

VICTIM ADVOCATES

in Action

NATIONAL CRIME
VICTIMS' RIGHTS
WEEK
April 19-25, 2026

Protecting Victims' Rights in Virginia

Victim advocates play a critical role in helping victims understand and exercise their rights under the Virginia Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act.



Ensure Victims Know Their Rights

Provide information about victims' rights under Virginia law, including the right to be informed about court proceedings, available services, and the criminal justice process.



Support Participation in the Criminal Justice Process

Help victims exercise their right to be present and heard during the court proceedings, including assistance preparing victim impact statements.



Promote Safety and Protection

Assist with safety planning and information about protective measures while supporting victims' autonomy and respecting their choices.



Connect Victims to Services

Link victims to services including counseling, shelter and housing assistance, legal assistance, victim compensation, and other support.



Amplify Victims' Voices

Advocate for a victim's right to fairness, dignity, respect, and meaningful participation throughout the criminal justice process.

Victim advocates play a key role in ensuring that the rights established in the Virginia Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act are effectively protected throughout the state.



NEED HELP?

If you or someone you know is a victim of a crime, help is available.

Virginia Family Violence
and Sexual Assault Hotline

1-800-838-8238

Virginia Victim Assist Helpline

1-855-4-HELP-VA
(1-855-443-5782)



Scan for additional victim resources

Once you scan the QR code above, you will be taken to the DCJS Victims Services Publication web page. Click on the “Victims” tab, and you can access downloadable copies of victims’ rights materials, including shareable brochures and victims’ rights cards.

