

# Co-Located Domestic Violence Advocates



Co-Located Domestic Violence (DV) Advocates sit in the Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency Programs offices, providing confidential advocacy services to survivors. They strive to deliver a client-centered, trauma-informed, culturally and linguistically appropriate approach to support DV survivors, their children and community members.



**Served over 11,038 survivors**  
**Completed 11,401 safety plans**  
**Provided 41,942 direct service hours<sup>(1)</sup>**

Services include, but are not limited to:

- Safety planning
- Risk and fatality assessment
- Shelter services
- Make referrals to other community resources such as housing, mental health services, counseling, support groups, etc.
- Time for survivors to talk about anything they need
  - To discuss and support survivors in recovering or leaving their abusive situation
- Confidential advocacy and secondary trauma support to Oregon Department of Human Services staff

## Confidentiality and Advocate Privilege<sup>(2)</sup>

The federal government demands strict confidentiality. In Oregon, most domestic violence sexual assault advocates have privilege and are not mandatory reporters. This means survivors can assert privilege. They can refuse to disclose in a legal matter, and prevent others from disclosing, any confidential communications held with a certified advocate and the records created or maintained in the course of providing services.

Crime victims benefit from these confidentiality mandates because they will:

- be safer
- not be further victimized
- be more likely to use advocate services
- benefit more from advocate services

## The Facts

The program started in 2012 and serves all 36 counties

There are 33 Co-Located contractors

Advocates serve in all Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency Programs offices

Any community member can work with Co-Located Advocates, including but not limited to individuals without children and individuals with disabilities

In 2018, ODHS held a workgroup with provider input to establish a consistent and equitable distribution formula for funding the program

There are 60 Co-Located Advocates across Oregon

(1): Data is from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 (2): ORS 419B.005(5)(bb)(B)