

# IF THE PROSECUTOR DECLINES CHARGES

## A GUIDE FOR ADVOCATES

- Does the victim understand the advocate's role and purpose, and that it is ongoing?
- Does the victim understand that an HRO or OFP is still available, and if already in place, is still valid?
- Does the victim understand that she/he can ask to meet with the prosecutor to discuss the decision to decline?
- Does the victim know that charging depends upon proof beyond a reasonable doubt rather than merely the fact that the assailant is guilty?
- Does the victim know about other resources or options to help her/him cope with her/his experience?
- Is the victim aware that any future threats, harassment, or violence, including stalking from the assailant or his acquaintances could result in a new criminal case?

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