

Mission

The mission of the State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy (SOVWA) is to participate in the development, support and expansion of victim services across the state.

SOVWA provides direct victim assistance to victims of crime in cases investigated and prosecuted by the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), including the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor and Office of Public Integrity and Accountability.

The principal goal of SOVWA is to ensure that the rights of victims are protected, and all crime victims and witnesses are treated with dignity, compassion, and respect. The Office strives to meet this goal through collaboration and coordination with our partners in the law enforcement community, public agencies, non-profit service providers, and faith-based community programs.

The State Office Of Victim Witness Advocacy (SOVWA) was created by New Jersey Statute 52:4B-43 in 1986, and is housed within the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice.

rev. 09/20

Contact Numbers

County Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy

If you are a victim in a case being handled by a County Prosecutor's Office, please contact the appropriate office at the number listed below:

Atlantic

609-909-7800

Bergen

201-646-2057

Burlington

609-265-5048

Camden

856-225-8440

Cape May

609-465-1135 x3443

Cumberland

856-453-0486

Essex

973-621-4689

Gloucester

856-384-5500

Hudson

201-795-6508

Hunterdon

908-788-1403

Mercer

609-989-6428

Middlesex

732-745-3394

Monmouth

732-431-7160

Morris

973-285-6200 x6219

Ocean

732-929-2195

Passaic

973-881-4887

Salem

856-935-7510 x8364

Somerset

908-575-3359

Sussex

973-383-1570

Union

908-527-4596

Warren

908-475-6284

Victims of Crime Compensation Office 877-658-2221

Payer of last resort that provides compensation to certain victims of violent crimes

NJ Department of Corrections

Victim Services 609-292-4036 x5299

Assists victims when offenders are incarcerated in a State Prison

NJ Parole Board Victim Services 609-292-4582

Assists victims with participation in the Parole Board hearing process

NJ Coalition to End Domestic Violence 609-584-8107

Connects victims of domestic violence with support services

NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault 609-631-4450

Connects victims of sexual assault with support services



New Jersey's State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy

Office of the Attorney General • Division of Criminal Justice

P.O. Box 085 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0085

www.NJvw.org • 866-326-7206 • 609-376-2438



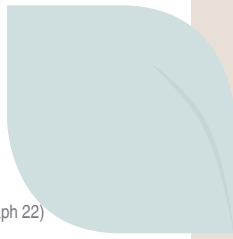
New Jersey's State Office of
**Victim Witness
Advocacy**

www.NJvw.org

866-326-7206

A victim of crime shall be treated with fairness, compassion and respect by the criminal justice system...

(Constitutional Amendment, Article 1, Paragraph 22)



Victim Assistance

SOVWA provides victims and witnesses in Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) cases with services that help them cope with the aftermath of victimization and make their participation in the criminal justice system less difficult and burdensome. Some of the services offered are:

- criminal justice orientation and information;
- assistance with Victim Impact Statements;
- referrals to counseling and supportive services;
- case status notifications;
- court accompaniment;
- assistance in applying for benefits from VCCO;
- assistance with transportation to case related events;
- assistance with property return and restitution;
- requests for HIV testing of defendants and information on HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection testing of victims;
- referrals to resources for safety planning, security measures, and crime prevention; and
- providing information on protective and restraining orders.

Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)

Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) provides victims with information about the custody status of offenders. When an offender is arrested or released from custody, the victim will be telephoned through VINE's automated notification feature. Additionally, a victim may also access the custody status of an offender, whether housed in a New Jersey county jail, state prison or other correctional facility, 24-hours a day by calling the bellow toll-free number.

- VINE Toll Free Number: **1-877-846-3465**

Specialized Services for Victims of Sexual and Domestic Violence

The following programs are utilized by State, County and Local Law Enforcement, and are funded in part by the Office of the Attorney General

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) provides victims of sexual assault, who are 13 years of age or older, with a prompt and coordinated response to their victimization. The SART, which consists of a specially trained law enforcement officer, a Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE), and a Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate (CSVA), provides victims with supportive and specialized services. In New Jersey, no victim is charged for the completion of a Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence (SAFE) Kit or a Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA)/Toxicology Kit. To ensure continuity of services for sexual assault victims, the SART works with local law enforcement agencies, SART-participating hospitals, the county sexual violence programs, as well as SOVWA.

Domestic Violence Response Teams (DVRT)

The Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) is available 24-hours a day, 7-days a week to assist and empower victims of domestic violence. DVRT members are called upon by local police departments to offer domestic violence victims comfort, support, and information at the police station. The goals of the DVRT are to ease the emotional trauma experienced by victims, explain restraining order options that may be available, and provide referrals to community and legal resources. DVRT members are volunteers who have undergone a 40-hour training program to equip them with the skills to provide compassionate and confidential crisis intervention.

Crime Victims Bill of Rights (For full statute see N.J.S.A. 52:4B-36)

Without the participation and cooperation of crime victims and witnesses, the criminal justice system would cease to function. The rights of these individuals should be given full recognition and protection. Crime victims and witnesses are entitled to the following rights:

- A.** To be treated with dignity and compassion by the criminal justice system
- B.** To be informed about the criminal justice process
- C.** To be free from intimidation
- D.** To have inconveniences associated with participation in the criminal justice process minimized to the fullest extent possible
- E.** To make at least one telephone call provided the call is reasonable in both length and location called
- F.** To medical assistance if, in the judgment of the law enforcement agency, medical assistance appears necessary
- G.** To be notified if presence in court is not needed
- H.** To be informed about available remedies, financial assistance and social services
- I.** To be compensated for their loss whenever possible
- J.** To be provided a secure, but not necessarily separate, waiting area during court proceedings
- K.** To be advised of case progress and final disposition
- L.** To the prompt return of property when no longer needed as evidence
- M.** To 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
- N.** To 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 presentence report by N.J.S.A. 2C:44-6
- O.** 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
- P.** To be present at any judicial proceeding involving a crime or any juvenile proceeding involving a criminal offense
- Q.** To be notified of any release or escape of the defendant
- R.** 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 file to enforce any right conferred herein