

Who is a Victim of Crime?



Integrate Crime Victims' Issues Into University and College Curricula

The project is designed to:

- Broaden college and university students' awareness of crime victims' issues and knowledge of appropriate responses.
- Increase the number and diversity of students exposed to and educated in crime victims' issues.
- Give victim issues a new level of prominence in university and college curricula.

Resources for Students

Campus resources to list typically include:

- Counseling.
- Health services.
- College chaplain/Faith community.
- Dean of students.
- Women's centers.
- Campus police.

Resources for Students

Local community resources to list typically include:

- Rape crisis center.
- Domestic violence shelter agency.
- Local or county victim-witness office (often a part of the prosecutor's office).

National Resource Information

National Resource Information

Student Handout

Crime Victim

- A person who has experienced physical, sexual, or financial harm as a result of the commission of a criminal offense.
- Suffering emotional or psychological harm alone generally does not legally define one as a crime victim.
- Here “crime victim” is broadened to include a person, group, business, or organization that has been harmed or injured due to criminal activity. The harm inflicted may be physical, financial, mental, or religious/spiritual.

(OVC, 2005)

Types of Victims

Victims, primary victims, immediate victims, or direct victims:

- Individuals who directly experience the crime or those whom the offender directly harms.

Types of Victims

Secondary victims or co-victims:

- Individuals with close relationships with the victim and others affected by the crime.

Types of Victims

Impact of the crime may spread to:

- Victim's immediate and expended family.
- Victim's social circle and co-workers.
- Criminal justice personnel and first responders.
- Anyone assisting the victim.
- The community.

Types of Victims

In a criminal case, the state is considered the injured or victimized party.

- If John Smith assaulted Matthew Johnson in New York, criminal case would be: State of New York v. John Smith, not Johnson v. Smith.
- Explains why a victim has little or no control over the decisions made in the processing of a criminal case.