

Executive Director / Founder





Victim advocacy

- - support victims of crime
- - offer victims information, emotional support, and help finding resources and assist with filling out paperwork.
- - court accompaniment
- - contact law enforcement, prosecutors or social service agencies
- - may staff crisis hotlines, run support groups

Maybe called:

- ❖ Victim advocates
- ❖ victim service providers
victim/witness coordinators
- ❖ victim/witness specialists

Victims Rights

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graph TD; VR[Victims Rights] --- BELIEVE; BELIEVE --- RR[Referrals Resources]; BELIEVE --- SP[Safety Planning]; BELIEVE --- VC[Victim Compensation]; BELIEVE --- CLE[Credits, Landlord, Employers]; BELIEVE --- SSH[Shelter Safe Home];
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Referrals
Resources

BELIEVE

Safety Planning

Shelter
Safe Home

Victim
Compensation

Credits,
Landlord,
Employers

Only you can decide
to be a Victim or to
Be A SURVIVOR!!!

SELECT ONE:



Survivor



Victim

Becoming a
VICTIM
is not a choice,
becoming a
SURVIVOR is.

<https://www.facebook.com/Acts.RandomKindness>

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“**Victim**” refers to an individual who suffered harm as a result of criminal conduct. Used within the Criminal Justice agencies as victims have certain rights through their processes.

“**Survivor**” term recognize the strength and courage to overcome victimization.

- OVC



Victim Centered Advocacy

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- This approach is defined as the systematic **(organized)** focus on the **needs** and **concerns** of a victim to ensure the **compassionate** and **sensitive** delivery of services in a **nonjudgmental** manner.
 - A victim-centered approach seeks to **minimize re-traumatization** associated with the criminal justice process by providing the **support** of victim advocates and service providers, **empowering** survivors as engaged participants in the process, and providing survivors an **opportunity** to play a role in seeing their perpetrator is brought to justice.
 - If victim chooses not to report, we still follow the same approach to ensure we are providing resources and referrals to address their victimization.





Why is Victim Centered Important?

- Fear of disbelief and rejection
- Can experience pain and emotional triggers
- Face the person who assaulted them



Advocates Working with Victims / Survivors

- Provide different options available
- Support victims' decision-making
- Advocates do not tell victims what to do
- Advocates are committed to maintaining confidentiality



Law Enforcement working with Victim / Survivors

Critical that they begin to develop rapport and establish trust by:

- Immediately connecting the victim to a victim advocate
- Taking time to explain who they are, answer questions and acknowledge and address their fears
- Sensitive to cultural differences and language barriers and using an interpreter
- Conducting interviews in a neutral location
- Being patient



Prosecution working with Victim / Survivors

- Cooperation with all agencies
- Victim advocate present
- Sharing every step of the way

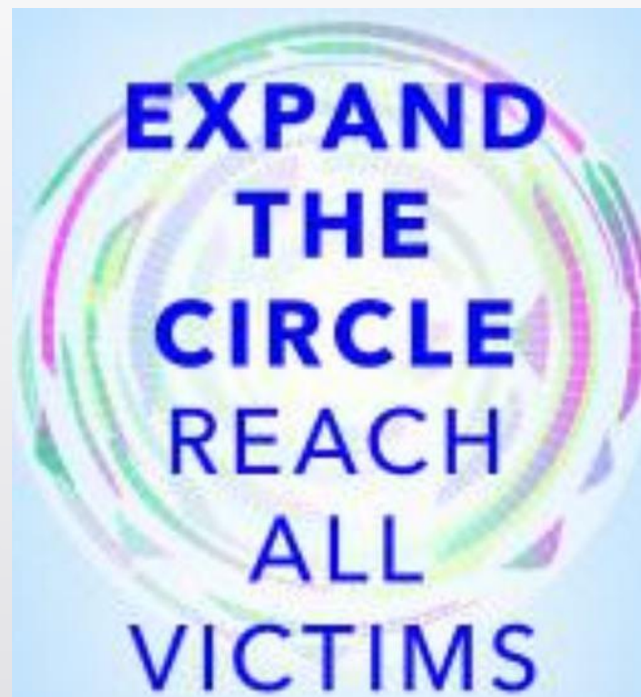
Health Care working with Victim / Survivors

Seeking and maximizing input from the patient in all decisions.

- Provide privacy
- Educate
- Ask
- Respect &
- Respond



- Don't be afraid to LEARN, to ask Questions
- Remember who you are as a person
- Ask yourself why you do this work?
- Don't forget who your support is



Focus on the **needs**
Be **compassionate**
Maintain **sensitivity**
Be **non-judgmental**
Minimize re-traumatization
Be **supportive**
Be **empowering**
Provide **opportunity**



What is the Goal?

- We don't want to Prosecute a Victim
- We want to uphold the victim's individual rights
- We want to empower the victim as an active participant

Assist in the Transition of a Victim to a Survivor



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