

Did you know....

CRIMINAL CHARGES CANNOT BE DROPPED BY THE CRIME VICTIM



How can we help?

CHOICES ADVOCATES ARE THERE FOR YOU. CALL TODAY TO SPEAK TO OUR COURT ADVOCATE FOR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT. PLEASE BE AWARE, THAT OUR COURT ADVOCATE CANNOT AND WILL NOT GIVE LEGAL ADVICE BUT CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION AND REFERRALS.

Our mission is to prevent both domestic and sexual violence through public awareness and education, and to serve as a resource and safe haven to those affected.



Contact Us

540-743-4414

www.choicesofpagecounty.org

 @ Choicesofpagecounty



Preparing for Court

TIPS TO HELP PREPARE FOR
COURT IN PAGE COUNTY

THE COURT PROCESS

The Commonwealth Attorney represents the Commonwealth of Virginia. Typically, there are two (2) dates for criminal cases.

- The first date is a "first return." This is when the defendant will go before the court to decide about legal counsel. You DO NOT have to appear on this date.
- The case is then set for trial.
- The Commonwealth Attorney will contact you with the date and time of the trial.

According to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), immigrant women who are experiencing domestic violence — and are married to abusers who are US Citizens or Legal Permanent Residents — may qualify to self-petition for legal status under VAWA.

PREPARING FOR AN APPEARANCE OR TESTIMONY



- Write down the details of the assault.



- After a trial date has been set, make an appointment with the Commonwealth Attorney to prepare for your testimony.



- Let the Commonwealth Attorney's office know if you feel threatened or afraid to testify. *If you are threatened, call 9-1-1.*



- Bring any bills and/or receipts pertaining to the incident. You can ask to be reimbursed.



- There is a dress code at Page County Courts; please dress conservatively.



- If a child's presence is required, the child will be subpoenaed by the courts. If this is not the case, please arrange for childcare.



KNOW THE LAWS

In Virginia, domestic violence is referred to as family abuse. "Family abuse" is when a family or household member commits any act involving violence, force, or threat that results in physical injury or places you in reasonable fear of death, sexual assault, or bodily injury. Such acts include, but are not limited to, any forceful detention, stalking, criminal sexual assault, or any criminal offense that results in bodily injury or places you in reasonable fear of death, sexual assault, or bodily injury.

Know the laws of Virginia in regards to abuse by visiting

<https://www.womenslaw.org/laws/va>

CHOICES CAN HELP YOU

through the legal process.

- Choices advocates can accompany you to court.
- We will help you safely enter and exit the building.
- Advocates can provide accompaniment to interviews with Law Enforcement or the Commonwealth Attorney's office.
- Page County Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court (JDR) has a witness room you may use while waiting for the trial to begin.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU ARE IN DANGER?

Call the CHOICES support line:
(540)-743-4414