



Victim Resources & Important Contact Information

Emergency Assistance (Police, Fire, Rescue): 911

Blacksburg PD, Christiansburg PD, VTPD, & The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
all operate through the same Regional Dispatch Center: 540-382-4343



24-Hour Hotline, Shelter, Counseling, & Support

Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley (WRC): 540-639-1123 or 1-800-788-1123
TTY: 540-639-2197 | <https://www.wrcnrv.org/>



Campus Resources

- **VT Women's Center (for VT Faculty and Students):** 540-231-7806
- **VT Cook Counseling Center:** 540-231-6557
- **RU Student Counseling Services:** 540-831-5226
- **RU Office of Compliance (Title IX, Sexual/Domestic/Dating Violence):** 540-831-5307



Court Assistance

- **Victim Witness Program (Montgomery County):** 540-382-5705
- **Court Services Unit:** 540-382-5745
- **Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court:** 540-382-6999
- **Vinelink (Inmate Status):** 1-800-467-4943 or www.vinelink.com



Legal

- **Mary Pettitt, Commonwealth Attorney's Office:** 540-382-5705 | 1 East Main St #111
Christiansburg, VA 24073
- **Southwest VA Legal Aid Society:** 540-382-6157 or 1-888-201-2772
- **Magistrate:** 540-382-6925 or 1-888-643-4060
- **Attorney General of Virginia:** 804-786-2071



Medical Treatment

- **LewisGale – 3700 S Main St Blacksburg:** 540-951-1111
- **LewisGale - Stand-alone ER- 1145 W Main St Christiansburg:** 540-251-8900
- **Carilion New River Valley Medical Center ([only hospital with forensic nurses](#)):** 540-731-2000
- **Schiffert Health Center (VT Students):** 540-231-6444
- **RU Student Health Center (RU Students):** 540-831-5111



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Mental Health

Access: 540-961-8400



Department of Social Services

- Montgomery County DSS: 540-382-6990
- Adult and Child Protective Services Hotline: 1-800-552-7096



Family Resources

- NRV Cares: 540-381-8310
- NRV Community Action: 540-382-6186 | newrivercommunityaction.org
- Agency on Aging: 540-980-7720



Credit Reporting

- Equifax: 1-866-349-5191
- TransUnion: 1-800-916-8800
- Experian: 1-888-397-3742

We are here to help!

Here's what you can do when the police arrive:

- Describe what happened in detail. Be sure to show any injuries or damaged property.
- Tell them about any witnesses.
- Tell them about past violence and any guns or other weapons the abuser may have.
- Show them any court documents you have, such as a Protective Order.
- Ask them for the case number or the report and a phone number if you need to follow up.

What the police may do:

- Make an arrest if there is probable cause to believe that an assault and battery against a family or household member or another crime has occurred.
- Ask for an Emergency Protective Order if the officer believes you are still in danger.



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You have the right to request:

- An Emergency Protective Order from a magistrate that lasts 72 hours or until 5 p.m. the next day that the Domestic Relations Court is in session, whichever is longer. To continue the protection of a protective order, you must seek a Preliminary Protective Order by filing a petition with the Court Services Unit (540-382-5745).
- A warrant directly from a magistrate if the police do not make an arrest.
- Money for expenses, such as medical bills, incurred as a result of the crime (your local victim/witness coordinator can give you the forms).
- Transportation from a police officer to a hospital or shelter. However, police are not required to do so.

Emergency Protective Orders

- A protective order is a legal order that prohibits further abuse and/or contact between parties.
- You do not have to obtain a criminal warrant to get a protective order.
- The abuser will not be arrested or charged with a crime just because you get a protective order.
- It is only enforceable if it has been served on the abuser.

Court-Issued Protective Orders

- The abuser to stay away from you and to stop assaulting you and others in your home or family.
- The abuser to leave the home; provide suitable housing for you.
- The abuser to get counseling.
- Temporary possession of a vehicle to you, if jointly owned.
- Temporary custody and visitation of your children to you by the judge at the Protective Order hearing.

IF YOU'VE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED YOU MAY...

- Go to the police department or hospital
- Contact the WRC for options and Emergency Advocacy services
- Contact the WRC for counseling and Legal Advocacy



Code of Virginia

§ 19.2-11.01. Crime victim and witness rights.

A. In recognition of the Commonwealth's concern for the victims and witnesses of crime, it is the purpose of this chapter to ensure that the full impact of crime is brought to the attention of the courts of the Commonwealth; that crime victims and witnesses are treated with dignity, respect and sensitivity; and that their privacy is protected to the extent permissible under law. It is the further purpose of this chapter to ensure that victims and witnesses are informed of the rights provided to them under the laws of the Commonwealth; that they receive authorized services as appropriate; and that they have the opportunity to be heard by law-enforcement agencies, attorneys for the Commonwealth, corrections agencies and the judiciary at all critical stages of the criminal justice process to the extent permissible under law. Unless otherwise stated and subject to the provisions of § 19.2-11.1, it shall be the responsibility of a locality's crime victim and witness assistance program to provide the information and assistance required by this chapter, including verification that the standardized form listing the specific rights afforded to crime victims has been received by the victim.

As soon as practicable after identifying a victim of a crime, the investigating law-enforcement agency shall provide the victim with a standardized form listing the specific rights afforded to crime victims. The form shall include a telephone number by which the victim can receive further information and assistance in securing the rights afforded crime victims, the name, address and telephone number of the office of the attorney for the Commonwealth, the name, address and telephone number of the investigating law-enforcement agency, and a summary of the victim's rights under § 40.1-28.7:2.

1. Victim and witness protection and law-enforcement contacts.

a. In order that victims and witnesses receive protection from harm and threats of harm arising out of their cooperation with law-enforcement, or prosecution efforts, they shall be provided with information as to the level of protection which may be available pursuant to § 52-35 or to any other federal, state or local program providing protection, and shall be assisted in obtaining this protection from the appropriate authorities.

b. Victims and witnesses shall be provided, where available, a separate waiting area during court proceedings that affords them privacy and protection from intimidation, and that does not place the victim in close proximity to the defendant or the defendant's family.

2. Financial assistance.

a. Victims shall be informed of financial assistance and social services available to them as victims of a crime, including information on their possible right to file a claim for compensation from the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund pursuant to Chapter 21.1 (§ 19.2-368.1 et seq.) and on other available assistance and services.

b. Victims shall be assisted in having any property held by law-enforcement agencies for evidentiary purposes returned promptly in accordance with §§ 19.2-270.1 and 19.2-270.2.

c. Victims shall be advised that restitution is available for damages or loss resulting from an offense and shall be assisted in seeking restitution in accordance with §§ 19.2-305 and 19.2-305.1, Chapter 21.1 (§ 19.2-368.1 et seq.), Article 21 (§ 58.1-520 et seq.) of Chapter 3 of Title 58.1, and other applicable laws of the Commonwealth.

3. Notices.

a. Victims and witnesses shall be (i) provided with appropriate employer intercession services to ensure that employers of victims and witnesses will cooperate with the criminal justice process in order to minimize an employee's loss of pay and other benefits resulting from court appearances and (ii) advised that pursuant to § 18.2-465.1 it is unlawful for an employer to penalize an employee for appearing in court pursuant to a summons or subpoena.

b. Victims shall receive advance notification when practicable from the attorney for the Commonwealth of judicial proceedings relating to their case and shall be notified when practicable of any change in court dates in accordance with § 19.2-265.01 if they have provided their names, current addresses and telephone numbers.

c. Victims shall receive notification, if requested, subject to such reasonable procedures as the Attorney General may require pursuant to § 2.2-511, from the Attorney General of the filing and disposition of any appeal or habeas corpus proceeding involving their case.

d. Victims shall be notified by the Department of Corrections or a sheriff or jail superintendent (i) in whose custody an escape, change of name, transfer, release or discharge of a prisoner occurs pursuant to the provisions of §§ 53.1-133.02 and 53.1-160 or (ii) when an accused is released on bail, if they have provided their names, current addresses and telephone numbers in writing. Such notification may be provided through the Virginia Statewide VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) System or other similar electronic or automated system.

e. Victims shall be advised that, in order to protect their right to receive notices and offer input, all agencies and persons having such duties must have current victim addresses and telephone numbers given by the victims. Victims shall also be advised that any such information given shall be confidential as provided by § 19.2-11.2.



Code of Virginia

f. Victims of sexual assault, as defined in § 19.2-11.5, shall be advised of their rights regarding physical evidence recovery kits as provided in Chapter 1.2 (§ 19.2-11.5 et seq.).

g. Upon the victim's request, the victim shall be notified by the Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services or his designee of the release of a defendant (i) who was found to be unrestorably incompetent and was committed pursuant to Article 5 (§ 37.2-814 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 37.2, committed pursuant to Chapter 9 (§ 37.2-900 et seq.) of Title 37.2, or certified pursuant to § 37.2-806 or (ii) who was acquitted by reason of insanity and committed pursuant to § 19.2-182.3.

4. Victim input.

a. Victims shall be given the opportunity, pursuant to § 19.2-299.1, to prepare a written victim impact statement prior to sentencing of a defendant and may provide information to any individual or agency charged with investigating the social history of a person or preparing a victim impact statement under the provisions of §§ 16.1-273 and 53.1-155 or any other applicable law.

b. Victims shall have the right to remain in the courtroom during a criminal trial or proceeding pursuant to the provisions of § 19.2-265.01.

c. On motion of the attorney for the Commonwealth, victims shall be given the opportunity, pursuant to § 19.2-295.3, to testify prior to sentencing of a defendant regarding the impact of the offense.

d. In a felony case, the attorney for the Commonwealth shall consult with the victim either verbally or in writing (i) to inform the victim of the contents of a proposed plea agreement and (ii) to obtain the victim's views about the disposition of the case, including the victim's views concerning dismissal, pleas, plea negotiations and sentencing. However, nothing in this section shall limit the ability of the attorney for the Commonwealth to exercise his discretion on behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth in the disposition of any criminal case. The court shall not accept the plea agreement unless it finds that, except for good cause shown, the Commonwealth has complied with clauses (i) and (ii). Good cause shown shall include, but not be limited to, the unavailability of the victim due to incarceration, hospitalization, failure to appear at trial when subpoenaed, change of address without notice, or failure to provide an address or phone number as required in subdivision A 3 b.

The victim shall be notified in accordance with subdivision A 3 b of any proceeding in which the plea agreement will be tendered to the court. The attorney for the Commonwealth may satisfy his responsibility under this provision by consulting with a parent or guardian of an unemancipated minor victim, if the parent or guardian is not a suspect, person of interest, or defendant in the criminal investigation of the proceeding.

The responsibility to consult with the victim under this subdivision shall not confer upon the defendant any substantive or procedural rights and shall not affect the validity of any plea entered by the defendant.

e. Whenever the Attorney General represents the Commonwealth in any criminal appeal, he shall consult with the victim in the manner prescribed by subdivision d.

5. Courtroom assistance.

a. Victims and witnesses shall be informed that their addresses, any telephone numbers, and email addresses may not be disclosed, pursuant to the provisions of §§ 19.2-11.2 and 19.2-269.2, except when necessary for the conduct of the criminal proceeding.

b. Victims and witnesses shall be advised that they have the right to the services of an interpreter in accordance with §§ 19.2-164 and 19.2-164.1.

c. Victims and witnesses of certain sexual offenses shall be advised that there may be a closed preliminary hearing in accordance with § 18.2-67.8 and, if a victim was 14 years of age or younger on the date of the offense and is 16 or under at the time of the trial, or a witness to the offense is 14 years of age or younger at the time of the trial, that two-way closed-circuit television may be used in the taking of testimony in accordance with § 18.2-67.9.

6. Post trial assistance.

a. Within 30 days of receipt of a victim's written request after the final trial court proceeding in the case, the attorney for the Commonwealth shall notify the victim in writing, of (i) the disposition of the case, (ii) the crimes of which the defendant was convicted, (iii) the defendant's right to appeal, if known, and (iv) the telephone number of offices to contact in the event of nonpayment of restitution by the defendant.

b. If the defendant has been released on bail pending the outcome of an appeal, the agency that had custody of the defendant immediately prior to his release shall notify the victim as soon as practicable that the defendant has been released.

c. If the defendant's conviction is overturned, and the attorney for the Commonwealth decides to retry the case or the case is remanded for a new trial, the victim shall be entitled to the same rights as if the first trial did not take place.



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B. For purposes of this chapter, "victim" means (i) a person who has suffered physical, psychological, or economic harm as a direct result of the commission of (a) a felony, (b) assault and battery in violation of § [18.2-57](#) or [18.2-57.2](#), stalking in violation of § [18.2-60.3](#), a violation of a protective order in violation of § [16.1-253.2](#) or [18.2-60.4](#), sexual battery in violation of § [18.2-67.4](#), attempted sexual battery in violation of § [18.2-67.5](#), or maiming or driving while intoxicated in violation of § [18.2-51.4](#) or [18.2-266](#), or (c) a delinquent act that would be a felony or a misdemeanor violation of any offense enumerated in clause (b) if committed by an adult; (ii) a spouse or child of such a person; (iii) a parent or legal guardian of such a person who is a minor; (iv) for the purposes of subdivision A 4 only, a current or former foster parent or other person who has or has had physical custody of such a person who is a minor, for six months or more or for the majority of the minor's life; or (v) a spouse, parent, sibling, or legal guardian of such a person who is physically or mentally incapacitated or was the victim of a homicide; however, "victim" does not mean a parent, child, spouse, sibling, or legal guardian who commits a felony or other enumerated criminal offense against a victim as defined in clause (i).

C. Officials and employees of the judiciary, including court services units, law-enforcement agencies, the Department of Corrections, attorneys for the Commonwealth and public defenders, shall be provided with copies of this chapter by the Department of Criminal Justice Services or a crime victim and witness assistance program. Each agency, officer or employee who has a responsibility or responsibilities to victims under this chapter or other applicable law shall make reasonable efforts to become informed about these responsibilities and to ensure that victims and witnesses receive such information and services to which they may be entitled under applicable law, provided that no liability or cause of action shall arise from the failure to make such efforts or from the failure of such victims or witnesses to receive any such information or services.

1995, c. [687](#); 1996, c. [546](#); 1997, c. [691](#); 1998, c. [485](#); 1999, cc. [668](#), [702](#), [844](#); 2000, cc. [272](#), [827](#); 2001, cc. [410](#), [530](#), [549](#); 2002, cc. [310](#), [810](#), [818](#); 2003, cc. [103](#), [751](#), [764](#); 2006, c. [241](#); 2007, cc. [94](#), [109](#), [423](#); 2014, c. [230](#); 2017, c. [535](#); 2018, cc. [47](#), [83](#); 2019, c. [216](#); 2021, Sp. Sess. I, cc. [344](#), [345](#); 2023, cc. [559](#), [746](#), [784](#).

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

§ 40.1-28.7:2. Employers to allow crime victims leave to attend criminal proceedings.

A. As used in this section:

"Criminal proceedings" means a proceeding at which the victim has the right or opportunity to appear involving a crime against the victim, including:

1. The initial appearance of the person suspected of committing the criminal offense against the victim;
2. Any proceeding in which the court considers the post-arrest release of the person accused of committing a criminal offense against the victim or the conditions of that release;
3. Any proceeding in which a negotiated plea for the person accused of committing the criminal offense against the victim will be presented to the court;
4. Any sentencing proceeding;
5. Any proceeding in which postconviction release from confinement is considered;
6. Any probation revocation disposition proceeding or any proceeding in which the court is requested to terminate the probation of a person who is convicted of committing a criminal offense against the victim; or
7. Any proceeding in which the court is requested to modify the terms of probation or intensive probation of a person if the modification will substantially affect the person's contact with or safety of the victim or if the modification involves restitution or incarceration status.

"Undue hardship" means a significant difficulty and expense to a business and includes the consideration of the size of the employer's business and the employer's critical need of the employee.

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"Undue hardship" means a significant difficulty and expense to a business and includes the consideration of the size of the employer's business and the employer's critical need of the employee.

"Victim" has the same meaning ascribed to the term in § 19.2-11.01.

B. Every employer shall allow an employee who is a victim of a crime to leave work to be present at all criminal proceedings relating to a crime against the employee, as long as the employee has provided the employer with a copy of the form provided to the employee by the law-enforcement agency pursuant to subsection A of § 19.2-11.01 and, if applicable, provided the employer a copy of the notice of each scheduled criminal proceeding that is provided to the employee as victim. However, an employer may limit the leave provided under this section if the employee's leave creates an undue hardship to the employer's business.

C. An employer shall not dismiss an employee who is a victim of a crime because the employee exercises the right to leave work pursuant to subsection B.

D. An employer is not required to compensate an employee who is a victim of a crime when the employee leaves work pursuant to subsection B.

E. An employer shall not refuse to hire or employ, to bar or to discharge from employment, or to discriminate against, an individual in compensation or other terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because the individual leaves work to attend a criminal proceeding pursuant to this section.

2007, c. 423.

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Christiansburg Police Department

10 E. Main St., Christiansburg, VA 24073

Phone: (540) 382-3131 | Fax: (540) 382-0877