

# The Crime Victims' Center of Chester County, Inc.



**YOU ARE NOT ALONE.  
WE CAN HELP.**

CVC knows that the effects of crime are often intense and far-reaching. People may feel discouraged, isolated, and fearful.

For more than 40 years CVC has provided a comprehensive range of services to assist victims of crime and their families. Our purpose is to help those in need of support through advocacy, counseling, restitution and education outreach.

CVC offers immediate crisis response and provides continuing assistance to help victims move through the healing process and regain control over their lives.

Victims are entitled to dignity and respect. CVC informs victims of their rights and provides assistance throughout this often difficult process.

They may be entitled to crime victims' compensation, services and other state-mandated rights that ensure the respectful treatment of victims.

## FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES

### COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

We help over 10,000 clients each year.

CVC offers counseling, advocacy and other on-going support to child and adult victims of rape, sexual and physical assaults, stalking robbery, burglary, harassment, drunk driving, and other types of crimes.



### VICTIM ADVOCACY

*How we support victims*

- Two 24 hour crisis hotlines
- 24 hour crisis response to hospitals and police stations
- Information, advocacy & accompaniment through police and medical procedures for victims of sexual assault & other violent crimes
- Information, advocacy and accompaniment throughout adult & juvenile criminal justice proceedings including police interviews, preliminary hearings, etc.
- Assistance in filing for Crime Victims' Compensation
- Assistance in preparing Victim Impact Statements and restitution claims
- Emotional support to the victim, family and friends
- Individual and group counseling for sexual assault, homicide survivors and other survivor groups
- Referrals to appropriate resources.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH PREVENTION/EDUCATION

### OUR PROGRAMS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Each year CVC presents programs to more than 30,000 people, ranging from preschoolers to senior citizens, at schools, community groups and institutions to promote community awareness and reduce victimization. Programs include child-safety, date rape, sexual assaults, harassment, cyberbullying, Internet crimes, raising a street smart child, elder abuse, drunk driving, drug and alcohol abuse, and self-esteem.

We increase recognition and reporting, improve cooperation with the criminal justice system, and increase sensitivity to the needs of victims and their families. We help save those who have been suffering in silence.

### Testimonials

"TO EACH OF YOU I WANT TO SAY 'THANK YOU' FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR MY FAMILY AND MYSELF. THE JOURNEY HAS BEEN DIFFICULT. YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE HAS LIGHTENED THE GRIEF. OUR FRIENDSHIP WILL ALWAYS BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR LIVES."  
~FAMILY OF HOMICIDE SURVIVOR

"AS A FAMILY WE SINCERELY APPRECIATED YOU HOLDING OUR HANDS THROUGH THIS ORDEAL. THIS HAS BEEN A VERY STRESSFUL TIME FOR MY DAUGHTER BUT WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN TEACHING HER ABOUT TRUST AND FRIENDSHIP."  
~ PARENT OF KIDNAPPING VICTIM

"As a result of your presentation on child safety we were able to identify a little girl who had been molested for years and suffered in silence. You are a hero. You helped save not just this child but many others who slowly came forward after witnessing the courage and strength of this survivor. Had you not been there other innocent victims would still be at risk. Our community is forever grateful for the amazing work you do."  
~DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Sexual Assault Counselor /Clerical Assistance/  
Board of Directors/ Public Awareness Speaker  
**Please call us at 610-692-1926 for more details**

If, as an individual utilizing the services at the CVC, you feel a grievance for services you have received or think you should have received, please (1) Inform your counselor or advocate about your grievance and (2) Attempt to resolve the grievance with your counselor or advocate.

If you are not satisfied after the first two steps, ask to speak with a CVC Supervisor or request a meeting with the agency's CEO. If after those steps you feel that your grievance has not been resolved, please contact the Office of Victim Advocate at 1-800-563-6399 or [www.o.va.pa.gov](http://www.o.va.pa.gov).

Please note that if you are uncomfortable with steps one and two, you may go directly to step three. CVC will inform you of your options and assist you if you decide to go through the grievance process.

## VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS

### AS A VICTIM OF CRIME YOU HAVE THE RIGHT:

- to receive basic information concerning the services to assist you;
- to be notified of certain significant actions and proceedings pertaining to your case, including, personal injury crimes, the arrest of the suspect and escape from police custody;
- to be accompanied at all public criminal proceedings by a family member, a victim advocate or another person;
- in cases of personal injury crimes, burglary, or driving under the influence involving bodily injury, to submit prior comment to the prosecutor's office on the potential of a plea;
- to offer prior comment or to submit a written victim impact statement for the judge's consideration at sentencing;
- to recover your losses, to the extent possible, through restitution, compensation through the crime victims' compensation program and the return of property which was seized as evidence when it is no longer needed by the prosecutor;
- in personal injury crimes where the offender is sentenced to prison, to provide prior comment on and to receive notice of release decisions, and to be immediately notified if the offender escapes;
- to receive notice when an offender is committed to a mental health facility from a state prison and of the discharge, transfer or escape of the offender from the mental health facility; and
- to have assistance in the preparation of, submissions of and follow-up on the financial assistance claims to the Crime Victims' Compensation Board.

**Free services are available to all victims and witnesses, regardless of whether or not the crime is reported to law enforcement.**

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

All gifts to CVC, a private non-profit organization, are tax-exempt to the extent allowed by law. State and federal grants are major sources of funding, and some grants require a community match. Private donations and United Way contributions provide a large portion of these matching funds.

[www.CVCofCC.org/donor](http://www.CVCofCC.org/donor)

### YOUR DONATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

CVC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identify, disability or age and we do not retaliate against persons who file a discrimination complaint or lawsuit, who complain about discrimination or who participate in a discrimination proceeding, such as being a witness in a complaint investigation or lawsuit.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania 1(800) 731-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Funded in part by the Department of Public Welfare through the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.



**The Crime Victims' Center**  
OF CHESTER COUNTY, INC.

A VICTIM ADVOCACY AGENCY



The Crime Victims' Center of Chester County, Inc. (CVC) is a nonprofit agency providing free, immediate, and confidential crisis response and compassionate support to children and adults impacted by crime and violence. We provide assistance through counseling, advocacy, resources, and education.

135-137 West Market Street  
West Chester, PA 19382

**Office:** (610) 692-1926 | **Fax:** (610) 692-4959

**Business Hours:** Weekdays 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Hotlines (24 hrs):

Sexual Assault - **610-692-7273**

Other Crimes - **610-692-7420**

**WWW.CVCOFCC.ORG**

You have the right to receive our confidential, free services regardless of your age, sex, creed, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, physical or mental disabilities, or religion. CVC strives to maintain confidentiality for all who receive services. However, there are times where CVC Victim Advocates and Counselors may need to share information with other professionals to ensure the safety of individuals in the community (e.g. planning to hurt themselves or others, or child and elderly abuse). If you feel you are being threatened or harassed, contact your local police department or Assistant DA assigned to your case. The Media may also access details about criminal cases and try to contact the victim. It is the victim's choice whether or not to speak to the Media. CVC Victim Advocates are also available to discuss your options with you regarding the above.