



# CODA News

Winter 2016

## Legal Needs

*Often the first thing that comes to mind when people think of CODA is our emergency shelter. Equally vital, however, is our office at the Vigo County Courthouse. The demand for our services there is so great that we have recently hired two new Legal Advocates and leased office space at the Fleschner Law Office to accommodate all those who seek help. Our Director of Legal Services, Melissa Reed, explains what our Legal Advocates can do for our clients.*

Our Legal Advocates provide a wide range of services including crisis counseling, accompaniment to court proceedings, updating clients on criminal cases if an arrest is made, educational sessions, safety planning, danger assessments, and assistance in navigating the criminal justice system.

A major focus is to help clients seeking a **Protective Order**, which is an order issued by a civil court to protect someone from being hit, threatened, harassed, or stalked by another person. A Protective Order expires two years after it is placed.

The first step in obtaining a Protective Order is to fill out the required paperwork. The forms are available in the courthouse office, and our legal advocates are available to help fill them out. Then the client must take the paperwork to the Division IV Clerk's office in the courthouse in order for it to be officially filed. Based on the information provided, the Division IV Judge determines whether the order should be granted or denied. Orders that are granted are sent to the sheriff's office for service.



Vigo County Courthouse

Sometimes a court hearing is needed to determine eviction, child support/visitation, dividing property, and restitution for any damage done to personal property. An advocate will accompany the client to the court hearing and help answer any questions they may have.

A Protective Order is different from a **No Contact Order**, which is a criminal order placed by a judge on an offender who has been

arrested for domestic battery. A No Contact Order has no expiration date; the victim must petition the court to have it removed. Providing the paperwork needed for a client to vacate a No Contact Order is another service offered by the CODA office.

CODA does not have the authority to grant or enforce these orders; our role is to assist clients in obtaining them, and advise clients on what to do if the orders are being violated. We work closely with the prosecutor's office to ensure that each client is able to tell his or her story and to help get charges filed when appropriate.

Our team is also familiar with divorce procedures and can help fill out paperwork to start a divorce, accompany clients to court hearings, answer questions, and provide Information regarding referrals to other agencies and legal services.

CODA's courthouse office is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm from Monday through Friday. A referral from a law enforcement agency is not necessary. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments may be made by calling 812-238-9577.

Appointments are especially useful for clients who are bringing children with them, so that our Children's Advocate may be available to provide appropriate activities while the parent is meeting with an advocate. Bringing copies of police reports or other legal documentation to the office is helpful, but not required.

The legal system can be confusing, especially to those who have been through a traumatic experience, but CODA's legal advocates are working hard to make the process as bearable and productive as possible.

24-Hour  
Crisis  
Line

800-  
566-  
2632

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To learn more about domestic violence and CODA's services, visit [www.codaterrehaute.org](http://www.codaterrehaute.org).

## Thank You So Much...

- ...to ADVICS Manufacturing, for a large donation of food and household items.
- ...to FedEx, for the truckload of items shown in the photo at right.
- ...to the Kunapareddy Foundation for donating \$2,500 to provide lunch for our Tuesday support group.
- ...to the Wabash Valley Couponing Group for donating toys, food, cleaners, baby items, and a spaghetti dinner for shelter residents.
- ...to Texas Roadhouse, for donating blankets and school supplies.
- ...to Bath and Body Works for donating lotions, body wash, and perfume for our residents.
- ...to the Breakfast Optimist Club for donating funds to buy gifts for children at the shelter.
- ...to Brian Cottom of Woodco Walls, for allowing us to move our Administrative Office into a larger office suite in his building. Our address is still the same -- 4470 S. Houseman.



## What did CODA do in 2015?

- 223 clients took shelter with CODA, with an average stay of 27 days. 26% of those residents were children.
- 702 people received legal advocacy services through our courthouse office.
- We delivered educational presentations to more than 1,700 individuals in the community.

## Wish List

Our shelter is in need of the following items:

- Twin mattress pads made of fabric (not plastic), preferably bed bug resistant
- New pillows
- Lysol® Disinfectant Spray
- Latex gloves
- Clorox® wipes

If you can help by donating any of these items, please call our office at 812-234-3441. Thank you!

**Want to see your logo here?** We are looking for sponsors for our future issues. If you or your business might be able to help, please contact us at 812-234-3441 or [codadirector@codaterrehaute.org](mailto:codadirector@codaterrehaute.org).

## Calendar of Events

**October 22  
2016**

### **Monte Carlo Masquerade**

*O'Shaughnessy Dining Room,  
St. Mary of the Woods*

Casino-style gaming, dancing, and more -- mark your calendar for the best Halloween party in town!

To be removed from our mailing list, or to receive an electronic version instead, please contact us at 812-234-3441 or [codadirector@codaterrehaute.org](mailto:codadirector@codaterrehaute.org).