

**SERVICES AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS  
AND WITNESSES THROUGH THE  
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF  
VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCACY**

- Case Status Notification
- Counseling Referrals
- HIV testing of defendants in sexual assault cases
- Crisis Counseling
- Social Service Referrals
- Child Care Assistance
- Criminal Justice Orientation
- Emergency Assistance
- Assistance with the Victims of Crime Compensation Office
- Victim-Impact Statement assistance
- Court Accompaniment
- Victim Witness waiting area

**QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS  
ABOUT YOUR CASE?**

Please contact the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, Office of Victim Witness Advocacy if you have questions about your case at (609) 909-7860.

**SI USTED NECESITA AYUDA, POR FAVOR  
LLAME AL 609-909-7792 OR 609-909-7709.**

**SERVICE AGENCIES AVAILABLE  
TO VICTIMS AND WITNESSES**

**Counseling**

AtlantiCare Behavioral Health  
609-646-9159 or 888-569-1000  
[www.atlanticare.org](http://www.atlanticare.org)

**AVANZAR**

1-800-286-4184 (24 hour toll-free hotline)  
<https://avanzarnow.org>

**Center for Family Services**

877-922-2377  
[www.centerffs.org](http://www.centerffs.org)

**The Alcove Center for Grieving Children and Families**

609-484-1133  
[www.thealcove.org](http://www.thealcove.org)

**Jewish Family Service**

The Specialty Center for Youth Interventions  
609-822-1108  
[www.jfsatlantic.org](http://www.jfsatlantic.org)

**Crisis Intervention**

Psychiatric Intervention Program  
609-344-1118 (24 hour line)

**Adult Intervention Services**

1-866-750-6612

**NJ Children's System of Care,**

PerformCare  
1-877-652-7624

**Economic Assistance**

Victims of Crime Compensation Office  
1-800-242-0208  
[www.nj.gov/oag/njvictims](http://www.nj.gov/oag/njvictims)

**Legal Assistance**

South Jersey Legal Services  
(609) 348-4200

**Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service**

(609) 345-3444  
[www.atcobar.org](http://www.atcobar.org)

**DIRECTIONS TO THE  
COURTHOUSE**

**CRIMINAL COURTS COMPLEX**

4997 Unami Boulevard  
Mays Landing, NJ 08330  
**Parking is free.**

**DIRECTIONS FROM ATLANTIC CITY**

Take the Atlantic City Expressway West to Exit 12. After the toll booth, turn left at traffic light on Wrangleboro Road. Immediately merge into right lane. Continue in right lane and follow signs for Route 40/322 West. After the traffic light at the Hamilton Mall, take the jug handle to Route 40 West. At the fourth traffic light on Route 40, make a left onto 32nd Avenue. At stop sign, turn left onto Atlantic Avenue. Follow to stop sign and turn right onto Babcock Road. Follow road to Wabun Blvd and make a right. The courthouse is at the end of Wabun Blvd.

**DIRECTIONS FROM PHILADELPHIA**

Take the Atlantic City Expressway East to Exit 17, which is immediately on your right after the Egg Harbor Toll Plaza. Make a right off the ramp onto Route 50 South. Follow Route 50 to the intersection with Route 40 East (Main Street) in Mays Landing. Make a left onto Route 40 East.

Follow Route 40 to light at 32nd Avenue and make a right onto 32nd Avenue. At stop sign, turn left onto Atlantic Avenue. Follow road to Babcock Avenue and make a right. Proceed on Wabun Avenue. The courthouse is at the end of Wabun Avenue.  
**Parking is free.**

**PARKING IS FREE.**

**ATLANTIC COUNTY  
PROSECUTOR'S  
VICTIM-WITNESS  
ASSISTANCE GUIDE**

**WILLIAM E. REYNOLDS  
ACTING ATLANTIC  
COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PROSECUTOR

The most important part of the criminal justice system is the victim of, or witness, to a crime.

Often victims and witnesses are overwhelmed by the trauma they have undergone and frequently this ordeal is aggravated by a complicated and confusing criminal justice process.

Recognizing that victims of crime have suffered physically, financially, and emotionally, the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office of Victim Witness Advocacy provides services that include counseling referrals, Victims of Crime Compensation Office assistance, case information and court accompaniment.

The goal of the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy is to ensure victims and witnesses are treated with compassion, dignity, and respect, and to minimize any inconveniences of the criminal justice system.

Victims and witnesses of crime are absolutely essential to the administration of justice. Their participation in the criminal justice system is critical. They are the means by which the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office can successfully bring criminal defendants to justice.

**William E. Reynolds**  
**ACTING ATLANTIC COUNTY**  
**PROSECUTOR**

## NEW JERSEY CRIME VICTIM'S BILL OF RIGHTS

- To be treated with dignity and compassion by the criminal justice system.
- To be informed about the criminal justice process.
- To be free from intimidation, harassment or abuse by any person including the defendant or any other person acting in support of or on behalf of the defendant, due to the involvement of the victim or witness in the criminal justice process.
- To have inconveniences associated with participation in the criminal justice process minimized.
- To make at least one telephone call provided the call is reasonable in length and location.
- To medical assistance reasonably related to the incident.
- To be notified in a timely manner, if practicable, if presence in court is not needed or if any scheduled court proceeding has been adjourned or cancelled.
- To be informed about available remedies, financial assistance and social services.
- To be compensated for loss sustained by the victim whenever possible.
- To be provided a secure, but not necessarily separate, waiting area during court proceedings.
- To be advised of case progress and final disposition and to confer with the prosecutor's representative so that the victim may be kept adequately informed.
- To the prompt return of property when no longer needed as evidence.
- To submit a written statement, within a reasonable amount of time, about the impact of the crime to a representative of the prosecuting agency which shall be considered prior to the prosecutor's final decision concerning whether formal criminal charges will be filed, whether the prosecutor will consent to a request by the defendant to enter into a pre-trial program, and whether the prosecutor will make or agree to a negotiated plea.
- To make, prior to sentencing, an in-person statement directly to the sentencing court.
- To have the opportunity to consult with the prosecuting authority prior to the conclusion of any plea negotiations, and to have the prosecutor advise the court of the consultation and the victim's position regarding the plea agreement, provided however that nothing herein shall be construed to alter or limit the authority or discretion of the prosecutor to enter into any plea agreement which the prosecutor deems appropriate.
- To be present at any judicial proceeding involving a crime or any juvenile proceeding involving a criminal offense except as otherwise provided by Article I, paragraph 22 of the New Jersey Constitution.

- To be notified of any release or escape of the defendant.
- To appear in any court before which a proceeding implicating the rights of the victim is being held, with standing to file a motion or present argument on a motion filed to enforce any right conferred herein or by Article I, paragraph 22 of the New Jersey Constitution, and to receive an adjudicative decision by the court on any such motion.
- A victim's survivor may, at the time of making the in-person statement to the sentencing court authorized by subsection. n. section 3 of P.L. 1985, c.249 (C.52:4B-36), display directly to the sentencing court a photograph of the victim taken before the homicide including, but not limited to, a still photograph, a computer generated presentation, or a video presentation of the victim. The time, length and content of such presentation shall be within the sound discretion of the sentencing judge.
- A victim's survivor may, during any judicial proceeding involving the defendant, wear a button not exceeding four inches in diameter that contains a picture of the victim, if the court determines that the wearing of such button will not deprive the defendant of his right to a fair trial under the Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I of the New Jersey Constitution. Other spectators at such judicial proceedings may also wear similar buttons if the court so determines. If the victim's survivor seeks to wear the button at trial, the victim's survivor shall give notice to the defendant and to the court no less than 30 days prior to the final trial date.

### THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The New Jersey State Constitution includes guaranteed rights for crime victims. Article I, paragraph 22 reads:

A victim of crime shall be treated with fairness, compassion and respect by the criminal justice system. A victim of a crime shall not be denied the right to be present at public judicial proceeding except when, prior to completing testimony as a witness, the victim is properly sequestered in accordance with law or the rule governing the courts of the state of new jersey. A victim of a crime shall be entitled to those rights and remedies as may be provided by the legislature.

## IF YOU ARE HARASSED, INTIMIDATED OR THREATENED BECAUSE YOU ARE A VICTIM OR A WITNESS:

Immediately contact the local police by calling 911. Explain to the police that you are the victim of a crime and how you have been harassed, threatened or intimidated and by whom.

Call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at (609)909-7800 and ask to speak to the assistant prosecutor or detective assigned to your case. If neither is available, ask to be transferred to the Office of Victim Witness Advocacy or hang up and call (609)909-7860.

Your personal safety is important to the Atlantic County Prosecutor and his staff. If the situation is serious and you believe it to be life threatening, consider staying with a friend until you feel secure. Also, you may want to consider varying your daily routine to make it less predictable.

Call your local police and ask to speak to the crime prevention officer for more information about personal safety.

To find out if a defendant in your case is in custody at the Atlantic County Jail, please call the computer operated VINE (Victim Information Notification Everyday) system at 1-877-846-3465 (877-VINE-4-NJ.) This toll-free number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

You must be able to provide the defendant's name during the call. You may also access information about the VINE system and the custody status of a defendant at [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com).

**SI USTED NECESITA AYUDA, POR FAVOR LLAME AL  
609-909-7792 OR 609-909-7709.**



# AVANZAR

SAFETY, JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT

Since 1975, **AVANZAR** (formerly *The Women's Center*) has been fulfilling our mission of...

**Empowering individuals and families by working to secure their physical safety, emotional well-being, individual freedom, and economic equality.**

Following a vision to strive to be the premier social justice agency focused on equitable inclusiveness, we advance this work through our services and programs:

- Dismantling Racism
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Human Trafficking
- Displaced Homemaker Services
- Fatherhood Services
- Early Childhood Education

**24-hour crisis hotline: 800-286-4184 or 609-646-6767**  
**Text Line: 609-569-5437**

**AVANZAR** is committed to providing equitable and inclusive treatment to our diverse community with a fully integrated and educated staff.

Diversity is our strength and we celebrate it by helping individuals of all ages, races, nationalities, religions, physical abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities.

We pledge ourselves to creating and maintaining an environment that respects multiple traditions, heritages, and experiences.

Our goal is to eliminate discrimination by becoming change agents in the workplace and the community.

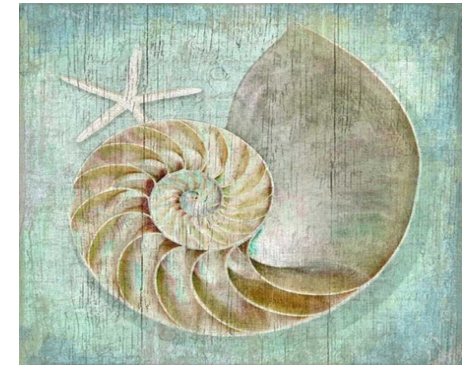
**AVANZAR**  
SAFETY, JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT

**24-Hour Crisis & Support Hotline:**  
**800-286-4184 or 609-646-6767**

**Text Line: 609-569-5437**

[avanzarnow.org](http://avanzarnow.org)

## ATLANTIC COUNTY FORENSIC NURSE EXAMINER PROGRAM



**YOU ARE THE SURVIVOR**  
**SEXUAL ASSAULT IS A CRIME AND**  
**IS NOT YOUR FAULT**

No one should have to face the trauma of sexual assault alone. You deserve support during this difficult time and we will do our best to provide that for you.

### WHO WE ARE

A service of **AVANZAR's** Sexual Assault Program, we are the Forensic Nurse Examiner Program (FNE), a team of registered nurses certified to provide state-of-the art support to sexual assault survivors while improving the quality of evidence and information collected for use in prosecuting sexual offenders.

**WE WILL TREAT YOU**  
**SENSITIVELY AND WITH DIGNITY**

# SPECIAL CARE FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

## IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

With your consent, upon your arrival we will conduct a forensic medical exam (FME) and give you information about various concerns that many survivors have following a sexual assault, including HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, referrals for follow-up treatment and resources for counseling and support services.

## THE EXAM

The Forensic Medical Exam (FME) will include identification and documentation of physical injuries as well collection of specimens using a sexual assault forensic evidence kit (SAFE).

Results from the kit are only used in cases that are prosecuted. Even if you are unsure about prosecuting the offender, a SAFE kit is highly recommended.

## PREGNANCY AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

We will offer you medication designed to prevent a pregnancy that may occur as a result of the sexual assault. We will also offer you medication designed to prevent common sexually transmitted diseases.

## FOLLOW-UP EXAMINATIONS

We recommend follow-up gynecological examinations and certain tests following your initial visit. Contact your private healthcare provider to schedule an appointment or:

**Atlantic County Public Health Clinic**  
210 Shore Road  
Northfield, NJ 08225  
609 645-5933

## FOLLOW-UP TESTS

- 2-3 weeks from initial visit for: pregnancy, chlamydia, gonorrhea and trichomoniasis (PAP)
- 6 weeks from initial visit for syphilis
- 6 weeks, 3 months, and 6 months from initial visit for HIV

For free and confidential HIV testing locations throughout Atlantic County, call: 609-645-5933



**AVANZAR**  
SAFETY, JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT

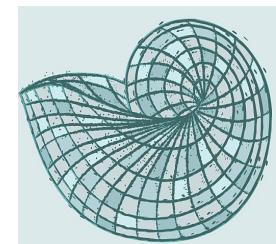
## COUNSELING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Because sexual assault is a crime of violence, any combination of emotions such as shock, anger, shame, guilt, and fear are normal.

**AVANZAR** provides individual and group counseling for sexual assault survivors and their families.

For an appointment, to report a sexual assault, or for support at any time, call **AVANZAR's 24-hour crisis hotline at 800-286-4184 or 609-646-6767**  
Text Line: 609-569-5437

**ALL SERVICES ARE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL**



For more information about the Forensic Nurse Examiner Program, please contact us at 609-601-9925 ext. 1037

The FNE Program is funded, in part, by the NJ Division of Criminal Justice State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, Federal Victims of Crime Act Assistance Funds.

## AVANZAR

- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault 24-HOUR Crisis Hotline: 1 (800) 286-4184 or 609-646-6767 Text: (609) 569-437
- PALS – Peace a Learned Solution: 609-601-9925 ext. 1012
- Fatherhood Services: 609-601-9925 ext. 1018
- Displaced Homemaker Program and Self Sufficiency Services : 609-601-9925 ext. 1014
- Human Trafficking (Statewide Human Trafficking Services) 24-HOUR Crisis Hotline: 1 (800) 286-4184 or 609-646-6767 Text: (609) 569-437
- Volunteer Program: 609-601-9925 ext. 1025
- Community Education: 609-601-9925 ext. 1016
- Statewide Social Service Information: Dial: 211; or visit <http://www.nj211.org>

## STATE RESOURCES

### New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Phone: 609-631-4450

Email: [info@njcasa.org](mailto:info@njcasa.org)

Crossroads Corporate Center  
3150 Brunswick Pike, Suite 300  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-2420

### New Jersey Coalition for Ending Domestic Violence

Phone: 609-584-8107

1670 Whitehorse-Hamilton Square Road, Trenton, NJ 08690

### New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking

784 Morris Turnpike, Suite 111  
Short Hills NJ 07078  
(201)903-2111

### New Jersey Statewide Domestic Violence 24 Hour Hotline

Hotline 800-572-SAFE (7233)

### New Jersey Statewide Sexual Assault Hotline

1-800-601-7200

Statewide Social Service Information

Dial: 211



# Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights

N.J. Stat. Ann. § 52:4B-60.1 et seq.

## In New Jersey, victims of sexual violence are afforded the following rights:

- (1) To have any allegation of sexual assault treated seriously; to be treated with dignity and compassion; and to be notified of existing medical, counseling, mental health, or other services available for victims of sexual assault, whether or not the crime is reported to law enforcement;
- (2) To be free, to the extent consistent with the New Jersey or United States Constitution, from any suggestion that victims are responsible for the commission of crimes against them or any suggestion that victims were contributorily negligent or assumed the risk of being assaulted;
- (3) To be free from any suggestion that victims are to report the crimes to be assured of any other guaranteed right and that victims should refrain from reporting crimes in order to avoid unwanted personal publicity;
- (4) When applicable, to no-cost access to the services of a sexual assault response team comprised of: a certified forensic nurse examiner, a confidential sexual violence advocate, and a law enforcement official as provided in accordance with the Attorney General's Standards for Providing Services to Victims of Sexual Assault, and the choice to opt into or out of any of the team's services;
- (5) To be informed of, and assisted in exercising, the right to be confidentially or anonymously tested for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or any other related virus identified as a probable causative agent of AIDS; and to be informed of, and assisted in exercising, any rights that may be provided by law to compel and disclose the results of testing of a sexual assault suspect for communicable diseases;
- (6) To have forensic medical evidence, if collected, retained for a minimum of five years, and to receive information about the status of the evidence upon request;
- (7) To choose whether to participate in any investigation of the assault;
- (8) To reasonable efforts to provide treatment and interviews in a language in which the victim is fluent and the right to be given access to appropriate assistive devices to accommodate disabilities that the victim may have, whether temporary or long term;
- (9) To information and assistance in accessing specialized mental health services; protection from further violence; other appropriate community or governmental services, including services provided by the Victims of Crime Compensation Office; and all other assistance available to crime victims under current law;
- (10) To be apprised of the availability and process by which a court may order the taking of testimony from a victim via closed circuit television in accordance with section 1 of P.L.1985, c.126 (C.2A:84A-32.4); and
- (11) To be apprised of the availability and process by which to seek protections through a temporary or final protective order under the "Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act of 2015," P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et seq.), if the victim believes that the victim is at risk for re-victimization or further harm by the perpetrator.



# Declaración de Derechos de La Víctima de Agresión Sexual

N.J. Stat. Ann. § 52:4B-60.1 et seq.

**En Nueva Jersey a las víctimas de violencia sexual se les otorgan los siguientes derechos:**

- (1) Que toda denuncia de agresión sexual sea tratada con seriedad; ser tratada/o con dignidad y compasión; y de ser notificada/o de servicios disponibles ya sean médicos, de consejería y asesoramiento, de salud mental, o de otros tipos disponibles para las víctimas de agresión sexual ya sea que se haya reportada el delito a las agencias del orden público o no.
- (2) De estar libres, en la medida compatible con la Constitución de Nueva Jersey o de Los Estados Unidos, de cualquier inferencia que las víctimas son las responsables por los delitos que se cometen en su contra o de alguna inferencia que las víctimas contribuyeron al delito por su negligencia o que asumido el riesgo de ser agredidas/os.
- (3) De estar libres de cualquier inferencia que las víctimas deben reportar los delitos para que se les asegure algún otro derecho garantizado y que las víctimas deben evitar reportar los delitos para evitar publicidad personal no deseada.
- (4) Cuando aplique, al acceso sin costo a los servicios de un equipo de respuesta a la agresión sexual comprendido por una enfermera examinadora forense certificada, un asesor confidencial de violencia sexual, y un oficial del orden público como lo indican los Estándares de la Oficina del Fiscal General para proveer servicios a las Víctimas de Agresión Sexual, y de tener la opción de participar o no con los servicios que provee el equipo y que usted escoja.
- (5) De que se le informe y que se le ayude a ejercer su derecho a obtener pruebas confidenciales para detectar el Síndrome de Inmunodeficiencia Adquirida (SIDA) o la infección con el Virus de Inmunodeficiencia Humana (VIH) o de cualquier otro virus relacionado e identificado como probable agente causante del SIDA; y de permanecer informada/o y recibir asistencia al ejercer cualquier derecho que le otorgue la ley para requerir y divulgar los resultados de pruebas que se le hayan hecho a un sospechoso de agresión sexual para detectar enfermedades transmisibles;
- (6) Que se guarden los resultados de las pruebas médicas forenses, si es que se han colectado, por un mínimo de cinco años, y de recibir información sobre la condición/estatus de las evidencias cuando la solicite.
- (7) Decidir si participar o no en la investigación de la agresión.
- (8) Que se hagan esfuerzos razonables para proveer tratamiento y entrevistas en el idioma en el que la víctima hable con fluidez y dar acceso a dispositivos de asistencia adecuados en relación a cualquier incapacidad que pueda tener la víctima ya sea temporal o a largo plazo;
- (9) A tener información y ayuda para poder tener acceso a servicios especializados de salud mental; a protección contra nuevos actos de violencia; a otros servicios apropiados ya sean comunitarios o gubernamentales, incluyendo los servicios proveídos por la Oficina de Compensación para Víctimas del Crimen; y toda otra ayuda disponible a víctimas de delitos conforme a las leyes vigentes.
- (10) De ser informada/o de la disponibilidad y el proceso por el cual un tribunal puede ordenar testimonio de una víctima a través de circuito cerrado de televisión conforme a la sección 1 de P.L. 1985, c.126 (C.2A:84A-32.4); y
- (11) De ser informada/o sobre la disponibilidad y el proceso para solicitar protección mediante una orden de alejamiento temporal o permanente conforme a “la Ley de protección a sobrevivientes de agresiones sexuales del 2015,” P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et seq.), si la víctima cree que corre el riesgo de ser víctima de nuevo o de daño adicional por parte del autor.

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE







# LAW & LEGISLATION

## the sexual assault survivor protection act (SASPA)



The **Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act (SASPA)** expands opportunities for survivors of sexual violence to apply for a protective order against their perpetrator, without reporting to law enforcement or filing criminal charges. SASPA was passed into law in November 2015 and was enacted in May 2016.

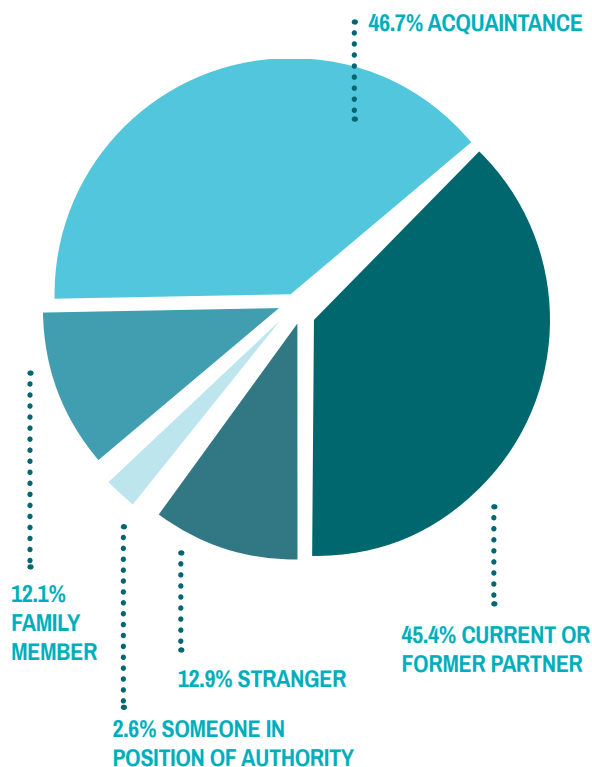
The vast majority of sexual violence survivors **know their perpetrator**. SASPA closed a legal loophole, where protective orders weren't available for survivors of sexual assault unless there was a charge or conviction.

### WHAT IS A PROTECTIVE ORDER & WHAT DOES IT DO?

A protective order is a document issued by the court to help protect a survivor from a perpetrator and stop any further acts of violence or intimidating behaviors.

A protective order can shield survivors from:

- Further acts of violence
- Seeing a perpetrator (the person can be prevented from entering specific places that the survivor or their household members regularly frequent, such as work, home, or school)
- Future contact with their perpetrator (whether in-person, over the phone, or through another person)
- Stalking behaviors
- Harassment, including online harassment, of the survivor, their family members, or their employer/employees
- Any other relief the court deems appropriate



Data per the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2014. Results add up to over 100% to account for multiple perpetrators.

© New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault 2017.

The New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCSA) is the statewide organization representing 21 county-based rape crisis centers and Rutgers University's Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance. NJCSA elevates the voices of survivors and service providers through advocacy, training, and support for efforts to create safer communities for all women, men and children.

## WHAT IS A PROTECTIVE ORDER & WHAT DOES IT DO?

There are two types of protective orders: a temporary protective order (TPO) and a final protective order (FPO).

- A **temporary protective order** is the initial type of protective order survivors can receive. It protects

against the same kind of harassing behaviors as a final protective order, but it only remains in place until the final protective order hearing.

- A **final protective order** outlines harassing behaviors that cannot continue. It is forwarded to the police department where the survivor lives, as well as where the perpetrator lives. FPOs never expire, and are valid anywhere in New Jersey.

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR A PROTECTIVE ORDER UNDER SASPA?

Generally, survivors of sexual violence who are subjected to continued harassing behaviors from their abuser, who do not qualify for a domestic violence restraining order, can apply for a protective order under SASPA.

**Survivors can apply for a protective order regardless of if the assault was reported to law enforcement.**

If you feel you are in **immediate danger**, contact local law enforcement.

## WHY MAY SOMEONE CHOOSE TO APPLY FOR A PROTECTIVE ORDER?

Everyone's situation is unique and requesting a protective order is a decision only the survivor can make. For some, a protective order will end harmful behaviors. Others may feel a protective order could cause a perpetrator to escalate.

Protective order hearings can be stressful – it may not be the right decision for you at this time, or ever. **Every person has the right** to practice self-care and make decisions that are best for their own wellbeing.

### ▶ be prepared:

While a protective order will discourage many perpetrators from continuing harassing behavior, it is often one piece of a comprehensive plan for safety and well-being. Working with an advocate may help a survivor feel empowered to access other support systems.

## HOW DO SURVIVORS APPLY FOR A TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDER?

A person who is seeking a protective order may file in person at the Superior Court in their county. A list of courthouses in New Jersey is available at:

<https://www.njcasa.org/find-a-courthouse/>

The process may take several hours. You will need to provide a *specific and comprehensive* written statement to a hearing officer. Everything included in this statement can be brought up in the protective order hearing(s); anything not included *cannot be referenced in your testimony*.

It's important that the statement comprehensively details abusive or harassing behaviors and is specific. Include actual language the perpetrator used.

### 📱 example:

Rather than saying, "He texted me a lot," include detail, such as: "He texted me six times in one hour, threatening to release pictures of me."

There are no court fees associated with receiving a TPO. While a lawyer is not necessary to seek a PO, it may be helpful to speak to one or to contact an advocate. Your county-based sexual violence service provider can provide trained advocates to provide additional information, link you with resources, and offer emotional support; **find a program at:**

<https://www.njcasa.org/find-help>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[HTTPS://WWW.NJCASA.ORG/SASPA/](https://www.njcasa.org/saspa/)

# know your rights as a survivor of sexual violence

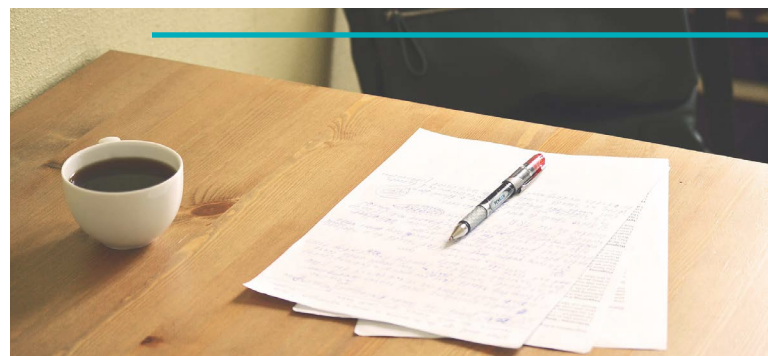


The **Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights** was enacted in 2019 to outline basic protections and fundamental rights for survivors. As a survivor of sexual violence, the time immediately following an assault can seem confusing and overwhelming. Next steps in the aftermath of an assault should be led by the survivor.

**No matter what a survivor chooses to do in the aftermath of an assault, they should know their rights are guaranteed, even if the assault is not reported to law enforcement.** The Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights declares all survivors of sexual violence have the right to be treated with dignity and compassion and the right to be free from blame. The Bill of Rights also affirms that the survivor should be free from any suggestion that they contributed to the risk of being assaulted. *Sexual violence is never the fault of the survivor.*

## SURVIVORS HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Choose whether to report to law enforcement.
- Be free from any suggestion that they must report the crime to have their rights guaranteed.
- Be free from any suggestion that victims should refrain from reporting crimes in order to avoid unwanted personal publicity.
- Have their report of sexual assault treated seriously.



## SURVIVORS HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE INFORMED OF AND ACCESS:

- Existing medical, counseling, mental health, or other services available for victims of sexual assault, whether or not the crime is reported to law enforcement.
- Treatment and interviews provided in a language in which the victim is fluent.
- Assistive devices to accommodate disabilities that the victim may have.
- Testing for HIV or any other sexually transmitted infections and assistance with compelling and disclosing the results of testing for a communicable disease from the person who caused harm.



## SURVIVORS HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE INFORMED OF AND ACCESS:

- **Evidence collection and preservation.** Evidence collection is time sensitive and should occur within five days of the assault. Survivors can choose to have evidence collected whether or not they pursue a criminal case. All forensic evidence is retained for a minimum of five years. If the survivor chooses to report to police, either at the time of collection or later, they can request information on the status of the evidence.
- **Financial compensation.** The Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) offers assistance with accessing compensation for expenses that occurred as a result of an assault, including the cost of mental health counseling, medical bills, relocation, and loss of earnings. Survivors can reach the VCCO at (877) 658-2221 or [www.NJVictims.org](http://www.NJVictims.org).
- **A civil protective order.** Under the Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act of 2015, survivors can seek a civil protective order against the person who caused them harm if there is risk of further harm.
- **The no-cost services of a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), if the survivor is over the age of 13.** A SART is comprised of a Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate (CSVA), a Law Enforcement Officer (LEO), and a Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE).
  - The **CSVA** is a confidential resource who can support the survivor through the SART process. The CSVA provides emotional support and can help the survivor explore their rights, options, and available resources.
  - The **LEO** can provide thorough and objective assistance in responding to and conducting a criminal investigation of sexual assault.
  - If the assault occurred within the last five days, the **FNE** can tend to the medical needs of the survivor and perform a Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Kit to collect forensic evidence. **The survivor can choose to work with one, two, or all three of the SART members.**

The support of a **Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate** is always available, **24 hours a day**. To learn more about survivors' rights and options or to speak with an advocate, contact your **local sexual violence service provider**.

*If you are in immediate danger, call 911.*

New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
[www.njcasa.org](http://www.njcasa.org)  
24-hour Statewide Hotline:  
(800) 601-7200



## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Attorney General Standards for Providing Services to Victims of Sexual Assault. (2018, November). Retrieved from <https://www.nj.gov/oag/newsreleases18/AG-SART-Standards.pdf>

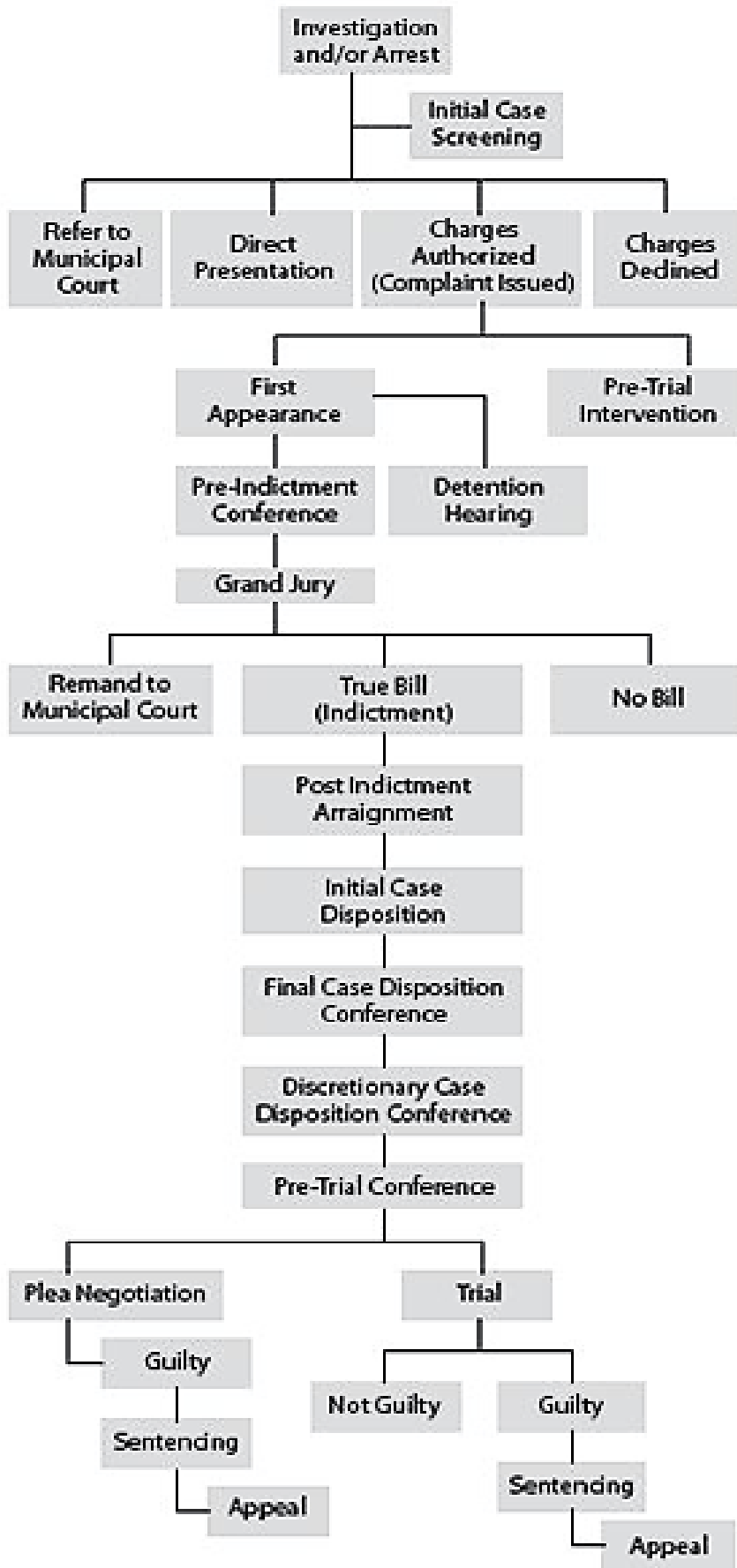
<sup>2</sup> N.J. Ct. R. 5:7B. Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights. (n.d.). Retrieved from [https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/PL19/103\\_.PDF](https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/PL19/103_.PDF)

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The New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA) is the statewide organization representing 21 county-based rape crisis centers and Rutgers University's Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance. NJCASA elevates the voice of survivors and service providers through advocacy, training, and support for efforts to create safer communities for all people.

**njcoalition**  
against sexual assault

# The Criminal Case Process





**caring**  
**support**  
**help**  
**dignity**  
**respect**



*effective.8.1.20*

**NEW JERSEY**  
**VICTIMS OF CRIME**  
**COMPENSATION OFFICE**

*We help put the pieces back together*



## our mission

The New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) reimburses certain victims of crime for some of the expenses they suffer as a result of a crime. The VCCO is mindful of the special needs of victims and their right to be treated with fairness, compassion and respect.

## eligible crimes

This is a list of the types of crimes that may qualify. Certain conditions may apply. For more information, please contact the VCCO:

- Assault
- Arson
- Bias crime
- Burglary\*
- Disorderly conduct offenses
- Domestic violence
- Human trafficking
- Indecent acts with children
- Kidnapping
- Lewd, indecent or obscene acts
- Manslaughter
- Motor vehicle offenses
- Murder
- Robbery
- Sexual assault
- Stalking
- Threats to do bodily harm

*\*Must be in structure during burglary.*

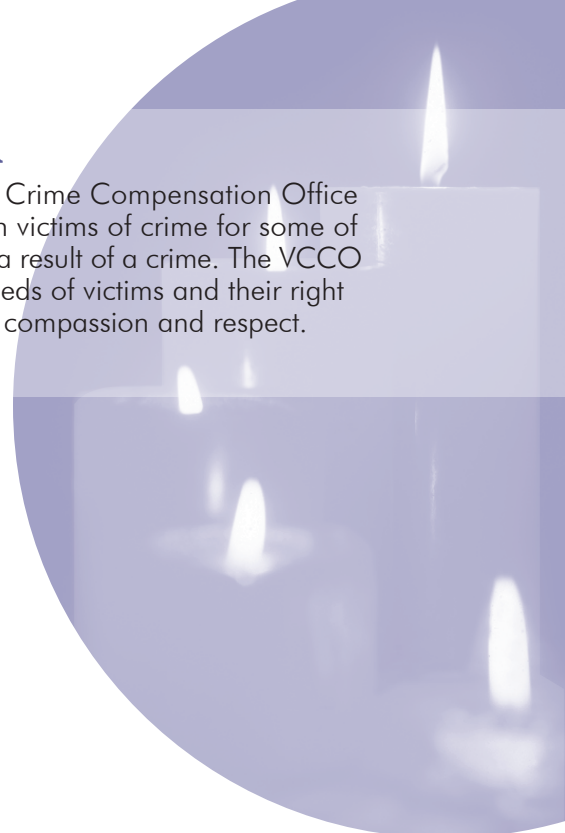
*apply online at...*

## conditions

- The crime must have occurred in New Jersey or to a New Jersey resident
- The victim must have reported the crime to police
- The victim should cooperate with the investigation and prosecution of the crime, if reasonable
- The claim must be filed within 5 years of the date of the crime in most cases

*effective.8.1.20*

[www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)  
Toll Free **877-658-2221**





## If I qualify, what can the VCCO pay?

Expenses that may be eligible for reimbursement include:

- Hospital, physician and medical expenses
- Mental health counseling expenses up to \$20,000
- Loss of earnings up to \$600 per week
  - Temporary disability, not to exceed 24 months
  - Permanent disability, maximum 60 months
  - Loss of earning for dependants or family members
  - Bereavement, maximum two weeks
  - Loss of wages due to court attendance
- Loss of financial support up to \$600 per week, maximum 48 months
- Funeral expenses maximum \$7,500
- Attorney fees:
  - Victims' rights attorney fees up to \$275 per hour, maximum \$10,000
  - Representation with the VCCO claim up to 15% of award at \$275 per hour
- Relocation expenses up to \$3,000
- Crime scene clean up to \$4,000
- Child care/day care/domestic help services up to \$6,500

### The VCCO is a payer of last resort

- Victims must first utilize and exhaust other resources including State benefits and insurance.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Crime Victims' Compensation?

The Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) reimburses victims of a crime for some of the expenses they incur as a result of a crime.

### Do all crime victims get paid?

Not always. The law sets forth the types of crimes that can be covered by the VCCO. Further, if victims participated in the crime or contributed to their injuries, they may be denied compensation.

### Who is eligible to file?

- Victims may file their own applications.
- Family members, and dependents of victims or the estate of the victims
- A person who paid for some of the services for the victim
- The guardian, guardian ad litem, estate representative, authorized agent of the victim or the victim's dependents

### Can the VCCO reimburse me directly for expenses?

Yes. Victims or claimants can be reimbursed for some expenses.

### Can I still file a claim if the suspect has not been arrested or if the accused is acquitted at trial?

Yes. Compensation may be made whether or not a person is prosecuted or found guilty.

### Can the VCCO pay providers directly?

Yes. Once a claim is approved, payment can be made directly to providers.

### I have received additional bills that were not considered in my initial award. Can I still submit them?

Yes. Crime related bills can be considered for additional reimbursement after the initial payment award has been made.

## How do I apply?

Complete the online VCCO claim form at [www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org). Include police reports and any documentation showing financial loss or need if possible. Once an application is received, a claims specialist will contact you.

Applications are also available from any of the 21 County Prosecutors' Offices through their Victim Witness Coordinators.

For more information or for a claim application, please contact us by phone, mail, fax, or visit our web site.

NJ Office of the Attorney General  
Victims of Crime Compensation Office  
50 Park Place, 5th Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Walk-in Clients: Please visit our web site, or call our toll free number for details.

Toll Free: 877-658-2221

Phone: 973-648-2107

Fax: 973-648-3937

Web site: [www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)



*We help put the pieces back together*

**NJ OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**VICTIMS OF CRIME COMPENSATION OFFICE**  
[www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org) • Toll Free 877-658-2221



**cuidado**  
**apoyo**  
**dignidad**  
**ayuda**  
**respeto**

NEW JERSEY

OFICINA DE COMPENSACIÓN  
PARA VÍCTIMAS DEL CRIMEN

vigente.1.8.20

Los ayudamos a normalizar su vida



## nuestra misión

La Oficina de Compensación para Víctimas del Crimen de Nueva Jersey (VCCO) reembolsa a ciertas víctimas del crimen por algunos de los gastos que incurren a causa de un crimen. La VCCO reconoce las necesidades especiales de las víctimas y el derecho que tienen de ser tratadas con justicia, compasión y respeto.

## Crímenes elegibles

Esta es una lista de los tipos de crímenes que pueden calificar. Pueden aplicar ciertas condiciones. Para mayor información, favor contactar a la VCCO:

- Agresión
- Incendio provocado
- Discriminación
- Allanamiento\*
- Ofensas de comportamiento escandaloso
- Violencia Domestica
- Trata de personas
- Actos indecentes con menores
- Secuestro
- Actos lascivos, obscenos o indecentes
- Homicidio Culposo
- Ofensas de vehículos motorizados
- Asesinato
- Robo con violencia
- Agresión Sexual
- Acecho
- Amenazas de lesión corporal

\*Debe encontrarse en el edificio durante la comisión del crimen

aplique en línea en:

## requisitos

- El crimen tiene que haber ocurrido en Nueva Jersey o a un residente de Nueva Jersey
- La víctima debe haber reportado el crimen a la policía
- La víctima debe cooperar con la investigación y el procesamiento del crimen, si es factible
- El reclamo debe ser presentado dentro de un plazo de 5 años de la fecha del crimen en la mayoría de los casos

[www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)

Número de llamada gratuita

877-658-2221

vigente.1.8.20

## ¿Si califico, que puede pagar la VCCO?

Gastos que pueden ser elegibles para reembolso incluyen:

- Gastos de Hospital, de médicos y gastos médicos
- Asesoría de Salud Mental gastos de hasta \$20,000
- Pérdida de ingresos de hasta \$600 a la semana
  - Discapacidad Temporal, a no exceder 24 meses
  - Discapacidad Permanente, máximo 60 meses
  - Perdida de ingresos de dependientes o miembros de familia
  - Duelo, máximo dos semanas
  - Perdida de ingresos por asistir al tribunal
- Perdida de apoyo económico de \$600 semanales, máximo 48 meses
- Gastos de funeral hasta \$7,500
- Honorarios de Abogados:
  - Honorarios de abogados de derechos de las victimas hasta \$275 por hora, máximo \$10,000
  - Representación con el reclamo VCCO de hasta el 15% de la compensación en \$275 por hora
- Gastos de Reubicación de hasta \$3,000
- Limpieza lugar del crimen hasta \$4,000
- Cuidado Infantil/Guardería servicios domésticos hasta \$6,500

### La VCCO es pagador de último recurso

- Las victimas primero deberán utilizar y agotar otros recursos incluyendo el seguro y los beneficios del estado.

## Preguntas frecuentes

### ¿Qué es la Compensación para víctimas del crimen?

La Oficina para compensación para víctimas del crimen (VCCO) reembolsa a las víctimas de un crimen por algunos de los gastos que tuvieron como resultado de un crimen.

### ¿Se le paga a todas las victimas del crimen?

No siempre. La ley establece los tipos de crímenes que cubre la VCCO. Además, si las victimas participaron en el crimen o contribuyeron a sus lesiones, se le puede negar la compensación.

### ¿Quién es elegible para solicitar?

- Las victimas pueden presentar sus propias solicitudes.
- Miembros de familia y dependientes de las víctimas o el caudal hereditario de la víctima
- Una persona que haya pagado por algunos de los servicios que recibió la víctima
- El tutor, tutor legal, representante del caudal hereditario, agente autorizado de la víctima o de los dependientes de la víctima

### ¿Puede la VCCO reembolsarme directamente por gastos?

Sí. A las víctimas o reclamantes de les puede reembolsar por algunos gastos.

### ¿Puedo presentar un reclamo si el sospechoso aún no ha sido arrestado o si queda absuelto luego de un juicio?

Sí. La compensación puede otorgarse ya sea que la persona sea enjuiciada o determinada culpable o no.

### ¿La VCCO puede Pagarles directamente a los proveedores de servicios?

Sí. Una vez sea aprobado el reclamo, el pago puede hacerse directamente a los proveedores de servicios.

### He recibido facturas adicionales que no se consideraron en mi otorgamiento inicial.

### ¿Aún puedo presentarlas?

Sí. Se pueden considerar cuentas relacionadas con el crimen para reembolso adicional luego del otorgamiento inicial

## ¿Cómo presento la solicitud?

Llene el formulario VCCO en línea en [www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org). Incluya informes de la policia y cualquier prueba que muestre pérdidas económicas o necesidad si es posible. Una vez recibamos su solicitud, un especialista en reclamos le atenderá.

También hay solicitudes disponibles en cada una de las 21 Oficinas del Procurador del Condado a través de su Coordinador Victima/Testigo.

Para más información o para pedir una solicitud de reclamo, favor contactarnos por teléfono, correo, fax, o visite nuestro sitio web.

NJ Office of the Attorney General  
Victims of Crime Compensation Office  
50 Park Place, 5th Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102

Horario: 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.

Atención sin cita: Por favor visite nuestro sitio web, o llame a nuestro número sin cobros para más detalles.

Sin cobros: 877-658-2221

Teléfono: 973-648-2107

Fax: 973-648-3937

Sitio Web: [www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)



OFICINA DEL FISCAL GENERAL DE NJ

OFICINA DE COMPENSACIÓN A VÍCTIMAS DEL CRIMEN

[www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org) • Gratis 877-658-2221

*Los ayudamos a normalizar su vida*



## The County Prosecutor's Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy

In each of the 21 county prosecutors' offices there is a county office of victim-witness advocacy. The job of each office is to help crime victims and to make sure all of the victim's rights are met. These offices are staffed with trained professionals who are victim-witness advocates.

## Criminal Justice Orientation and Information

Victim-witness counselors of the county office of victim-witness advocacy will explain the criminal justice system so that victims will know what will happen and when. If asked, victim-witness counselors can take a victim to the courtroom before the trial or grand jury hearing to explain exactly what will happen.

## Victim Information and Impact Form

You will have several chances to tell the assistant prosecutor and the judge about how the crime affected you. The county office of victim-witness advocacy will send you a victim information and impact form with the initial contact letter and at other times during the prosecution. County office staff can help you fill out the form and prepare both oral and written statements.

## Counseling and Support Services

The county office of victim-witness advocacy staff are trained to help you deal with the initial shock of the crime and the difficult emotional times afterward. If you feel that you would like to talk to someone on a regular basis, the staff can help you find a mental health counselor who may or may not charge you for services. Several county programs sponsor support groups for sexual assault victims and homicide survivors. Office staff can also assist victims to find a battered women's shelter or obtain food and clothing.

## State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy

The mission of the State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy is to support and expand victim-witness services across the state along with the law enforcement community. The goal of this program is to provide victims and witnesses with services that will help them cope with the aftermath of victimization and help make their participation in the system less difficult and burdensome. The state office works closely with the county offices and provides funding for many of their programs from federal and state funds.

## New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Board

The New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Board (VCCB) may help ease the financial burden faced by crime victims. Services covered by the VCCB include: benefits for mental health counseling, medical bills, loss of earnings, funeral expenses (up to \$5000), crime scene clean-up, relocation expenses, child care/day care services, Victims' rights attorney fees, domestic help, and other victim services related to crimes. For further information on filing procedure time requirement and benefit restrictions, please call 1-877-658-2221 or go to the website @ [www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)

## State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy

NJ Division of Criminal Justice  
P.O. Box 094

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0094

(609) 292-6766

[victimassistance@dcj.lps.state.nj.us](mailto:victimassistance@dcj.lps.state.nj.us)



Office of the Attorney General  
Department of Law & Public Safety

NJ Division of Criminal Justice  
[njdcj.org](http://njdcj.org)

# Crime Victims Bill of Rights

N.J.S. 52-4B-36

New Jersey Division of  
Criminal Justice  
Office of Victim-Witness  
Advocacy

# Your Rights as a Victim of Crime

This brochure provides basic information on your rights as a victim of crime in New Jersey. Most of the services described are available to you through the county offices of victim-witness advocacy and the Victims of Crime Compensation Board. All of the services detailed within are available to victims of adult offenders. Victims of juvenile offenders have different rights and can get information from your county victim-witness office. For more information please contact the State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy at 609-896-8855 or visit our website at [www.njvw.org](http://www.njvw.org).

## The Constitutional Amendment Article One - Paragraph 22, NJ Constitution

The New Jersey State Constitution includes guaranteed rights for crime victims, as follows:

A victim of crime shall be treated with fairness, compassion and respect by the criminal justice system. A victim of a crime shall not be denied the right to be present at public judicial proceeding except when, prior to completing testimony as a witness, the victim is properly sequestered in accordance with law or the Rule Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey. A victim of a crime shall be entitled to those rights and remedies as may be provided by the Legislature.

## Crime Victims Bill of Rights N.J.S. 52-4B-36

Crime victims are entitled to the following certain basic rights:

- wTo be treated with dignity and compassion by the criminal justice system.
- wTo be informed about the criminal justice process.
- wTo be free from intimidation.
- wTo have inconveniences associated with participation in the criminal justice process minimized to the fullest extent possible.
- wTo make at least one telephone call from the police station provided the call is reasonable in both length and location called.
- wTo medical assistance if, in the judgment of the law enforcement agency, medical assistance appears necessary.
- wTo be notified if presence in court is not needed.
- wTo be informed about available remedies, financial assistance and social services.
- wTo be compensated for their loss whenever possible.
- wTo be provided a secure, but not necessarily separate, waiting area during court proceedings.
- wTo be advised of case progress and final disposition.
- wTo the prompt return of property when no longer needed as evidence.
- wTo submit a written statement about the impact of the crime to a representative of the county prosecutor's office which shall be considered prior to the prosecutor's final decision concerning whether formal criminal charges will be filed; and
- wTo make, prior to sentencing, an in-person statement directly to the sentencing court concerning the impact of the crime. This statement is to be made in addition to the statement permitted for inclusion in the persistence report.