

Your Rights as a Crime Victim

You have a number of rights under New York State Law, including:

- **To be informed** by local law enforcement officers about local services for victims, such as those offered by Family Services' Crime Victims Assistance Program
- **To be supported** by an advocate throughout the criminal justice process
- **To be protected** from threats or intimidation from the suspect or the suspect's family
- **To be notified** by the District Attorney about certain steps in your case

For more information on your rights as a crime victim, you can also contact the New York State Crime Victims Board at 1-800-247-8035 or on the web at www.cvb.state.ny.us

Advocacy

Our advocates provide victims of crime with:

- Emotional support and crisis intervention
- Hospital accompaniment if you are the victim of a sexual or physical assault
- Accompaniment to police stations or courts
- Information about court systems, including orders of protection
- Information about and referrals to other community services
- Information about your rights as a crime victim
- Assistance in filing a compensation claim with the NYS Crime Victims Board

**24 HOUR
RAPE CRISIS &
CRIME VICTIMS
HOTLINE
(845) 452-7272**

Forensic Nursing Services

Our nurses are specially trained to provide services to victims of sexual and physical violence. These services include:

- Exams in safe and private rooms at St. Francis Hospital and Vassar Brothers Medical Center
- Evaluation and care for victims of crime
- Collection of evidence and pictures of injuries
- Medications to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, and HIV

Counseling

Our therapists are specifically trained to deal with trauma. We can provide you and your loved ones with:

- Individual therapy for adults, adolescents, and children
- Support groups
- Therapeutic play for children
- Education and information on coping with the effects of victimization

**ALL SERVICES
ARE FREE, ACCESSIBLE
& CONFIDENTIAL**

Comments from Victims

“Crime Victims Assistance Program helped me find my way out of the confusion and shock of a family murder. They helped me right away with counseling and filing claims reports. They also helped by explaining the criminal justice system and answering questions that came up. The service is very helpful and the people who work there are very kind.”

- Family of Homicide Victim

“I really can’t imagine how I would have come to terms with my physical assault without the help of [the therapist] and [advocate] of the Crime Victims Assistance Program.”

- Victim of Physical Assault

“After having cash stolen from my apartment, I was afraid I wouldn’t be believed because I am blind. Having an advocate present when making the police report was very helpful and reassuring.”

- Victim of a Robbery

“Since I am a student the fact that I was getting help without cost made my recovery easier. Thank you Family Services.”

- Survivor of Sexual Assault

“The support and understanding I received was so beneficial that words can’t describe. The people I worked with were great! Having support at court really reduces the anxiety and helps one think clearly.”

- Survivor of Domestic Violence

To be a victim
is a lonely place to be.
**Don’t go through
this alone.**

We are here to help.

Crime Victims Assistance Program
29 North Hamilton Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Phone: (845) 452-1110 ext 3083

TTY: (845) 790-5919

www.familyservicesny.org

Emergency Sign Language

Interpreter Service: (845) 797-3799



Providing Hope. Improving Lives. Strengthening Community.

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Crime Victims Assistance Program

Providing advocacy,
counseling and forensic nursing
services to victims of crime in
Dutchess County

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