

Crime Victims Center

The Crime Victims Center is dedicated to preventing crime through the provision of prevention education programs, crime victim support services, and Megan's Law community support.

The CVC provides support and services to all victims of violent crime & their non-offending family members. The CVC assists elderly, minor, and disabled victims of both violent crime and property crime. Direct services include advocacy, counseling and assistance in obtaining reimbursement for medical & essential property loss expenses related to crime. Services are provided to surviving family members of homicide, victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, assault, hate crime, child sexual & physical abuse, motor vehicle (DWI) & (non-DWI), stalking, kidnapping, human trafficking, terrorism, arson, robbery, & confrontational burglary.

If you are a victim of rape or sexual assault, or feel unsafe in a situation; find a *safe place* & call 911.

Prevent & Support
The Crime Victims Center can help

- ❖ Call CVC at **(631) 689-2672** for Crisis Support and Counseling Services at no cost.
- ❖ Preserve all physical evidence.
- ❖ Call **(631) 332-9234** (24 hrs./day) for the information & support you need to make informed decisions and to know your rights.



CRIME VICTIMS CENTER
Empowering Victims & Crime Prevention
Laura A. Ahearn, Esq., LMSW
Executive Director
www.crimevictimscenter.org

(631) 689-2672

Ronkonkoma & Patchogue
www.CrimeVictimsCenter.org
www.ParentsForMegansLaw.org



If You Have Been the Victim of a Sexual Assault or other Violent Crime and Need Support, Call:

(631) 689-2672

24 Hour Rape Crisis Hotline:

(631) 332-9234

The Crime Victims Center, dba, Parents for Megan's Law, Inc. provides services to all innocent victims of violent crime and does not discriminate in the provision of services based upon race, color, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, or any other characteristic prohibited by law.



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Rape Crisis Center

Help and Support if You Are a Victim of Sexual Assault

- ❖ 24/7 Crisis Intervention
- ❖ Legal Assistance & Orders of Protection
- ❖ Criminal Justice Advocacy
- ❖ Medical & Courtroom Accompaniment
- ❖ Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Services
- ❖ Counseling for Children & Adults
- ❖ OVS Reimbursement for Expenses

The Crime Victims Center is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the prevention & treatment of sexual abuse and the provision of services to all victims of violent crime. Accessible services for persons with disabilities.

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Rape and Sexual Assault

Are motivated by power & control.

Are NOT motivated by:

- ❖ The need for sexual gratification
- ❖ The way a person is dressed
- ❖ Overactive hormones
- ❖ Drug or alcohol use

Rape & sexual assault are acts of **violence** and can happen to **anyone, anywhere, & at any time.**

Rape is sexual intercourse with any person without consent. Rape can involve force, including physical violence, coercion, or threat of harm. Rape is also when a person cannot give consent due to their age, mental disability, and/or being mentally incapacitated or physically helpless, or any situation where the person is incapable of giving consent. Being physically helpless includes being intoxicated, drugged, asleep, or unconscious. Consent can be given or taken away at any time. Silence, or a lack of a **NO**, *does not* equal consent. Rape can be committed by a stranger, an acquaintance, a friend, a relative, a date, & 70% of sexual violence cases are committed by someone known to the victim.

Long term effects on survivors, include, but are not limited to:

STI's, pregnancy, substance abuse, dissociation, eating disorders, sleeping disorders, self-harm, suicide attempts, depression, and PTSD.

Counseling is available at no cost & support services are available *24 hours a day*.

24 Hour Rape Crisis Hotline:
(631) 332-9234

Safety Tips

- ❖ Know it is **never** your fault if someone is pressuring you.
- ❖ Always trust your gut feeling.
- ❖ Only do what feels right to you and what makes you feel comfortable.
- ❖ Create a *code word* with friends and family that means you need help. This way you can communicate your concern and get help without alerting the person who is pressuring you.
- ❖ You can always lie to make an excuse for an exit if you are concerned about angering or upsetting someone.
- ❖ Always know what your escape strategy would be if you need to leave a situation safely.

Date Rape Drugs

“Date rape drugs” are those drugs that are used for the purpose of allowing forced or non-consensual sexual activity to occur more easily. Date rape drugs include, but are not limited to, Rohypnol, GHB, GBL, Ecstasy, Soma, Ketamine, and Bath Salts. These drugs can be odorless, colorless, tasteless, fast acting and fast leaving, cause memory impairment, dizziness, confusion and/or unconsciousness

Tips to reduce the likelihood of being given a “Date Rape Drug”

- ❖ Don't drink anything from a punch bowl or something with an unexpected color, appearance, smell, or taste (i.e. salty).
- ❖ Don't leave drinks unattended or share/exchange drinks.
- ❖ Don't accept drinks without seeing their origin.
- ❖ Do take action if something feels wrong, especially when drinking alcohol, and if your feelings differ from the effects of alcohol. Talk/call a friend, a bartender, or call the police.

Available Services

- ❖ Rape Crisis ER accompaniment
- ❖ Sexual Assault Forensic Examination services and support (call for information)
- ❖ 24 Hour crisis support & counseling
- ❖ Individual trauma-informed short and long term counseling by a NYS Licensed Social Worker at no cost
- ❖ Legal services including assistance obtaining an order of protection
- ❖ Criminal justice advocacy, including post-sentencing support, medical & courtroom accompaniment
- ❖ Victim impact statement preparation assistance
- ❖ Advocacy information & referrals for support services including housing, medical services, employment, child support enforcement, and social services assistance
- ❖ Aid in filing for New York State crime victim's compensation claims that relate to personal injury, death, and personal property loss.
- ❖ VINE registration assistance
- ❖ Follow-up on Megan's Law issues

What to Do

- ❖ First, know that this is not your fault.
- ❖ Make sure that you are safe and away from the person(s) who hurt you.
- ❖ You have the **RIGHT** to choose to report the rape and to an examination or not.
- ❖ If you choose to seek medical attention you can:
 - Call 911 or;
 - Seek medical attention at a local Rape Crisis Center or Hospital.
- ❖ Prior to arriving at the Hospital it is advised that you:
 - Do not bathe, urinate, defecate, eat, drink, brush your teeth or change your clothes.
 - Bring a change of clothes and hygiene products with you as your clothes will be collected as evidence during your exam.
- ❖ While at the hospital an advocate will be provided to you and they will guide you through the process.
- ❖ You will receive an exam by a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE).