

Community Resources

- Metropolitan Police Department
www.mpdc.org
- The National Center for Victims of Crime
Toll Free (800) 394-2255
- Domestic Violence Support Center
House of Ruth
(202) 347-2777
- The Crime Victims Compensation Program
(202) 879-4216
- U.S. Attorney's Office
(202) 514-7364
- My Sister's Place
24 Hour Crisis Hotline
(202) 529-5991
- Domestic Violence Intake Unit,
D.C. Superior Court
(202) 879-0152
- Maryland Crime Center Resource Center, Inc.
(301) 952-0063 or
Toll Free (877) 842-8461
- Deaf-Reach
(202) 832-6681 (TTY-V)
- Victims' Assistance Legal Organization
(703) 748-0811
- Survivors of Homicide, Inc.
(202) 882-9190
- D.C. Rape Crisis Center
(202) 333-7273
- National Organization for Victim Assistance
(202) 232-6682

Crimes Against Victims Occur....



COURT SERVICES & OFFENDER SUPERVISION
AGENCY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAMS
VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM
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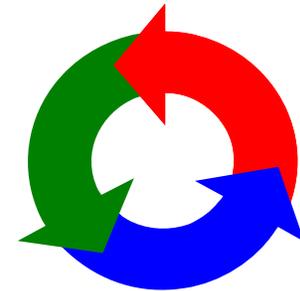
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COURT SERVICES & OFFENDER
SUPERVISION AGENCY
for the District of Columbia



VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM



Victim Services Program

In response to the growing need for prevention and intervention, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia launched the Community Justice Programs' Victim Services Program (VSP) in April 2001.

This program serves residents within the District of Columbia who have been victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Offenses, Traffic/ Alcohol-related Crimes, or Property Crimes. VSP is committed to responding to victims of crime with compassion, understanding, and respect.

VSP works in conjunction with Community Supervision Officers (CSOs) and other victim service agencies with whom partnerships have been formed, identifies victims of crime, provides education on victim rights, and delivers orientation and technical assistance to victims and the community.

Mission

VSP assists CSOs with providing the most appropriate level of supervision for the offender in order to decrease the possibility of recidivism and re-victimization.

VSP strives to educate the victim and the community on victim's rights. VSP provides resources that can assist with healing the pain caused victims when they are exposed to crime.

Mandate

- To assist investigative CSOs with developing recommendations for the court and/or the United States Parole Commission.
- To assist CSOs with case staffing reviewing the supervision level of offenders and information collected from the Victim's Needs Assessment tool).
- To work with CSOs and the court to ensure prompt restitution payments have been made to the victims by the offenders.
- To work with the Metropolitan Police Department in sharing information within our respective agencies and communities.
- To collaborate with other victim service agencies in the Metropolitan D.C. area.
- To coordinate with the U.S. Attorney's Office in obtaining Victim Impact Statements and Victim Notifications.
- To assist victims with completing Victim Impact Statements prior to the defendant's sentencing.
- To facilitate victims working with The Crime Victims Compensation Program to determine victim's eligibility.
- To provide needs assessments for all referrals and crisis intervention counseling.
- To develop an intervention safety plan which includes: alternative living plans, police reports, Civil Protection Orders Temporary Protection Orders, communication with CSOs and/or partner agencies, and to provide services to victims in emergency cases.
- To notify victims of scheduled Victim Orientation meetings.

(Mandate, continued)

- To develop an Advisory Board for VSP and participate on other victim boards and committees.
- To provide mandatory Community Supervision Service training on victim's issues.
- To jointly sponsor orientation meetings with the Domestic Violence Intervention Program.
- To host an annual agency-wide activity for Domestic Violence Month.

Crime Victim's Bill of Rights

Victims have the right to:

- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.
- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused offender.
- The right to be notified of court proceedings.
- The right to be present at all public court proceedings related to the offense, unless the court determines that testimony by the victim would be materially affected if the victim heard other testimony at trial.
- The right to confer with [an] attorney for the Government in the case.
- The right to restitution.
- The right to information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, and release of the offender.

Reference: Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance 2000 (U.S. Department of Justice)