

Hope House Visitation Center
660 West Earle Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44511
330-788-8882



Hope House

Supervised Visitation and Exchange Services

2018

A Guide for Families

The mission of Hope House Visitation Center, Inc. is to provide a safe, child-friendly environment for supervised visitation, custodial/non-custodial exchanges and education relevant to the development of healthy parent-child relationships.

What We Do....

Supervised Visitation

Supervised Visitation is the provision and maintenance of a safe, neutral setting in which the contact between children and an adult (usually a parent) can be monitored by trained personnel capable of protecting the rights of the children.

Supervised Exchange

Supervised Exchange is the physical transfer of children between adults (usually parents) in a neutral and safe environment under the watchful eye of trained supervisors.

Who We Serve....

Hope House is a 501(c)(3) which means we are a non-profit organization which receives funding from private donors, trusts, foundations and local, state and federal grants. We are charged with helping children and adults manage the trauma of divorce, separation and parental alienation, along with also assisting those who have been victims of crime (domestic violence, child abuse). The federal grant we receive ensures that all services at Hope House Visitation Center are at no cost to the families of Mahoning, Columbiana and Trumbull Counties. All families utilizing Hope House are referred by court order or through Mahoning County Children's Services Board.

CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION—

www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Victim

The Ohio Attorney General website provides detailed information for those victims of crime who have experienced substantial threat of injury/death or the dependents of a homicide victim who have reported their crime and cooperated with law enforcement to obtain compensation. These individuals may be eligible for funding to pay for medical expenses, counseling, lost wages, funeral and/or burial expenses as well as financial supports for the dependents of a homicide victim. Claims must be at least \$50 and cannot exceed \$50,000.

VINE— Victim Information Notification Everyday

<https://vinelink.vineapps.com/login>

This free service allows victims of crime to call a toll-free number, use a phone app or visit a website to anonymously check on an offender's custody status. You can register to receive automated notifications about changes in status via phone, email or text. These notifications can inform victims of crime about court events and changes to protective orders. Probation and parole updates keep victims informed after the offender is no longer incarcerated and still under supervision.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES—

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network

<https://www.rainn.org/>

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

<http://www.ncadv.org/>

Stalking Resource Center

<http://victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center>

Help Network

The agency offers Victims Assistance and Victims of Crime Support Groups as well as community referrals and a crisis hotline for mental health challenges.

Call **(330) 747-2696/211**
(24 hour crisis line)

Rescue Mission

The Mission provides free breakfast and dinner daily—no ID or proof of income required. Safe, emergency shelter available for men, women and families.

Call **(330) 744-5486**
(24 hour)

Compass Family & Community Services

Compass offers counseling for adults and children over 5, drug and alcohol treatment, job training, support for homeless youth and rape crisis services.

Call **(330) 782-5664**

Sojourner House

Sojourner House provides comprehensive crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy and shelter for victims of domestic violence in Mahoning County.

Call **(866) 436-6269**
(24 hour crisis line)

Alta Behavioral Healthcare

Alta serves children with trauma recovery services, school-based mental health, crisis intervention and early childhood mental health.

Call **(330) 793-2487**
(24 hour crisis line)

Mahoning County Mental Health Recovery Board

Extensive resource links to counseling providers, substance abuse treatment, housing, etc.

www.mahoningmhrb.org

How to...Hope House

- Be prepared—when visiting, plan on talking and playing—no TV. (We recommend you leave your phone on silent in your pocket or in the car). Bring games, crafts, toys or books—things you and your children can do together.
- Parents should talk to your children about what you are doing—general details about your life—and ask questions about their activities and show a genuine interest in those things that matter to your children.
- Avoid talking about the other parent, the divorce, court proceedings—whatever your situation may be. Your children love both parents/family members and to ask them to be disloyal or negative to the other party may ultimately distance them from you.
- Both visiting and residential parents need to find an outlet to talk about their feelings—a friend, a therapist, a clergy member—and not discuss these struggles with the children. Keep adult issues between adults.
- Don't argue or battle with your child—your children may be angry or distant with you because they are hurt, confused or angry with the circumstances that brought him/her to Hope House. If you're spending your time trying to convince your children "I've done nothing wrong" you may already be distancing yourself from them. It's never wrong or too late to apologize.
- Listen—don't interrogate your child about the visit or the residential parent. Be careful to monitor your non-verbals—sighing, head shaking, etc. If you have to discuss the other party, make only neutral or positive comments.
- Your children learn from your behavior during times of crisis or challenge—they are going through the same experience of separation and/or "new" ways of being a family, just as you are. Your job is to be a positive role model and to teach them how to cope. It is not their job to be your support system.



Where, When and Why?

660. West Earle Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44511

Everyone is given an arrival/departure time for a very good reason.... The purpose is to ensure that both parties can avoid potential conflict and the best way we can guarantee no conflict is to minimize contact between the parties. Our aim is to allow the children to avoid being witness to potentially confusing adult interactions. Do your part... If you're running late, or have to cancel due to illness or a work conflict—call promptly so we can inform everyone. DON'T arrive early or loiter in the parking lot to interact with the other party—if you do, the Officers will intervene to ensure the safety of everyone.

SAFETY PLANNING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE—

A safety plan is a personalized, practical plan that includes ways to remain safe while in a relationship, planning to leave, or after you leave.

- If you have an Order of Protection, have it on your person and give a copy to a trusted friend, neighbor or family member.
- Gather important documents and keep them together in a safe place where you can take them if you need to leave quickly—driver's license, children's birth certificates, social security cards, medical cards/records, divorce/custody papers, leases, car registrations, etc.
- Have a "go"-bag packed—extra sets of house/car keys, bus passes, medications, valuables (photos), address books, clothes and toys for the children and clothes and hygiene supplies for yourself.
- If possible, have a phone accessible at all times and know what numbers to call for help. Know the phone number to your local shelter. (Sojourner House 24-hour hotline at (866) 436-6269 or the Rescue Mission at (330) 744-5486.)
- Teach your children that violence is never right, even when someone they love is being violent. Tell them that neither you, nor they, are at fault or are the cause of the violence, and that when anyone is being violent, it is important to stay safe.
- Ensure that schools and/or caregivers know who has permission to pick up your children and when.
- Inform neighbors and landlord that your partner no longer lives with you and to call the police if they see him or her near your home.
- Make a habit of backing the car into the driveway and keeping it fueled. Keep the driver's door unlocked and others locked — for a quick escape.