

Cassie O'Brien

Domestic Violence
Community Justice
Advocate

Cassie O'Brien is the Advocacy Director for Friends Against Family Violence, a nonprofit organization serving survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the Uintah Basin. She has been serving survivors for almost a decade, striving to be a source of knowledge and strength as her clients navigate legal, housing, family, educational, and safety systems.



What Justice Work Means to Cassie

"[My work as a Community Justice Advocate] provides further validity of my position within the agency I work for and the validity of the agency within the community. Living in a small community with a limited number of attorneys can be a challenge for our clients; being able to have competent assistance can alleviate the load that local attorneys must carry. It has also facilitated a different kind of conversation with our local DCFS, system advocates, landlords, and a variety of other community partners."

The Justice Work Effect

"I absolutely have had to learn to access the logical part of my brain in what can be appear to be a crisis situation. [This program] has enabled me to provide an environment of calm and knowledgeable support to those I serve and in turn they leave my office feeling more calm and knowledgeable about their options. The certificate on my wall also gives them reassurance that I have received the proper training and oversight to give them the information I share."

"Along with the clients, community partners also are able to ask complicated questions and know that they will get back an educated and correct answer. If the answer is "I don't know," then they also know that I have the resources to find it. This has strengthened relationships across the board."