

Elder & Vulnerable Adult Domestic Violence Advocacy Program (EVA)



A program housed within the **DVCRU**

This program focuses on advocacy for adults over the age of 55 and vulnerable adults being impacted by domestic violence.

The Elder and Vulnerable Adult Advocacy Program is co-located with the Special Victims Unit within the Portland Police Bureau Family Services Division. Our multidisciplinary team includes the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, PPB and the MCSO Gun Disposition Unit. Collaboration, trauma informed and survivor centered care is the cornerstone of all of the programs within the Domestic Violence Crisis Response Unit (DVCRU).

With significant gaps in services/resources for domestic violence survivors who are older adults or additionally vulnerable with cognitive and physical disabilities this program aims to bridge the gap. The intention of this program is to reduce the barriers for individuals experiencing both intimate partner and familial abuse, assisting with systems navigation, support & streamlining communication between various service providers engaging with the survivor.

Requirements for EVA Program:

- Be 55 years or older **OR** a vulnerable adult
- Be a victim of
 - emotional **OR**
 - physical **OR**
 - sexual **OR**
 - financial abuse
- The perpetrator is an intimate partner **OR** a non-intimate partner (family member including but not limited to a child, sibling or grandchild)
- Individual must have a desire for advocacy services

What services can an Elder and Vulnerable Adults Advocate provide?

- Emotional Support
- Safety Planning
- Court Accompaniment
- Collaboration with community partners such as Adult Protective Services and Aging, Disability and Veteran Services
- Referrals to counseling/support groups
- Advocacy around safe housing
- Systems Navigation
- Protective Order assistance
- Minimal Financial assistance for safety and stabilization

Referring a Case to Elder and Vulnerable Adults Advocate:

We accept referrals of cases for possible collaborative response. If you think you have a case with a vulnerable adult who would benefit from a multidisciplinary response, including investigation and prosecution of crimes in Multnomah County, take these steps:

Step 1: Review the case within your agency to determine if the case is needing advocacy intervention. Reach out to the DVCRU Coordinator, Averi Sage, to staff the case if you are unsure of submitting a referral.

Step 2: Submit an Elder and Vulnerable Adults DVCRU referral form along with a danger assessment to the DVCRU Coordinator by fax or email. Feel free to include any ROIs. Once sent you will receive a response notifying you the referral is received and will give a time frame for assignment.

Step 3: An advocate will contact the victim and complete the comprehensive intake to assess how to proceed with services.



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