

Florida Statute 960

Florida State Statute 960 governs the rights of victims of crime in the criminal justice system. Victims of crime in the state of Florida are entitled to certain treatment by the criminal justice system. These rights include, but are not limited to the following:

- ✔ Referral and access to information regarding available crisis intervention services, supportive or bereavement counseling, community-based victim services programs, available crime protection services, and crime victim compensation funds.
- ✔ Access to and explanation of information about the role of the victim in the criminal justice system and the stages of the criminal/juvenile justice processes that involve the victim.
- ✔ Advance notification of judicial and post-judicial proceedings which relate to the offender's arrest, release, or community work release.
- ✔ Consultation with the Office of the State Attorney regarding the victim's views about plea agreements, participation of the accused in pretrial diversion programs, sentencing of the accused, and release of the accused in felony cases.
- ✔ Submit a Victim Impact Statement, either orally or in writing, to the judge prior to sentencing of an offender who pleads guilty or nolo contendere to or is convicted of a crime.
- ✔ Accompaniment by a victim advocate during any testimony or deposition of a victim of a sexual offense.

If you would like to read the entire statute, please visit <http://www.flsenate.gov>. If you would like more information on victim services available elsewhere in the state, please visit <http://myfloridalegal.com/victims>.

RESOURCES

Campus Resources:

University of Florida Police Department	(352) 392-1111
UFPD Office of Victim Services	(352) 392-5648
UFPD's Community Services Division Rape Aggression Defense Course	(352) 392-1409
SNAP	(352) 392-7627
Counseling and Wellness Center	(352) 392-1575
Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution	(352) 392-2161 x207
Student Health Care Center	(352) 392-1161
Student Legal Services	(352) 392-5297

Community Resources:

Alachua County Crisis Center	(352) 264-6789
Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center	(352) 264-6760
Alachua County Sheriff's Office	(352) 367-4000
Gainesville Police Department	(352) 334-2400
Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network	(352) 377-8255
Shands Hospital Emergency Room	(352) 265-0050

For more information, please contact

**University of Florida
Police Department**

**Office of Victim Services
(352) 392-5648**

**Community Services Division
(352) 392-1409**

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FLORIDA**
The Foundation for The Gator Nation

University of Florida Police Department's

Office of Victim Services

P.O. Box 112150
51 Museum Road
Gainesville, FL 32611
(352) 392-5648 or
(352) 392-1111, after hours

What is OVS?

The Office of Victim Services (OVS) at the University of Florida Police Department (UFPD) was established in 1993 to provide victim advocacy services to those individuals whose lives had been impacted by crime. The primary mission of OVS is to safeguard the constitutional rights and provide for the emotional needs of crime victims during a very difficult time. It is also the goal of OVS to educate the campus community about our services and about issues pertaining to violence, including sexual and intimate partner.

Who Can OVS Help?

The Office of Victim Services provides assistance to the following populations:

- ✂ Anyone who has been the victim of a crime on the University of Florida campus, regardless of affiliation to the university.
- ✂ Any UF student, faculty, or staff member who has been the victim of a crime, regardless of the location of the crime.
- ✂ Any UF student, faculty, or staff member who has been the victim of a crime, regardless of whether or not the crime is reported to law enforcement.
- ✂ Any UF student, faculty, or staff member who has been involved in a situation involving violence or fear of harm by another, regardless of whether or not the situation constitutes a crime (e.g. workplace sexual harassment).
- ✂ Any person who fits into any of the above mentioned categories regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, age, or religion.

How Can a Victim Advocate Help Me?

The Office of Victim Services provides a wide range of services. We cater our services to each individual's needs. All of our services are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. Some ways a victim advocate can help are as follows:

- ✂ Crisis intervention and emergency assistance
- ✂ Serve as a liaison with campus offices and departments including, but not limited to, Department of Housing and Residence Education, Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, and the University Registrar
- ✂ Advocate for students with professors if special accommodations are necessary
- ✂ Assist with filing for Injunction for Protection Orders
- ✂ Assist with filing for Victims' Compensation funds
- ✂ Provide education about the criminal justice system
- ✂ Assist with filing a police report
- ✂ Provide accompaniment and/or transportation to civil and/or criminal justice hearings and proceedings
- ✂ Assist with preparing Victim Impact Statements
- ✂ Provide referrals to other necessary resources both on and off campus

A victim advocate is on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To reach a victim advocate during normal business hours, call (352) 392-5648 or visit our office located on the corner of Museum Road and Newell Drive at the UFPD. To reach a victim advocate outside of normal business hours, call (352) 392-1111 and request to speak to the on-call victim advocate.

Common Reactions to Surviving a Crime

People who have survived a crime may experience a variety of emotional, cognitive, and behavioral responses that can vary in intensity and duration. These reactions include, but are not limited to:

- ✂ Anger
- ✂ Anxiety
- ✂ Depression
- ✂ Fear of retaliation/re-victimization
- ✂ Guilt
- ✂ Rapidly shifting emotions
- ✂ Shock
- ✂ Intrusive thoughts
- ✂ Loss of sleep
- ✂ Memory loss of the event
- ✂ Nightmares
- ✂ Post-traumatic stress
- ✂ Trouble concentrating
- ✂ Avoidance of class/work
- ✂ Crying
- ✂ Social withdrawal

These reactions are all normal. Without support and assistance, however, such reactions can become problematic and/or lasting.

Education and Outreach Services

OVS also provides a wide array of educational presentations on topics including, but not limited to, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking/harassment, victim services, and any topics related to sexual violence or personal safety. To schedule a presentation or request a victim advocate to be present at a tabling event, please call (352) 392-5648.