



A Dual Center for Survivors of Sexual & Domestic Violence

Serving Marion County, Florida

Informational Briefing to the Board of County Commissioners

July 2026

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One Safe Place for Survivors

As of July 1, 2026, Lotus Marion — formerly the Marion County Sexual Assault Center — is certified to serve survivors of both sexual and domestic violence. What were once two separate paths to help are now one coordinated, trauma-informed response.

Dual-Certified

One team supporting survivors of both sexual and domestic violence — under one roof.

Built on Trusted Roots

Expanding, not replacing, the local center Marion County has relied on for years.

Trauma-Informed by Design

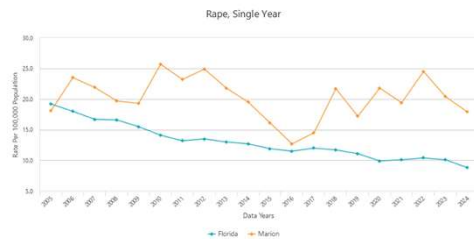
One intake and one continuum of care — reducing the repeated retelling that retraumatizes.

One place, one team, one coordinated path to safety and healing.

The Need in Marion County

Marion County consistently exceeds Florida's averages for both sexual and domestic violence.

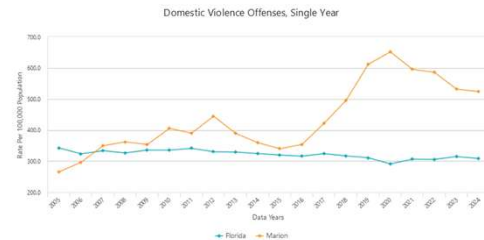
Sexual Assault — Rate per 100,000



Roughly double Florida's rate.

Marion ≈18 vs. Florida 8.8 per 100,000 (2024)

Domestic Violence — Offenses per 100,000



Well above the statewide average.

Marion ≈525 vs. Florida ≈310 per 100,000 (2024)

Source: Florida Health CHARTS (FLHealthCHARTS.gov), 2024 — Marion County shown against the Florida statewide rate.

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Why a Dual Center

1

Easier Access to Help

One door to every service, not a maze of referrals.

2

Continuity of Care

Survivors stay with one coordinated team throughout.

3

Trauma-Informed Support

Care designed to support healing, not re-traumatize.

4

Faster Crisis Response

Coordinated action when every minute counts.

5

Greater Safety

Safety planning built into every step.

6

Efficient Resources

Shared staff and space stretch every dollar.

The result: a safer, stronger community for all of Marion County

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Services Available

24/7 Helpline

Immediate, confidential crisis support at any hour.

Crisis Counseling

Trauma-informed emotional support and healing.

Information & Referrals

Guidance to the right community resources.

Court & Law Enforcement Support

Accompaniment through legal and reporting steps.

Emergency Shelter

Safe housing for those fleeing immediate danger.

Support Groups

Peer connection and shared paths to recovery.

Advocacy

Standing with survivors through every decision.

Education & Training

Prevention and awareness across the community.

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Why It Matters

Bringing services together is more than convenient. Decades of national evidence show that co-located centers help survivors recover and stay safe.

1 in 3 women
1 in 4 men

experience domestic violence in the U.S. — accessible, coordinated local help is essential.

One Roof

Counseling, legal aid, safety planning, and basic needs in a single trusted place.

Less Trauma

Coordinated care reduces the repeated retelling that deepens survivors' trauma.

For Marion County survivors, a dual center means help that is faster, safer, and easier to reach.

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Thank You

A dual center for survivors of sexual & domestic violence in Marion County

Safety. Support. Empower.

1121 SW 1st Ave, Ocala, FL 34471 • Confidential support available 24/7