

Victim Assistance and Advocacy Project

*The Victim Assistance and Advocacy Project
offers Help for Victims of Violent Crime in West Tennessee.*

Find Out when and how to apply for Criminal Injuries Compensation.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Programs have been established in every state to help crime victims cope with many crime related expenses such as medical bills, mental health counseling, lost wages or funeral/burial expenses. The Victim Assistance and Advocacy Project can provide information about Tennessee's Criminal Injuries Compensation fund and help you apply for these funds.

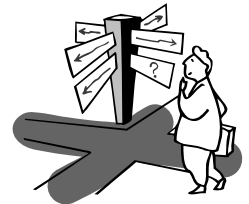
Get Help with your Victim Impact Statement.

The victim of a crime or the survivor of the victim is given the opportunity to provide a written or oral Victim Impact Statement. The statement is reviewed by the Court before sentencing. The Victim Assistance and Advocacy Project can help you prepare your Victim Impact Statement.

Other Services

The Victim Assistance and Advocacy Project also offers help to victims of financial exploitation, adult abuse and neglect. This includes working with law enforcement, consumer affairs agencies and other organizations to help you get the services you need to recover losses or protect yourself.

How can you help?



“On the outside looking in”

- The Victim Assistance and Advocacy Project needs volunteers to help reach and serve victims in the community. We need people who are compassionate and interested in helping victims restore their lives.
- Volunteers must exhibit professionalism and a willingness to commit some of their time each month.
- Volunteers who are selected must attend training programs and will receive educational materials to help them work with victims in their community.
- Volunteering will give you daily opportunities to make an impact in the lives of area victims.
- If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or would like additional information, please contact the Victim Assistance and Advocacy Project Coordinator, at 731.426.-1321 or 800.372.8346, or email at Rogerw@wtls.org.

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Legal Services

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Jackson, TN 38302-2066

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Web address
www.wtls.org

Jackson
731.423.0616
800.372.8346

Dyersburg
731.285.8183

Selmer
731.645.7961

Huntingdon
731.986.8975
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The Victim Assistance
and Advocacy Project
is a service of
West Tennessee
Legal Services
and is funded by the
State of Tennessee,
Office of Criminal
Justice Programs to serve
victims of violent crime.

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What We Do to Help Victims of Violent Crime: Help you understand your rights as a victim

Victims' Bill of Rights - Tennessee Constitution

"To preserve and protect the rights of victims of crime to justice and due process, victims shall be entitled to the following basic rights:

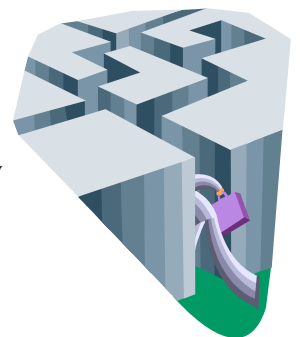
- The right to confer with the prosecution*
- The right to be free from intimidation, harassment and abuse throughout the criminal justice system*
- The right to be present at all proceedings where the defendant has the right to be present*
- The right to be heard, when relevant, at all critical stages of the criminal justice process as defined by the General Assembly*
- The right to be informed of all proceedings and of the release, transfer or escape of the accused or convicted person*
- The right to restitution from the offender*
- The right to be informed of each of these rights established for victims."*

Get the information you need about the criminal process

Being the victim of a crime can be a stressful experience. The complexities of the criminal justice process can add to that stress.

The Victim Assistance and Advocacy Project can answer some of the questions you have.

The Project staff can act as a liaison between you and the District Attorney and/or law enforcement and accompany you to court appearances, such as a hearing or trial.



This fact sheet is not meant to take the place of legal advice.

If you have a legal problem, consult a private attorney or call your local Legal Services Office.

**OUR VICTIM ASSISTANCE SERVICES
ARE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

