

**Get to know a person before you allow access to your children.**

**Know if your partner has a Criminal history:**

**Ashland County Municipal Courts Public Access**

<http://www.courtreference.com/Ashland-County-Ohio-Courts.htm>

**Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction**

<http://www.drc.ohio.gov/>

**Ohio Attorney General Offender Registry**

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/>



**If you believe that you or your child are at risk, you can receive help:**

- Get you and your child to a SAFE place
- If you cannot get to a SAFE place, contact law enforcement:  
  
Ashland Police Department: (419)289-1911  
Loudonville Police Department (419)994-4151  
Ashland County Sheriff (419)289-3911  
Emergency: 911
- To Report Child Abuse or to obtain parenting resources contact: Ashland County Job and Family Services (419)282-5001
- For Domestic Violence Shelter and supportive services contact: Rape Crisis Domestic Violence Safe Haven: (419)289-8085
- Counseling Contacts:  
Appleseed Community Mental Health Center: (419)281-3716  
Catholic Charities (419)289-1903
- Parenting Resources:  
Ashland Parenting Plus (419)281-3788  
Pregnancy Services: (Ashland Care Center) (419)281-1111  
Help Me Grow: (419)289-9227  
Family Support Services: (419)289-1903

Ashland County Family and Children First Council  
(419)-281-1212



**Choose Your Partner Carefully**  
**Your Child's Life Depends on it**



When you choose a partner for you, you are choosing for your child too.

**Your child is counting on you to make the right decision.**

Never leave your child with someone you don't trust with your child's life.

**Very few people believe that someone they love or trust could ever hurt their child.**

**But it happens.**

Far too often, a child is abused or even killed when left in the care of a mother's partner, usually a boyfriend (who is typically not the biological father).

- The Journal of Pediatrics found that 83% of beating/shaking injuries causing the death of the child were at the hands of the mother's partner. (August 2009)
- According to Ohio's Child Fatality Review, 85% of child abuse and neglect deaths occurred among children younger than 5 years old. (2011)
- Also, Ohio's Child Fatality Review found 20% of the reviews indicated the parent's partner as the person causing the child's death. (2011)

**WHY?**

Many non-biological partners have no relationship or commitment to the child. They are primarily interested in their own romantic involvement with the mother and become irritated when problems with the child arise. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, the common circumstances for a child's death are the child being at home, being alone with the mother's partner and crying.



40% of babies born in the United States are born to single women and living arrangements are often casual. Many of these mothers lack childcare but need to work in order to keep their public assistance benefits. Instead of seeking a qualified childcare center or person to care for their children, mothers are leaving them with their partner. Not only do the partners have no relationship with the child, they have even less patience and maturity.

**WARNING SIGNS:**

Sometimes, when you are in love, you can miss the warning signs. One of the most important signs to look for is how your child acts when left alone with your partner.

**DOES YOUR PARTNER.....**

- Show anger or IMPATIENCE when your child cries or has a tantrum?
- Call your child BAD NAMES or put him down?
- Think it is funny to SCARE your child?
- Make ALL the decisions for you and your child?
- Tell you that you are a BAD PARENT or that you should not have your kids?
- HURT your child and then BLAME you or claim that it's NO BIG DEAL?
- Tell you that your child is a NUISANCE?
- Have a CRIMINAL HISTORY?
- Abuse DRUGS, ALCOHOL or PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION?
- Get VIOLENT or CONTROLLING with you?

If you answered YES to even ONE of these, your child might be at risk. Never leave your child with someone you don't trust with your child's life!