

RESOURCE PACKET



**Broward State Attorney's Office
17th Judicial Circuit**

**Victim Advocate Unit
Phone: 954-765-4133**

VICTIM RIGHTS AND COMMON CONCERNS

Victims have the right to be informed, to be present, and to be heard when relevant, at all crucial stages of criminal proceedings, to the extent that these rights do not interfere with the constitutional rights of the accused. It is normal to have mixed feelings about the incident and the court process. Victims may be concerned that the incident and pending case will cause stress on relationships, problems for children, and financial hardship. A victim advocate at the State Attorney's Office is available to help you with questions and concerns regarding your rights, information about the case, and community resources to assist you.

To view the Victims' Rights Brochure containing Article 1, Section 16 of the Florida Constitution, please scan one of the QR codes below or visit our website:

<https://browardsao.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2020-Victims-Rights-Brochure-SAO17.pdf>



<https://browardsao.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/BSAO-2023-Victims-Rights-Brochure Espanol Spanish.pdf>



VINE SERVICES - after an arrest is made.

The Department of Corrections offer a toll-free automated inmate information and notification service. Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone may call the toll-free number **1-877-VINE-4-FL (1-877-846-3435)**, and receive an inmate's current location and tentative release date. You may also register to receive an automated notification when an inmate is released, transferred, escapes, is placed in a work release facility, transferred to another jurisdiction, returned to the department's custody, or dies while in custody.

VINE Service is anonymous and confidential.

VINE is a free service, which is accessible 24 hours a day.

Note: Victims will not automatically be notified by the Department of Corrections of an inmate's custody status, unless notification information is provided to our office. However, victims can register their telephone number(s) for automated notification of an inmate's transfer, escape, death, out-to-court or release status by calling **1-877-VINE-4-FL (1-877-846-3435)**. Victims may also call our toll-free number for status updates and information, or visit <https://vinelink.com/search/FL/Person>

The automated victim notification service is available in a mobile app. This is a free app easily downloaded on your iPhone or Android.

You can also track a defendant's custody status at <https://vinelink.com/>

Safety Planning:

As the victim in an abusive relationship, you do not have the ability to control or change your partner's behavior. You do, however, have options that you can explore to help keep you and your family safe. Only you have the ability to determine with whom you may safely discuss your situation and possible options. It is a good idea to speak to people who may be able to help you before a crisis occurs so that you have a plan as well as an idea of resources that may be able to assist you.

- Have an **escape route**, identify which door, window, stairwell or elevator offers the quickest way out of the home. Know where you plan to go, how you will get there and practice if possible.
- Keep money, keys, important telephone numbers, clothing and any other necessary items in the same place in order to assist you in leaving quickly. (Consider leaving cash, duplicate keys to your car and home, a day's clothes and important items with someone you trust outside the home or at work, in case you have to leave without your belongings).

- Identify **safety areas** in the house where there are no weapons and where there are always ways to escape. If an argument seems unavoidable, move to a room or area with easy access to an exit to allow you to leave if necessary.
- If possible, have a phone **accessible** at all times and know the numbers to call for help.
- Discuss safety with your children. Identify a safe place for them and teach them how to dial 911. Use a code word teach to call for help or leave the house.

BROWARD COUNTY RESOURCE PROVIDERS

AGENCY	CONTACT	DETAILS
<p style="text-align: center;">2-1-1 Broward Your First Call for Help</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">954-537-0211 https://211-broward.org/</p>	<p>Crisis hotline; resource and referral source for anyone in Broward County LANGUAGES: Español, Kreyol, Français, others upon request</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Women in Distress Mon-Thu 8:30AM-4:30PM Schedule an Appt 24 Hour Crisis Hotline LANGUAGES: English + Español</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PO Box 50187 Lighthouse Point, FL 33074 Courthouse: 201 SE 6th St #5107 954-760-9800 954-761-1133 https://widbroward.org/</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shelter and services for women, men, + children support groups, emergency shelter, legal assistance for restraining orders + dependency, child advocacy, childcare, counseling, pet shelter</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Henderson Behavioral Health LANGUAGES: English + Español</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">954-463-0911 (Mobile Response Team) 954-606-0911 (Centralized Receiving center for 18 years +) https://www.hendersonbh.org/</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Psychiatric Evaluation, Medication Management, Therapy Counseling on Sliding Scale: Based on income, Accept Medicare + Insurance</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Nancy J. Cotterman Center Certified Sexual Assault Program Accredited Children’s Advocacy Center & Protection Team</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2995 North Dixie Highway Oakland Park, FL 33334 954-357-5775 (Administration) 954-761-RAPE (7273) (24-hr Sexual Assault Helpline) https://www.broward.org/NancyJCottermanCenter/Pages/Default.aspx</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Free Counseling services, Crisis Unit, Family Advocacy, Human Trafficking, Medical</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Nova Southeastern University Psychology Services Center, Maltz Building Family Violence Program Family Therapy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5151 College Ave Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314 954-262-5730 954-262-5850 954-262-3030</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Family Violence Program: individuals only, \$100 for 3 intro sessions, \$80 Individual sessions, sliding scale based on income</p>

LANGUAGES: depends on student rotation	https://nsuhealth.nova.edu/services/family-therapy.html	Family Therapy: \$25/session
Banyan Health Broward Miami After Hours	954-327-4060 305-774-3300 305-774-3400 https://banyanhealth.org/service/mental-health/	Mental Health, Primary Care (Miami only), Children Services, Substance Abuse, Psychiatry, Research/Evaluation
Hispanic Unity LANGUAGES: English + Español	5840 Johnson St, Hollywood, FL 33021 954-964-8884 https://www.hispanicunity.org/	Free immigration assistance Thu 9AM-12PM Education: Pre-K-Highschool, English, Parenting Economic Dev: Tax Prep, Home Ownership, Entrepreneurship, Public Benefits, Employment Services
SunServe Youth & Senior Services	2312 Wilton Dr, Wilton Manors, FL 33305 1480 SW 9th Ave, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315 954-764-5150 https://sunserve.org/	LGBTQIA+ housing case management, mental health counseling, senior day center, substance use recovery, youth services, transgender services, women's health services, support groups
Career Source North Center (Coconut Creek) Central Center (Oakland Park) South Center (Hollywood)	954-969-3541 954-677-5555 954-967-1010 https://careersourcebroward.com/	job assistance, employment referrals, professional workshops, training + education, internships, youth services
Family Success Center Coral Springs Pompano Beach Hollywood Fort Lauderdale	954-357-5000 954-357-5340 954-357-5650 954-357-5001 https://www.broward.org/FamilySuccess/Pages/FamilySuccessCenters.aspx	Case Management Services: emergency assistance, rent, mortgage, utilities information and referrals to local community partners broward.org/FamilySuccess/Pages/FamilySuccessCenters.aspx

<p>Glass House Court approved group structured psychoeducation format</p>	<p>3500 N State Road 7, Ste 310 Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319 954-938-0055 http://www.theglasshouseonline.net/</p>	<p>Anger Management, Juvenile AM, Betterers' Intervention, Addiction Program, Parenting Program \$50 intake fee (sliding scale) \$100 fee Psychosocial Evaluation</p>
<p>Broward Public Schools Homeless Education Assistance Resource Team (HEART) Mental Health Services Food + Nutrition Services</p>	<p>https://www.browardschools.com/bcps-departments/student-services/homeless-educationheart</p>	<p>Services available to children attending Broward County Public Schools include housing assistance, mental health services, food and nutrition services</p>
<p>Catholic Legal Services Broward / Miami</p>	<p>6565 Taft St, 4th Fl, Hollywood, FL 33024 954-306-9537 / 305-373-1073 https://www.cclsmiami.org/</p>	<p>Immigration assistance in Broward and Miami-Dade</p>
<p>Legal Aid</p>	<p>491 N State Road 7 Plantation, FL 33137 Courthouse: 201 SE 6th St #4101 954-736-2400 https://www.browardlegalaid.org/</p>	<p>Free legal assistance: crime victims, family law, elders, economic advocacy victims: 954 736 2118 / lasvoca@legalaid.org immigration: 954-951 5343</p>

We Can Help



CLAIM TYPES AVAILABLE:

Victim Compensation **(VC)**

Property Loss **(PL)**

Domestic Violence Relocation **(DV)**

Sexual Battery Relocation **(RS)**

Human Trafficking Relocation **(HT)**

Sexual Battery Forensic Examination **(SB)**

Emergency Responder Death Benefit **(ER)**

BENEFITS AVAILABLE:

The Victim Compensation **(VC)** program provides assistance with economic losses incurred such as wage loss (for victims who missed work as a result of physical crime injuries, and parents who missed work to bring their minor child to medical treatment for physical injuries), disability (if a permanent impairment was suffered), or loss of support (for applicants of victims who were gainfully employed at the time of death); treatment costs such as medical, mental health or grief counseling (not covered by any other collateral source); and/or funeral/burial costs. The Domestic Violence **(DV)**, Sexual Battery **(RS)**, and Human Trafficking **(HT)** Relocation programs provide assistance with compensable housing expenses (limited to short-term interim shelter, rental agreements, or long-term leases) for victims who have been certified by a domestic violence or rape crisis center in the State of Florida. The Property Loss **(PL)** program provides financial assistance to adults over the age of 60 or disabled who suffered the loss of personal tangible property which adversely affects their daily quality of life. The Sexual Battery Forensic Examination **(SB)** program reimburses providers for costs associated with the collection of forensic evidence following a sexual battery or lewd or lascivious battery or molestation. The Emergency Responder Death Benefit **(ER)** program offers death benefits to the surviving spouse, children, parents or guardian, or siblings of a deceased emergency medical technician, paramedic, firefighter, or law enforcement officer who is killed answering a call for service in the line of duty.



Get Connected

Victims are encouraged to speak with a local victim advocate at their victim services center, law enforcement agency, or State Attorney's Office for assistance with applying.

For referrals, information about program qualifications, or to check the status of a claim, call the Toll-Free Information and Referral Line.

(800) 226-6667

Hearing impaired users may call through Florida Relay at (800) 955-8771.

Visit us on the web at
VANext.MyFloridaLegal.com

Email us at VCintake@MyFloridaLegal.com

Victim service practitioners can register for access to the online claims submission portal at
VANext.MyFloridaLegal.com



The Office of the Attorney General, Bureau of Victim Compensation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Office of the Attorney General

PL-01 The Capitol

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

MyFloridaLegal.com

ARE YOU THE VICTIM OF A CRIME?



Hope Begins With Help.



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

JAMES UTHMEIER

SAFE ★ STRONG ★ FREE

Who Can Apply

VICTIM MEANS:

A person who suffers personal physical injury or death as a direct result of a crime.

A person younger than 18 years of age who was present at the scene of a crime, saw or heard the crime, and suffered a psychiatric or psychological injury because of the crime but who was not physically injured.

A person younger than 18 years of age who was the victim of a felony or misdemeanor offense of child abuse that resulted in a mental injury as defined by s. 827.03, Fla. Stat., but who was not physically injured.

A person against whom a forcible felony was committed and who suffers a psychiatric or psychological injury as a direct result of that crime but who does not otherwise sustain a personal physical injury or death.

For the property loss program, a person 60 years of age or older, or disabled adult.

For relocation programs, a person against whom domestic violence as defined by s. 741.28, Fla. Stat., sexual battery s. 794.011, or human trafficking s. 787.06(3)(b), (d), (f), or (g), was committed.



CRIME MEANS:

A felony or misdemeanor offense which results in physical injury or death, a forcible felony which directly results in psychiatric or psychological injury, or an offense of child abuse which results in a mental injury to a person younger than 18 years of age.

Vehicle, boat, and aircraft violations of s. 316.027(2), s. 316.193, s. 316.1935, s. 327.35(1), s. 782.071(1)(b), or s. 860.13(1)(a), Fla. Stat., which results in physical injury or death; or when the act was intentionally inflicted using a vehicle, boat, or aircraft as a weapon.

Violations of s. 827.071, s. 847.0135, s. 847.0137, or s. 847.0138, Fla. Stat., related to online sexual exploitation and child pornography.

Qualifications

- ✓ Crimes must be reported to law enforcement within 120 hours.
- ✓ Victims must suffer personal physical injury or death as the result of a crime. Some exceptions and limited benefits may apply for victims who sustained psychiatric or psychological injury from certain crimes.
- ✓ Victims must fully cooperate with law enforcement, the State Attorney's Office, and the Attorney General's Office.
- ✓ Victims **must not** have been engaged in an unlawful activity at the time of the crime.
- ✓ Victims' conduct **must not** have contributed to the situation that brought about his or her own injuries.
- ✓ Victims/applicants **must not** have been confined or in custody in a county or municipal facility; a state or federal correctional facility; or a juvenile detention, commitment, or assessment facility; adjudicated as a habitual felony offender, habitual violent offender, violent career criminal; or adjudicated guilty of a forcible felony offense.
- ✓ Applications must be received by department within three years after the crime date or within five years if good cause is shown for the filing delay.
- ✓ Relocation claims for victims of domestic violence who have an immediate need to escape a domestic violence environment must be filed through and certified by a domestic violence center in the State of Florida. The certification must be received by the department within 30 days from the date of crime.
- ✓ Relocation claims for victims of sexual battery who need to relocate due to a reasonable fear for their continued safety must be filed through and certified by a rape crisis center in the State of Florida.
- ✓ Relocation claims for victims of sexual human trafficking who have an urgent need to escape from an unsafe environment must be filed through and certified by a domestic violence or rape crisis center in the State of Florida. The certification must be received by the department within 45 days from the last identifiable threat from the human trafficking offender which was communicated to law enforcement.

(Additional qualifications, deadlines and exceptions not listed may apply.)



Documentation Needed

A completed, signed and dated application.

Documentation which proves a compensable crime occurred. Acceptable documentation includes: a law enforcement report, affidavit charging an individual with a crime filed by law enforcement, information report charging an individual with a crime filed by a state attorney, indictment by a grand jury, written communication from any Federal Law Enforcement agency, a cybercrime investigator certification for purposes of s. 960.197, Fla. Stat., or a Law Enforcement Information Reporting Form.

Proof of crime related expenses, such as itemized bills, if applicable. Itemized bills should be prepared using industry standard forms or on the provider's letterhead, and must include the following information: service provider/facility's name, street address, city, state and zip code, email address, and telephone number and federal tax identification number; beginning and ending date(s) of service; name and address of individual being billed for services rendered; revenue code, description of service, CPT or equivalent code, service date, service units, and total charges; diagnostic code, diagnosis, or nature of injury; and first and last name of attending medical professional and license number.

Proof of third-party payments such as insurance, restitution, judgments or settlements (e.g., copy of insurance explanation of benefits, settlement agreements, court documents for restitution and judgments), if applicable.

Wage loss, disability, and loss of support benefits require additional documentation from the victim's employer and treating physician, if applicable.

Relocation benefits require certification documentation from a certified domestic violence or rape crisis center (depending on the claim type selected) in the State of Florida.

When claims are received, victims/applicants may be asked to provide specific medical and financial information. All supplemental documents are verified telephonically with the originating source.

How to Obtain a Restraining Order

If you have been a victim of stalking and/or physical violence by a spouse, ex-spouse, relative, someone you live with or have a child with, you may be granted a temporary Restraining Order for protection (injunction).

Where to go:

Downtown Fort Lauderdale

Clerk of Courts Intake Unit – Phone Number: 954-831-5579

201 SE 6th Street, Rm. 02140

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

Hours of Operation: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

There is metered parking along 6th Street and there is attended courthouse parking around the courthouse. You may wish to either bring quarters for the metered parking or bills for the attended parking lots.

West Regional Courthouse

100 N. Pine Island Road - Room 180

Plantation, FL 33324

Phone Number: 954-831-5612

Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (filings stop at 2:00 p.m.)

All filings after 2:00 p.m. must be filed at the Broward County Central Courthouse at 201 SE 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 or through the E-Filing Portal.

For emergencies after normal business hours, please contact Women in Distress at 954-761-1133.

What to bring:

A picture I.D. of yourself

An address where the Respondent (the person from whom you are seeking protection) can be served.

There is no fee for a Domestic Violence Injunction.

Process takes about 3-5 hours.

You can fill out the documents online and hand in the packet in person for a quicker process time.

<https://www.browardclerk.org/Divisions/DomesticViolence#RestrainingOrdersAndInjunctions>

Child care is available for ages 0-13 in room **#02129**. You may fill out the information form in the Domestic Violence Office (across the hall).

Make sure to pack diapers, formula and snacks for children while in child care.

What will happen:

You will fill out the paperwork with the guidance of the Clerk of Courts staff. You will be given instructions about filing the papers with the court. A judge will review your request for a Restraining Order and decide while you are at the courthouse. The Restraining Order becomes effective only after the Respondent is served with the paperwork by a Law Enforcement Officer.

Keep a copy of the Restraining Order with you at all times. Call the police **anytime** if the Respondent harasses you, comes to your home or place of work, or attempts to harm you. The Respondent may be arrested for violating the order. You may also go to Family Court Services to file paperwork indicating that the Respondent has violated the Restraining Order.

- Please contact your assigned prosecutor to alert them of a Restraining Order violation. At this point they can move to revoke bond if case is pending.

For further assistance, call the Clerk of Courts Intake Unit at (954) 831-5579.

State Attorney's Office - Victim Advocate Unit Safety Planning Guide

Emergency	911	
Women in Distress (Crisis Hotline)	(954) 761-1133	https://www.womenindistress.org/
First Call for Help (Crisis Hotline)	(954) 537-0211 or 211	http://211-broward.org/
Police Department		
Victim Advocate (Police Department)		
State Attorney's Office (Domestic Violence Unit)	(954) 831-7978	https://browardsao.com/domestic-violence-unit/
Victim Advocate (State Attorney Office)	(954) 765-4133	https://browardsao.com/victims-and-witnesses/
Family		
Friends		
Work / Supervisor's number		
Children's School or Day Care		
Restraining Order / Clerk of Courts Intake Unit	(954) 831-5579	https://www.browardclerk.org/Divisions/DomesticViolence#GeneralInformation
Clerk's Office Restraining Order	(954) 831-5570	https://www.browardclerk.org/Divisions/DomesticViolence#RestrainingOrdersAndInjunctions
Number to verify service of Restraining Order (BSO)	(954) 831-8787 Ext. 3	
Victim Notification // VINE	1(877) 846-3435	https://www.vineline.com/

Confinement Status	(954) 831-5900	
Office of the Attorney General (Crimes Compensation)	1(800) 226-6667	http://myfloridalegal.com/
Family Court Services (Child support)	954-831-7196	https://www.browardclerk.org/Divisions/Family#General
Broward County Clerk of Court	954-831-6565	http://www.browardclerk.org
E-Notify: Sign up to receive FREE notifications via text and/or email for upcoming court dates		https://enotify.flcourts.org/User/Signup
Track custody status of defendant in Broward County		http://www.sheriff.org/