

Legal Advocacy

The court system is an intimidating and difficult process for anyone, but for victims of violent crime, it can be especially frightening and traumatizing. That's why we have a Legal Advocate and trained volunteers available to assist you throughout the entire process. Our Legal Advocate works with survivors of all types of violent crime, including, but not limited to: assault, DWI crashes, elder abuse, homicide, human trafficking, identity theft and kidnaping.

The Legal Advocate works closely with you every day, guiding you through court proceedings, helping you navigate the legal system, assisting with filing petitions for Orders of Protection, and educating you on the programs and services available.



201 Lawson Ave
Lebanon, MO 65536

Cell: 417.650.5318

Office: 417.533.5201

Toll Free Hotline: 877.275.0930

Toll Free Office: 888.655.5862

Email: penny.copeoflebanon@gmail.com

www.copeoflebanon.com

*COPE, Inc.
Creating Opportunities for Personal
Empowerment*

Legal Advocacy



Services

Our Legal Advocate works with survivors of all types of violent crime, including, but not limited to: assault, DWI crashes, elder abuse, homicide, human trafficking, identity theft and kidnaping.

The Legal Advocate works closely with you every day, guiding you through court proceedings. The legal advocate can help you navigate the legal system and provide assistance with:

- Advocacy from the waiting room to the court room
- Referral to appropriate social services agencies
- Notification of dates and times of any court appearances and hearings
- Notification of the final disposition of your case
- Answers to any questions you may have regarding your case
- Help you prepare for court
- Accompany you to the police station or court proceedings
- Assist you with filing an Order of Protection
- Educate you on the programs and services available through COPE, Inc.

Your Rights

As a victim of crime you have rights. Some of these rights include:

- The right to be present at all court proceedings
- The right to talk to the prosecutor about bail hearings, guilty pleas, sentencing and probation
- The right to be heard at probation and parole hearings.
- The right to be protected from harmful threats from the defendant

As a victim of crime, you might qualify for the Missouri Crime Victim's Compensation Program. The Missouri Crime Victim's Compensation Program is designed to financially assist victims who have sustained bodily or psychological injury in paying for reasonable medical expenses, counseling expenses, funeral expenses and lost wages or loss of support. If you would like more information on filing a claim, please contact Cope's legal advocate.



Please call if you would like to make an appointment to meet with our legal advocate or to ask questions. Cope's hotline is answered 24-hours a day, so you can call at anytime. If you would like an advocate to attend your hearing, it is important that you call as soon as possible.

Testifying

When you are testifying it is important to remember to :

Prepare– go over the details to be sure you remember all important information.

Dress Appropriately– be sure to dress conservatively.

Stay calm– losing your temper reduces your credibility.

Remain Attentive– if you appear bored or indifferent, the judge of jury may tend to disregard your testimony.

Speak Clearly– to ensure everyone can hear and understand what you say speak clearly and loudly.

Be Honest– do not try slant or exaggerate your testimony.

Be direct– when asked questions be sure to listen carefully, take your time to think and answer, answer the asked question and stop. If you do not know the answer to a question, do not be afraid to say so. If you do not understand a question, ask for an explanation.

Be truthful– always think before you speak and be truthful.

Update– if your address or phone number changes, please contact our legal advocate immediately.