

Crime Victims Advocate Program

Every Victim Needs a Helping Hand

If You are a Victim:

While no one expects to be the victim of a crime, one American household in three is affected by a serious crime each year. If you or someone close to you has been affected by crime, you may feel shock, anger or shame. You may also feel confused.

The Crime Victims Advocate Program is here to offer you emotional and practical support during the aftermath of crime and throughout your dealings with the criminal justice system.

If you are suffering physical, financial, or emotional difficulties as a result of the crime, please let us know. Contact the CVAP office and allow us to help you.

If You are a Witness:

You are required by law to appear in court if you receive a subpoena. Remember that your cooperation is vital to the prosecution of criminal cases.

If you have any questions about testifying, please contact the Crime Victims Advocate Program. We will help you understand the criminal justice process and become an effective part of it.

Hotline Numbers

To Speak to a CVA Advocate:
CVAC: 718-286-6847

For General information:
QDA Hotline: 1-800-648-9961

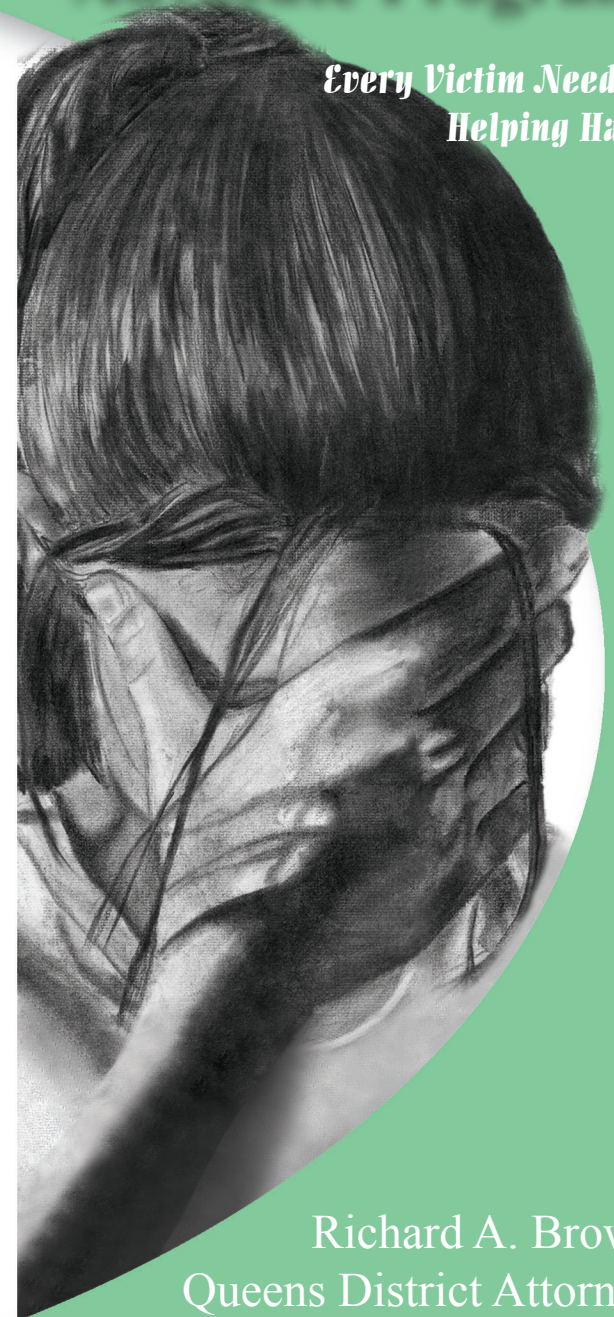
Other Resources:

Safe Horizon: 212-577-7777

Domestic Violence Hotline
English: 1-800-942-6906
Spanish: 1-800-942-6908

Call VINE
1-888-Vine-4-NY (1-888-846-3469)
VINE provides crime and release data on all defendants

**Office of the Queens District Attorney
Crime Victims Advocate Program
125-01 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
718-286-6847**



Richard A. Brown
Queens District Attorney

Message from the Queens D.A.



Crime victims should be treated with dignity, respect and understanding throughout their contact with the criminal justice system. To help ensure that they are, the Queens District Attorney's Office has set up the Crime Victims Advocate Program (CVAP).

The Program assists felony crime victims with practical difficulties they may face because they were victimized. Crime victims may receive:

- General information about the criminal justice system
- Details about the prosecution of the person who victimized them
- Information about how to apply for financial compensation for certain crime related expenses
- Transportation to and from court appearances when necessary

The cooperation of crime victims is crucial to the effective prosecution of criminal conduct, but experiencing a crime and the period afterward is very difficult. We believe that the Crime Victims Advocate Program can help make it a bit less so. I urge you to contact the program.

Richard A. Brown,
District Attorney

Services of the Crime Victims Advocate Program

Financial Compensation

Under some circumstances, crime victims may be entitled to financial compensation for certain unreimbursed crime-related expenses. CVAP staff will help eligible people in the application process.

Information About the Court

CVAP offers detailed information to victims and witnesses who are unfamiliar with the criminal justice system. The staff will answer questions about the system in general, and procedures in the case at hand. People who speak languages other than English will be assisted by the use of a special service that interprets over 100 languages.

Transportation

CVAP may provide transportation when resources are available, because travel to and from court can be costly or difficult for people with special needs.

Help for Special Victims

Short-term counseling may be provided by CVAP at the program's center for special victims, such as elderly people, children or victims of sexual assault or domestic violence.

Intimidation

CVAP may help to protect you from tampering, threats, physical injury, or other kinds of intimidation.

Referral Services

CVAP provides referrals to a wide variety of agencies and organizations city, state, federal, private, not-for-profit to help crime victims and their families whose needs extend beyond court related issues. Emergency food, shelter, clothing, replacement of stolen food stamps, counseling, substance abuse treatment and similar services are available.

Property Releases

CVAP may assist victims in securing the return of property held for evidence.

Victim Advocacy

CVAP may help crime victims who are required to take time off from work or school, either because of their injuries or to appear in court. When appropriate, staff members will contact employers, schools, creditors or make special arrangements of other kinds.

Notification of Judicial Proceedings

CVAP may help facilitate notification of pending release, escape of accused or other information you may need.