

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2020
Toledo Municipal Court

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

April 19-25 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Providing services to victims during the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging, given limited Court operations and remote staffing at local agencies. Toledo Municipal Court Presiding Judge Tim Kuhlman notes, "The criminal justice system in Toledo and Lucas County is committed to meeting this challenge. Despite limited court operations, cases are specifically being reviewed for public safety and victim safety issues. When such issues are identified, those cases are being handled regardless of limited operations."

According to Judge Kuhlman, "the biggest challenge at this time of social distancing and limited operation is communication with victims and their supporters. Victims, their families and advocates who work with victims are encouraged to call the Prosecutor's Office if they have concern regarding victim safety." The most up-to-date information regarding Toledo Municipal Court dates or other case information is available on the Court's website at <http://tmc.toledomunicipalcourt.org/>.

Despite limited operations in Toledo Municipal Court, victims and witnesses may receive subpoenas and be required to report to the Toledo Municipal Court for trials where the defendant is being held in custody, or if the Court grants an exception to the general closure. Victims and witnesses with questions should contact the City or County Prosecutor's Office. Individuals with questions about felony cases should contact the Lucas County Prosecutors Office at (419) 213-4700 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All other victims and witnesses with questions should contact the City of Toledo Prosecutor's Office at (419) 245-1975 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Victims who desire to go forward with motions for temporary protection orders should appear or contact the Prosecutor's Office. Victims who wish to have their cases heard despite the emergency closure must contact the proper Prosecutor's Office or their case will be continued until after the temporary judicial emergency.

The local YWCA is open during the COVID-19 emergency and able to provide emergency shelter and safety planning. Their 24 hour crisis hotline number is 419-241-7386.

The Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center, which provides advocates to accompany domestic violence victims to court as well as safety planning can be reached at 419-356-3418.

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Contact:
Lisa Falgiano, Court Administrator
Toledo Municipal Court
419-245-1949
lisa.falgiano@tmcourt.org