

Metropolitan Police Department The Victim Services Branch



Cathy L. Lanier,
Chief of Police





The Victims Services Branch: The Mission

The mission of the Victim Services Branch (VSB) is to empower the victim to help themselves and fully participate in the investigative process.

Many victims experience a number of barriers that negatively effect their ability to navigate the criminal and judicial systems, as well as their ability to work with law enforcement. The barriers that often prevent victims from obtaining the assistance they need include literacy, childcare, threat of violence, and preconceived ideas about law enforcement.

Victim Services Branch

Victim Specialist Unit
Family Liaison Specialist Unit
Major Case Victims Unit



The Victim Services Branch: The Units

- **Victim Specialists Unit (VSU):**
 - The purpose of the VSU is to educate and support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes.
- **Family Liaison Specialists Unit (FLSU):**
 - The FLSU provides supportive services to the secondary victims of homicide (family and loved ones). Specifically, the FLSU assists with homicide cases that are current or occurring within the previous three (3) years.
- **Major Case Victims Unit (MCVU):**
 - The MCVU provides supportive services to the secondary victims of homicide (family and loved ones). Specifically, the MCVU assists with homicide cases that have been transferred to the Major Case Unit and are (in general) at least three years or older from the date of occurrence.





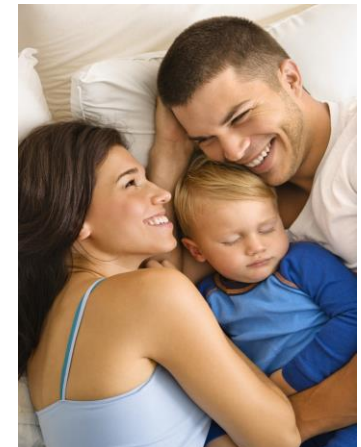
The Victim Services Branch: The Roles & Responsibilities

In our efforts to increase the well being and safety of the clients we serve, each Unit within the Victim Services Branch is dedicated to providing the following services:

- Departmental education & support;
- Community outreach;
- Crisis intervention & emotional support;
- Court accompaniment;
- Case Management that includes in-depth assessment of individual needs and referral to appropriate services;
- A liaison between the victim, police personnel (i.e. the investigating detective), and other agencies (both government & community); and
- Navigation of & education on the criminal and civil processes.

The Victim Services Branch Types of Violence Include:

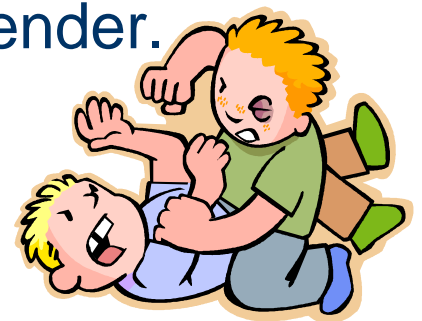
- Family Violence
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Elder Abuse
- Child Abuse
- Hate Crimes





The Victim Services Branch: What is Domestic Violence?

- Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of behavior that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Behaviors include physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and verbal abuse that is designed to frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, or injure the other person.
- Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender.



The Victim Services Branch: Specific Populations

- **Women**
- **Men**
- **Immigrant families**
- **Children, siblings**
- **Spouses**
- **Parents, grandparents**
- **Roommates, cohabitants**
- **Elders and Seniors**
- **Teens**
- **Step parents/step-children**
- **Foster families/foster-children**
- **Former dating partners**
- **Same sex partners**



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The Victim Services Branch: What is Sexual Assault?



- Sexual Violence refers to sexual activity where consent is not obtained or given freely. There are many types of sexual violence that do not include physical contact between the victim and the perpetrator, such as harassment, threats and exposure/flashing of sexual body parts. Sexual assault, a form of sexual violence, is any unwanted sexual contact that includes:
 - Rape
 - Attempted rape;
 - Sodomy;
 - Child molestation;
 - Touching, fondling, and kissing; and
 - Forcing an individual to look at sexually explicit material or forcing an individual to pose for sexually explicit pictures

(Source: Center for Disease Control, Department of Health & Human Services)

The Victim Services Branch: What Are Hate Crimes?

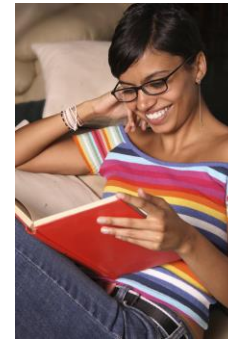


- Hate Crimes are criminal offenses committed against persons, property or society that is motivated, in whole or in part, by an offender's bias against an individual's or a group's race, religion ethnic/national origin, gender, age, disability or sexual orientation.
- Hate Crimes include not only violence against individuals or groups but also crimes against property, such as arson or vandalism, particularly those directed against community centers or houses of worship.

We are here to support you !



Resources



- **Crime Victim Compensation** (202) 879-4216
- **Domestic Violence Intake Center** (202) 879-1052
- **(DVIC/Southeast Satellite)**
- **Greater Southeast Community Hospital** (202) 561-3000
- **House of Ruth Support Center** (202) 347-0390
- **My Sister's Place (domestic violence support)** (202) 529-5991
- **Ramona's Way (substance abuse)** (202) 857-9796
- **Wendt Center (grief counseling)** (202) 624-0010
- **Crawford, Inc. (grief counseling)** (301) 341-5111
- **WEAVE (legal support)** (202) 452-9550
- **LEGAL AID (legal support)** (202) 628-1161
- **SAFE/OCAPP(court/24-hours)** (202) 879-7857
- **Hate/Bias Crimes Hotline** (202) 727-0500

Resources Continued

- **Teen Dating Violence Resource Center**
 - (202) 467-8700 dvrc@ncvc.org
- **Break The Cycle**
 - (202) 824-0707 breakthecycle.org
- **DAWN**
 - TTY Hotline (202) 861-0258 deafdawn.org
- **Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL)**
 - (202) 546-5940 www.smyal.org
- **Transgender Health Empowerment Inc (T.H.E.)**
 - (202) 636-1646 info@theincdc.org
- **Metropolitan Police Department Gay & Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU)**
 - 24-Hour Pager 1-877-495-5995 www.gaydc.net/gllu
- **Youth Division**
 - (202) 576-6768



Contact Info: Family Liaison Specialist Unit 101 M Street SW

- Carla Okonkwo, Supervisor
(202) 645-9629
- Marlene Castro, Family Liaison Specialist
Bi-Lingual (Spanish/English)
(202) 645-9631
- Megan Riley, Family Liaison Specialist
(202) 645-5537



Contact Info: Victim Services Branch

300 Indiana Ave., NW—Room 3121
Washington, DC 20001

Tyria Fields, Program Manager

202.724.4339

E-Mail: Tyria.Fields@dc.gov



Contact Information: Victim Specialist Unit

**300 Indiana Ave., NW—Room 3121
Washington, DC 20002**

- **Helen Hall, Certified Victim Specialist
Domestic Violence & Hate Crimes
(202) 724-8921**
- **Esther Thomas, Certified Victim Specialist
Sexual Assault
Bi-Lingual (English/Spanish)
(202) 724-2071**