



The Crime Victims Center
 P.O. Box 145
 Stony Brook, New York 11790
 (631) 689-2672
www.thecrimevictimscenter.org
Stony Brook • Patchogue

The Suffolk County Crime Victims Center (CVC) provides vital information and multi-agency service referrals for support and assistance to victims of violent crime. CVC also links victims of violent crime and elderly or disabled victims of crime to the New York State Crime Victims Board for medical and essential property loss expenses.

Services are provided to innocent adult and child victims of hate crime, human trafficking, assault, sexual assault, child physical and sexual abuse, motor vehicle (DWI), motor vehicle (non DWI - hit and run), survivors of homicide victims, victims of kidnapping, stalking, menancing, terrorism, arson, robbery, harassment, aggravated harassment, domestic violence, criminal contempt and burglary.

Hate Crime Victims Hotline

(631) 626-3156



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THE SUFFOLK COUNTY CRIME VICTIMS CENTER

HATE CRIME ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

(631) 689-2672

Crisis Intervention
 Crime Victims Compensation

Multi-agency Referrals for:
 Criminal Justice Advocacy
 Medical and Legal Referrals
 Counseling Services
 for Adult and Child Victims
 of Violent Crime

A Program Sponsored by:
 The Suffolk County Executive and Legislature
 and the U.S. Department of Justice

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What is a Hate Crime?

Hate crimes are those violations of law committed against individuals or property based upon a belief or perception regarding their race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation, regardless of whether the belief or perception is correct. These crimes may include acts of physical assault, assaults with weapons, harassment, vandalism, robbery, rape, verbal harassment, attacks on homes or places of worship, forms of vandalism, and murder. It occurs everywhere: in schools, the workplace, public places and in the home.

Effect on Victims

Hate crime may have particularly damaging effects on its victims, their families and the communities of which they are a part. A sense of anger is one of the common responses to being the victim of a hate crime, but so is a deep sense of personal hurt and betrayal. Victims experience feelings of powerlessness, isolation, sadness and suspicion. Fear is another pervasive victim response. Victims fear for their own safety and for their family's safety. Most report changes in their lifestyle such as where they walk, how they answer the phone, reactions to strangers, suspicion of co-workers, and other such changes. Fear can take on varying qualities and can drastically disrupt the lives of some victims.

How the Hate Crime Victim Advocacy Program Can Help

Victims of violent crimes can experience mental, physical and emotional trauma that can have a life long devastating impact. Support provided by the Crime Victims Center can help minimize the impact crime has on victims by providing information which enables them to make informed decisions with knowledge of their rights and providing the services they are entitled to. Strict confidentiality is maintained and immigration status never questioned.

What Multilingual Services Are Available?

- 24 Hour Hate Crime Crisis Support Hotline (631) 626-3156.
- Assistance in filing for New York State crime victims compensation claims for reimbursement of expenses which relate to personal injury, death and loss of personal property.
- Criminal Justice Advocacy including courtroom accompaniment.
- Multi-agency service referrals for:
 - Individual and group counseling.
 - Legal and medical information.
 - Assistance with preparation of the victim impact statement and VINE registration.
 - Educational advocacy for minors.
 - Advocacy, information and referrals for concrete services, housing, long-term medical services, employment referrals, child support enforcement and social services assistance.
 - U Visa Application for victims of certain crimes.

What Expenses Related To The Crime May Be Reimbursed?

Innocent victims of violent crime (and certain victims of property crimes), certain relatives, dependents and guardians of the victim can apply for out-of-pocket expenses not covered by insurance or other resources. The New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) offers reimbursement related to personal injury, death and loss of essential personal property which is related to criminal activity.

The specific expenses OVS may cover include:

- Medical and counseling expenses
- Loss of essential personal property (up to \$500. including \$100. for cash)
- Lost wages or lost support (to \$30,000.)
- Transportation (court/medical)
- Occupational/vocational rehabilitation
- Crime scene clean-up (up to \$2,500.)
- Good Samaritan property losses (to \$5000.)
- Essential personal property expenses (ie. eyeglasses, medication, clothing)
- Burial or Funeral Expenses
- Emergency Awards may also be granted