



Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

News

Administrative Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East
Bldg. 1, Room E-100
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
(304) 340-2305 Jennifer Bundy
(304) 340-2306 April Harless
Website: www.courtswv.gov

Facebook: [wvjudiciary](https://www.facebook.com/wvjudiciary)

Twitter: [WVCourts](https://twitter.com/WVCourts)

Instagram: [wvcourts](https://www.instagram.com/wvcourts)

SmugMug:

<https://wvcourts.smugmug.com/>

Email: Jennifer.Bundy@courtswv.gov

Email: April.Harless@courtswv.gov

Remote Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program Expands to Marion, Monongalia Counties

For immediate release November 18, 2024

FAIRMONT and MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – A program that allows domestic violence and sexual assault petitioners to remotely seek court protection is expanding to Marion and Monongalia Counties.

The media and the public are invited to attend two events explaining the Remote Victim Outreach Program:

- 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19, in Family Court Judge Patricia T. Hill’s courtroom in the Monongalia County Justice Center, 75 High Street, in Morgantown.
- 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19, in Magistrate Courtroom A, 200 Jackson Street, in Fairmont.

Before this initiative, individuals had to go in person to magistrate court to file petitions for domestic violence protective orders or personal safety orders, and they had to attend follow-up hearings in magistrate and family court in person.

The new program gives them the option of filing petitions and participating in court hearings remotely from the Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center, Inc. (RDVIC) in Monongalia County and HOPE, Inc., in Marion County. Employees of these advocacy agencies will appear remotely at the Nov. 19 events to demonstrate how the program will work.

RDVIC will host remote court sessions from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on weekdays and can be contacted at 304-292-5100. HOPE, Inc., will host remote court sessions from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. weekdays and can be contacted at 304-367-1100.

The addition of Marion and Monongalia Counties brings the total number of counties participating in the Remote Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Outreach Program to 11. The other active counties are Cabell, Harrison, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Mason, Ohio, Wayne, and Wood.

Petitions can still be filed during weekdays, after hours, and on weekends through each county's magistrate court by calling 911. Magistrates are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week in every West Virginia county.

“This program allows us to make our court system more accessible by allowing West Virginians to seek the protection of the courts in a safe and less intimidating setting. At the same time, those accused of domestic violence, stalking, rape, or dating violence still have the right to face their accusers through remote technology,” said Chief Justice Tim Armstead.

“We will continue to look for opportunities to expand this service throughout West Virginia,” Chief Justice Armstead said.

The Remote Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Outreach Program is made possible by federal grant funding passed through West Virginia's Division of Justice and Community Services and the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services.

##