

Case # _____

Deputy _____

Victim
Advocate _____

Additional
Information _____

**OTHER AGENCIES THAT
MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE
ASSISTANCE:**

Allegan County Sheriff's Office
(269) 673-0500

Allegan County Jail
(269) 673-0530

Allegan County Crisis
Response Services
(866) 711-7777

Sylvia's Place
Domestic Violence Shelter
(269) 673-8700

The Center for Women
in Transition
M-F 9-5 (269) 673-2299
Nights & Weekends (800) 848-5991

Allegan County Community
Mental Health
(269) 673-6617 or (800) 795-6617

Allegan County
Prosecuting Attorney's Office
(269) 673-0280

Silent Observer
(800) 554-3633

*The mission of the
Allegan County Sheriff's
Office is to provide a
full spectrum of
Corrections, Law
Enforcement and Court
Services so that our
community continues to
grow and progress as a
safe and secure place to
live, work and visit.*

VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

112 Walnut St.
Allegan, MI 49010
Phone: (616) 673-0500
Fax: (616) 673-0406
Email: Sheriff@allegancounty.org

**VICTIM
SERVICES
UNIT**



**Allegan County
Sheriff's Office**

**Blaine A. Koops
Sheriff**

(269) 673-0500

"Serving with honor and integrity"

How it Works

What is the Victim Services Unit?

The Victim Services Unit is an all volunteer group of persons dedicated to helping victims survive a crisis or crime against them.

They are the “Helping Hands” of the police, fire and medical personnel. They free the departments up to do their jobs without leaving the victim “out in the cold” or ignored. The objective is to avoid further victimization.

What is the purpose of the Victim Services Unit?

The Victim Services Unit is designed to:

1. Comfort and help victims and make referrals to appropriate agencies and services of the area according to needs.
2. Serve as a go-between for victims, their families, and scene officials and/or emergency service providers.
3. Aid and educate victims as to their rights, the Victim Compensation Board, and the Judicial system.
4. Help when needed.

Victim Services Advocates are called out or paged by the Sheriff’s Office for police, fire departments, hospital staff, the prosecutor’s office, or victims themselves. Advocates may be called on-scene, to our office or to other locations convenient to the victim and/or survivors.

At an “on-scene” call, we talk to victims to establish needs. If it is a crime scene, we attempt to separate victims from scene activity for investigative purposes, and yet maintain the link to the investigating officers for victim questions.

In the event of a death, advocates will assist with phone calls and provide information in regards to funeral homes, autopsies and contacting Clergy.

We advise victims about the Victim’s Compensation Board, and if needed, assist them in filling out the forms which enable them to retrieve monies that they may be eligible for.

We walk victims through the Court system and interpret judicial actions taken by Judges and lawyers, and we encourage victims to continue through the judicial system to ensure proper case dispositions.

We further refer victims to agencies and services offered by their county to assist with mental and emotional recovery afterwards.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is required and adhered to by all Advocates and information is only shared with associate advocates in the event they need to assume responsibility for a case. The exception to the rule is that victims are informed that whatever they say will be repeated to the investigator in the event that it will help the case.

Our Motivation

Most of us were victimized in one way or another in our past. We are trained to best handle situations and our own experiences help us to identify with the various incidents. If our own experiences can ever be made good, it’s by helping others through similar ordeals.

Who better is there to comfort and help a new victim through an incident than someone who’s been there before?

Our Commitment

We accept responsibilities. We accept criticism that will enable us to better assess needs and provide services. We encourage comments from your own experiences that might help future victims cope with incidents in their lives.