



**VIDEO 6**

**How to Present a Case Witnesses and Exhibits**

## Get Protection From Abuse

While it's always best to consult a lawyer, this 7-part video series from Legal Aid of Western Ohio will help you navigate the legal system and take you step-by-step through the process of getting a civil protection order to protect yourself and those you care about.

### Presenting a Case During the Full Hearing

A courtroom can be intimidating. While presenting your case during the **Full Hearing** in front of a judge or magistrate, make sure to be respectful, and make eye contact. Don't engage with your abuser. Try to be as calm as you can when answering questions, describing the acts of violence you have experienced, and why you fear continued harm.



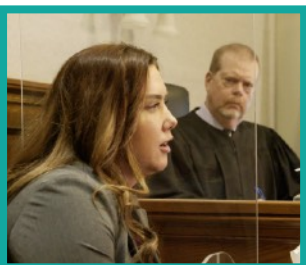
### Requesting "Remedies" at the Full Hearing

Explain the **"remedies"** you are asking for. These are the specific actions you are requesting. *Do you want the abuser to stay away? Exclusive rights of your shared home? Temporary custody of your children? The abuser to stay away? Financial support, etc.*



### "Direct" vs. "Cross" Examination

When your witnesses testify on your behalf, under **direct examination**, make sure they are fully prepared and can recall dates and details. **Cross examination** is when the opposing party will ask questions of you and your witnesses. Both parties will be allowed to conduct a direct examination and a cross examination of each witness during the trial.



## Exhibits Can Strengthen Your Case

In addition to having witnesses strengthen your case, you can introduce **exhibits** in the form of text messages, photos, medical records, police reports, or other items that prove abusive behavior. Several copies should be made for the court. A judge or magistrate will NOT look at your phone. Once all exhibits have been presented, a judge or magistrate will decide whether to admit them as **evidence**.



**Everyone has the right to live free from domestic violence. For more information on protecting yourself and your family, contact:**

## Your local domestic violence agency.

To find your agency, contact  
Ohio Domestic Violence Network at

[www.odvn.org/find-help](http://www.odvn.org/find-help)



## Your local Legal Aid.

To find the Legal Aid for your county, contact  
[www.ohiolegalhelp.org/find-your-legal-aid](http://www.ohiolegalhelp.org/find-your-legal-aid)



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