304-360-0145: 9am-5pm
Remote Option: 9am-5pm|M-F

Wayne County

Branches, Domestic Violence Center
304-529-2382: 24/7 Hotline
304-272-9035: 8am-4pm
Remote Option: 8am-3pm
(unavailable Thurs, Sat, Sun)

CONTACT Rape Crisis Center
800-884-7242: 24/7 Hotline
304-360-0117: 9am-5pm
Remote Option: 9am-5pm|M-F

“I commend and support the ongoing work to expand this important program, which improves safety for petitioners while protecting the due process rights of respondents, to more places in our State,” said Supreme Court Chief Justice Beth Walker.

Petitions can still be filed during weekdays, after hours, and on weekends through each county’s magistrate court by calling 911. Magistrates are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week in every West Virginia county.

The Remote Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Outreach Project is made possible by funding through West Virginia’s Division of Justice and Community Services, the state administering agency for the STOP Violence Against Women Grant Program.

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