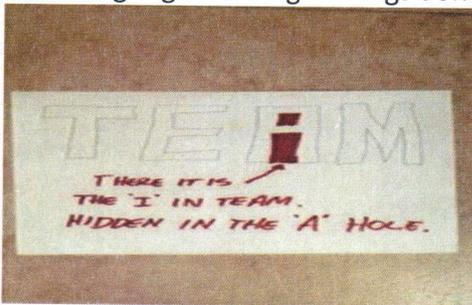


How to help Victims Navigate the Labyrinth we call the Criminal Justice System.



Rachelle Hill, Coordinator
West Valley City Victim Services
An Advocate's Perspective

The Multi-Disciplinary Team working together to get things done



My Goal

- To cover the two types of Victim Advocates
- Talk about vertical advocacy
- What services are provided
- Responding to the Victim's Identified Needs

Two Types of Victim Advocates

- 1) Community-Based Advocates

- 2) System-Based Advocates

Services provided by both types of advocates

- Crisis Intervention/emotional support
- Information, resources, and referrals
- Facilitating the victim's decision making process
- Accompanying victim to interviews, court
- Working to protect victims rights
- Serving as a liaison between other agencies

Services provided by both types of advocates CONT....

- Developing a safety plan
- Securing shelter/financial assistance
- Helping to deal with the media
- Offering or finding counseling
- Evaluating risk of suicide and other mental health needs.

VERTICAL ADVOCACY

- The goal of vertical advocacy is to maximize the potential for rapport between professionals and victims, as they work together through the various stages of the legal process-and to avoid any unnecessary trauma and disruption for victims.

What we do?

- Victim advocates are professionals trained to support victims of crime. Advocates offer victims information, emotional support, and help finding resources and filling out paperwork. Sometimes, advocates go to court with victims. Advocates may also contact organizations, such as criminal justice or social service agencies, to get help or information for victims. Some advocates staff crisis hotlines, run support groups, or provide in-person counseling. Victim advocates may also be called victim service providers, victim/witness coordinators, or victim/witness specialists.

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What Is It?

- Advocates' responsibilities vary depending on their job description and where they work. Typically, the role of an advocate may include:
 - Providing information on victimization;
 - Providing information on crime prevention;
 - Providing information on victims' legal rights and protections;
 - Providing information on the criminal justice process;
 - Providing emotional support to victims;
 - Helping victims with safety planning;
 - Helping victims with victim compensation applications;
 - Helping victims submit comments to courts and parole boards;
 - Intervening with creditors, landlords, and employers on behalf of victims;
 - Helping victims find shelter and transportation;
 - Providing referrals for other services for victims; Helping to arrange funerals; and
 - Notifying victims of inmates' release or escape.

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How Advocates Work with Victims?

- Advocates offer victims information about the different options available to them and support victims' decision-making. Advocates do not tell victims what to do. Advocates are committed to maintaining the highest possible levels of confidentiality in their communications with victims. However, the level of confidentiality they can observe depends on their position, education, licensure, and the laws in each state. An advocate in a police department may have to share any information related to an investigation with officers. Yet an advocate at a domestic violence program may be able to keep most victims' confidences private. However, all advocates must report certain types of information to the authorities. For example, they have to report any type of threat to a person (such as clients threatening to hurt themselves or someone else), and they have to report the abuse or neglect of children. It is important for victims to ask about confidentiality rules before they begin working with an advocate.

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- WE MAY NOT TO PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE
- WE DO Accept the clients statement of events as it is told, withholding opinion or judgment.
- WE DO Provide services to every client without attributing blame, no matter what.
