

## Vision

*Justice for all crime victims.*

## Mission Statement

*With compassion and respect, we assist victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, homicide, and other violent crimes through crisis response, advocacy, therapy, and community awareness.*

### *Florida Statute 960 Provides Guidelines For Fair Treatment & Specific Rights For Victims In The Criminal Justice System*

*Some of these include the following:*

- ❖ Office of Attorney General Crime Victim Compensation, when applicable;
- ❖ To be informed, present, and heard, when relevant at all crucial stages of criminal or juvenile proceedings, to the extent that right does not interfere with the Constitutional rights of the accused;
- ❖ To be provided information concerning services available including Victim Compensation, community treatment programs, crisis intervention services, counseling and social services;
- ❖ To a prompt and timely disposition of the case, to the extent that this right does not interfere with the Constitutional rights of the accused;
- ❖ To have your property returned to you as soon as possible after the investigation and/or prosecution is completed, unless there is a compelling reason for its retention;
- ❖ Have a Victim Advocate present during depositions of the victim;
- ❖ Request, for specific crimes, an exemption prohibiting the disclosure of information to the public which reveals your identification.

## Palm Beach County Public Safety Department Victim Services Division

[www.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/victimservices](http://www.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/victimservices)

**24/7 SEXUAL ASSAULT  
VIOLENT CRIME HELPLINE**  
**HELPLINE: (561) 833-7273**  
**TOLL FREE: (866) 891-7273**

**Main Courthouse**  
205 North Dixie Hwy., Suite 5.1100  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
(561) 355-2418  
TTY: (561) 233-2595

**Victim Services SART Center**  
4210 North Australian Ave.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407  
(561) 625-2568  
TTY: (561) 624-6520

**North County Courthouse**  
3188 PGA Blvd., Suite 1436  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
(561) 355-2418  
TTY: (561) 624-6643

**South County Courthouse**  
200 West Atlantic Ave., Suite 1E-301  
Delray Beach, FL 33444  
(561) 274-1500  
TTY: (561) 274-1015

**West County-Glades Courthouse**  
2976 State Road 15, 2nd Floor  
Belle Glade, FL 33430  
(561) 996-4871  
TTY: (561) 992-1113

Services are provided to all crime victims in Palm Beach County regardless of the victims' race, sex, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, or gender identity or expression.

Services are funded through Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners with grants from the Office of the Attorney General and Florida Council Against Sexual Violence.



Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners

Rev. May 2019



Palm Beach County  
Public Safety Department  
Victim Services Division

# Victim Services & Certified Rape Crisis Center

Serving Victims of Violent Crimes



Like Us on



PBCVictimServices



## Services Provided

*Professional training and community presentations are also available.*

- ❖ Information about Victims' rights
- ❖ 24-hour crisis response to hospitals, law enforcement agencies and crime scenes
- ❖ Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) and a Forensic Exam site ~ The Butterfly House
- ❖ Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) ~ to provide Victim-centered assistance
- ❖ Criminal Justice advocacy and court accompaniment
- ❖ Assistance with filing State Crime Victim Compensation applications and Restraining Orders
- ❖ Individual therapy and support groups
- ❖ Information and referral to community resources, including shelters and Legal Aid

## Sexual Assault

*Sexual Assault is a violent crime including rape, incest, sexual harassment or any other sexual contact without consent.*

Per Florida Statute 90.5035, a victim of sexual violence who consults a sexual assault counselor at a rape crisis center has the right to confidentiality of information shared with the counselor.

No one except the victim can compel the sexual assault counselor to reveal information about their communications. Only the victim can waive the privilege, and this must be done in writing.

If rape victims are not sure whether to report to law enforcement, victim advocates will assist them through their decisionmaking process, respecting whatever choices are made.

### Certified Rape Crisis Victim Advocates Will Provide:

- ❖ Crisis Intervention and Personal Advocacy
- ❖ Accompaniment during forensic rape exams at The Butterfly House and other medical facilities
- ❖ Coordination of follow-up medical care, therapy and referrals
- ❖ Criminal Justice advocacy and court accompaniment

## Domestic Assault

*Domestic Assault involves power and control tactics such as physical violence, emotional abuse, sexual violence, economic abuse, and isolation.*

### Victim Advocates Will Provide:

- ❖ Crisis Intervention
- ❖ Safety Planning
- ❖ Assistance with filing Restraining Orders
- ❖ Safe-Shelter Referrals
- ❖ Personal and legal advocacy during criminal justice proceedings

## Homicide and Other Violent Crimes

*Homicide and other violent crimes shatter the lives of injured victims and survivors causing severe emotional trauma and grief.*

### Victim Advocates Will Provide:

- ❖ Crisis Intervention and emotional support for victims and surviving family members
- ❖ Assistance with filing crime victim compensation for medical expenses, funeral costs and loss of support
- ❖ Court Accompaniment
- ❖ Referrals for individual therapy, support groups and community assistance



Palm Beach County provides equality of services and care to everyone, regardless of people's age, disability, gender, gender identity, race, religion or belief or sexual orientation.

## Start by Believing



**Start by Believing:** A Public Awareness Campaign to Change the Way We Respond to Sexual Violence in Our Community... one response at a time.

### YOUR REACTION MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.

When someone tells you they've been raped, there's a simple response. **Start by Believing.**