



Message from the Nassau County District Attorney

It is often difficult for a victim or witness to relive the circumstances surrounding a crime. This experience can be made more painful in the confines of the criminal justice system, where victims and witnesses are asked to detail these events to strangers to assist in a criminal case.

However, if you have been the victim of or witness to a crime, your help is essential—and NCDA has services and staff available to support and assist you.

As the case progresses, you will be working with an Assistant District Attorney who you may contact at any time with questions. We will also provide a Crime Victim Advocate to provide you with emotional support and services – a familiar face who will be with you every step of the criminal proceedings.


Let us guide you through this difficult time as we seek justice on behalf of those who have been victimized.



Anne T. Donnelly,
District Attorney

As a crime victim, you may be eligible for compensation through the New York State Office of Victim Services. VSU staff can assist eligible applicants in filing for victim compensation with the State of New York. OVS provides financial relief to victims of crime and their families by paying unreimbursed crime expenses, including medical and funeral expenses, counseling costs and loss of earnings. Call us for more information.


All services offered by VSU are free of charge and available in multiple languages.


 **Call us for more information at 516-571-3800.**


VSU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or age in the delivery of services.





OFFICE OF THE NASSAU COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY


 516-571-3800

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IF YOU ARE A VICTIM

The Victim Services Unit offers victims emotional support and services throughout their involvement in the criminal justice system.

These services include:

- Providing general information about the criminal justice system and process
- Information about the status of a case, offender's custody or release status and help registering for jail notifications of an inmate's release from custody
- Accompanying you to meet with an Assistant District Attorney or Investigator or to testify in court
- Arranging transportation to and from court if necessary
- Assistance with safety planning, crisis intervention or preparing Victim Impact Statements for court
- Contacting employers or school to advocate for time off to appear in court or meet with ADAs
- Providing referrals to other agencies for services such as counseling, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and emergency shelter
- Ensuring victims receive copies of any court orders of protection that have been issued and assisting in the return of any personal property being held as evidence.
- Providing victims with information about their rights under the law and ensure these rights are protected

IF YOU ARE A WITNESS

▶ Your cooperation is essential to the prosecution of criminal cases. If you have any questions about the status of a case and your involvement in it, please contact VSU so that we may assist.

THINGS TO KNOW:

▶ Under New York State Law, NCDAs must give your name and "adequate contact information" to the defendant's lawyer. A defendant's lawyer or a defense investigator can attempt to speak to you if you are a victim or witness in a case. You do not have to speak with either a defendant's lawyer or investigator. Inform an Assistant District Attorney or Crime Victim Advocate assigned to your case whether you wish to be contacted and how.

For more information about this disclosure, contact VSU at 516-571-3800.