

PROGRAM MISSION

The Crime Victim Advocate Program provides free and confidential assistance to victims of relationship violence, sexual assault, stalking, and property crime by offering advocacy and resource information in civil and criminal matters.

We seek to empower and support victims by upholding their rights to information, fair treatment, and restitution, and by serving as a liaison between the victim and the criminal justice system.

Through outreach and education, we endeavor to raise awareness of relationship violence and advance efforts towards a healthy, violence-free community.



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WHAT CAN CRIME VICTIM ADVOCATES DO?

Listen and advocate on behalf of the victim

Offer confidential services

Provide crisis counseling, emotional support, and guidance

Explain how the court process works

Find out what is happening in your court case

Assist you with your application for an Order of Protection if you are a victim of physical or sexual assault and/or stalking

Help you prepare for an Order of Protection hearing

Talk to you about the Crime Victim Compensation Fund

Inform you about community services

Provide a safe place to discuss court matters

Help you request restitution for losses, damages, and medical costs

RESOURCES

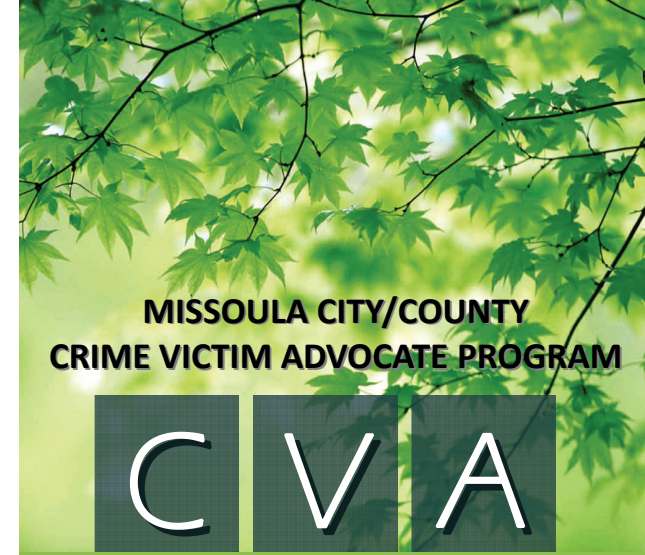
Emergency	911
YWCA Missoula	542.1944
Crisis Hotline	800.483.7858
Student Assault Resource Center—SARC	
Crisis Hotline	243.6559
Western MT Mental Health Center	
Crisis Hotline	532.9710
City Attorney	552.6020
County Attorney	258.4737
Montana Legal Services	800.666.6899
Missoula Family Law Self-Help Center	258.3428
First STEP Resource Center	329.5776
Child Abuse Help Line	866.820.KIDS
Crime Victim Compensation	800.498.6455
Victim Information & Notification Everyday—VINE	800.456.3076

BASIC NEEDS

211 First Call For Help	549.5555
YWCA Shelter	542.1944
Poverello Center	728.8526
Salvation Army	549.0710
Missoula Housing Authority	549.4113
Human Resource Council	728.3710
Goodwill	549.6969
Missoula Food Bank	549.0543
Salvation Army	549.0710
YWCA Secret Seconds	549.1610

ALCOHOL & DRUG SERVICES

Turning Point	532.9800
MSLA Indian Center Hotline	721.2700
Providence Center	543.7271



Legal Advocacy•Orders of Protection•Restitution•Information

406.830.3830

or

866.921.6995

Hours 8:30-12:00 & 1:00-4:30

Monday—Friday

Closed Wednesdays at 3:00

500 North Higgins, Suite 201

Mail: 200 West Broadway

Missoula, MT 59802

WHAT IS RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE?

Relationship violence, known as domestic violence or spousal abuse, is when one person is an intimate relationship uses power and control over their partner using methods involving physical, sexual, mental, emotional, and/or economic abuse.

WARNING SIGNS

DOES YOUR PARTNER

- Isolate you from family or friends?
- Degrade you or humiliate you?
- Intimidate you with looks or gestures?
- Act unreasonably jealous or possessive?
- Tell you that everything is your fault?
- Threaten to harm you or her/himself?
- Use your children to manipulate or harass you?
- Push or shove you?
- Slap, punch or kick you?
- Restrain you?
- Kick or punch walls or destroy property?
- Abuse pets?
- Use sexual force or degrade you?
- Strangle or choke you?
- Deny or blame you for the abuse?

WHAT IS STALKING?

Stalking is defined as being **repeatedly** followed, threatened, or intimidated, causing severe emotional distress and or fear of injury or death. Stalking can be done **in person, by telephone, or through the internet**. If you fear you are being stalked, make sure to **document** the threatening activity, including dates, times, and what happened. This could be helpful if you decide to report to police.

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual assault is conduct of a **sexual or indecent** nature toward another person. The conduct is accompanied by **actual or threatened** physical force that induces fear, shame, or mental suffering. Sexual assault is usually **sexual contact** that is **forced** upon a person **without consent**. Sexual assault is also sexual contact that is inflicted upon a person who is **incapable of giving consent** (because of age or physical or mental incapacity).

Sexual Assault Can Include

- Jokes/Catcalls
- Obscene phone calls
- Harassment
- Stares/Leers

Unwanted Physical Touch

- Grabbing/Touching
- Brushing against body

Unwanted Sexual Touch

- Molestation
- Sexual Assault

Rape

- Oral, anal or vaginal penetration without consent

Sexual Mutilation

- Cutting
- Burning

WHAT IS AN ORDER OF PROTECTION?

An Order of Protection, sometimes called a Restraining Order, is a court order designed to protect someone who has been harmed or has been threatened with harm.

An Order is intended to protect victims of violent crime like relationship violence, sexual assault, and stalking from future harm.

Paperwork can be picked up at the Crime Victim Advocate (CVA) office. The CVA office can help you determine if you qualify for an Order and in what court you would need to file.

- You must have a physical address to serve the Respondent
- You must have the name and birth date for the Respondent
- You do not need to report the crime to law enforcement to file an Order of Protection.
- There is no cost to file an Order of Protection.

Once the paperwork is filled out, and signed by the appropriate judge, it becomes a Temporary Order of Protection (TOP), which is good for up to 20 days. The TOP contains the date for the Order of Protection hearing. It is necessary that you attend and present evidence at the hearing in order to continue the effectiveness of the Order of Protection longer than 20 days.



WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

FOR SURVIVORS

If you are concerned about being a victim of relationship violence, sexual assault, or stalking, there is help available.

It is not your fault. You are not responsible for someone else's controlling behavior.

You are not alone. There are resources to help you.

You can call the Crime Victim Advocate office to talk about your options.

We will listen to you and support your decisions.

You have choices to help heal yourself and keep you and your family safe.

FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & OTHERS

Do your part to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable.

Explore and honor the victims' choices, whether you agree with them or not.

Condemn abusive behavior, but never condemn the victim.

Listen.

FOR OFFENDERS

Only you can stop the abuse.

You can choose to improve your life and

keep others safe.

You are responsible for your abusive and violent behavior.

Help is available through the MAN Program 549-3727.