

Who is a Victim?

Anyone whose life has been affected by trauma, tragedy or disaster, regardless of severity.

Someone whose personal rights have been violated by criminal, violent or aggressive acts.

Family and friends of persons who have been injured or killed as a result of a serious accident or as a result of crime.

Someone who has viewed a violent or traumatic incident.

Crisis

Crisis can be described as a predicament or occurrence that causes distress. Crisis can occur at any time causing such feelings as fear, rage, isolation and confusion. Crisis can invoke mental anguish and physical distress. Trained staff and volunteer crisis support workers are available 24/7 to provide much needed emotional support and practical assistance to help victims deal with their unique situation.

Funded by the Ontario Victim Services Secretariat



Ministry of the

Attorney General

Provincial VCARS Sites

Eastern Region:

CCARES Hastings/Prince Edward/L&A Counties	1.800.328.5246
Frontenac VCARS	613.548.4834
VCARS Lanark County	613.284.8380
Victim Assistance Service of Ottawa-Carlton	613.238.2762
Renfrew County VCARS	613.649.2852
<i>Leeds & Grenville, Prescott/Russell, Cornwall VCARS to be operational in the near future</i>	

Central Region:

Barrie & Area VCARS	705.725.7025
Caledon\Dufferin Victim Services	905.951.3838
VCARS of Durham Region	905.579.1520 x1846
Kawartha/Haliburton Victim Services	705.454.1884
Muskoka Victim Services	705.645.5444
North Simcoe Victim Crisis Services	705.325.5578
Peterborough/Northumberland Victim Services	1.888.822.7729
Victim Services Program of Toronto, Inc.	416.808.7066
Victim Services of York Region	905.474.2955

Central West Region:

Victim Services of Brant	519.752.3140
Caledon\Dufferin Victim Services	905.951.3838
Victim Services of Haldimand-Norfolk	905.768.2221
Niagara Victim Crisis Support Services	905.682.2626
Victim Services of Waterloo Region	519.585.2363
Victim Services Wellington	519.824.1212

Western Region:

Victim Services of Bruce, Grey & Owen Sound	519.376.7474
Chatham Kent Victim Services	519.436.6630
Victim Services Elgin	519.631.3182
Victim Services of Huron County	519.524.4108
Victim Services of Middlesex County	1.866.289.3340
Victim Assistance Services of Oxford County	519.537.2824
Victim Services of Perth County	519.271.9998
Victim Services of Sarnia-Lambton	519.344.8861
Victim Services of Windsor and Essex	519.723.2711

North and Northwest Regions:

Algoma District VCARS	705.945.6905
Cochrane-Smooth Rock Falls VCARS	705.272.2598
Manitoulin-North Shore VCARS	705.368.9945
Near North VCARS (North Bay)	705.472.2649
West Parry Sound VCARS	705.746.0508
Sioux Lookout/Lac Seul Victim Services	807.737.1700
Sudbury & Area VCARS	705.522.6970
Temiskaming & District VCARS	705.647.0096
Thunder Bay & Area Victim Services	807.684.1051
Timmins & District VCARS	705.264.4242

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VCARS

Victim Crisis Assistance & Referral Services



What is VCARS?

VCARS or Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Services are community response programs that provide immediate, short term crisis intervention services to persons affected by crime, tragedy and disaster.

VCARS programs offer a variety of crisis intervention services to persons affected by crime, tragedy and disaster 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

VCARS teams of trained staff and volunteer crisis support workers provide emotional support, practical assistance and an information and referral program on-site or by telephone.

VCARS is an integral part of a continuum of programs and services that addresses clients' needs from the time of victimization to post-sentencing.

VCARS programs are volunteer driven, working in partnership with police and other emergency service personnel.

VCARS programs are delivered through not-for-profit, charitable organizations each governed by a community Board of Directors.

Assistance For:

Abuse
Accidents
Accommodation Crisis
Arson
Assaults
Break & Enter
Court Support*
Critical Incident Stress
Death Notification
Debriefing
Disaster
Domestic Violence
Domestic Violence Emergency
Response System Alarms (DVERS)*
Drowning
Family Crisis
Fatalities
Fire
Fraud
Grief & Bereavement
Harassment
Home Invasion
Homelessness
Homicide
Mischiefs
Missing Persons
Motor Vehicle Collisions
Personal Injury
Property Crime
Robbery
Safety Planning
Sexual Assault
Stalking
Substance Abuse
Sudden Death
Suicide
SupportLink Wireless Phones*

** Programs available at select sites only*

How VCARS Can Assist

- Help victims cope with the impact of a traumatic event
- Help victims regain a sense of personal control
- Help victims return their lives to a desired degree of stability
- Provide an opportunity for victims to vent
- Validate emotions and reactions
- Assist victims until their community or natural support network arrives
- Disseminate information about available resources/services, appropriate to the situation
- Reduce possibility of re-victimization
- Identify options/choices at a time when victims may need guidance/direction
- Ensure victims receive and will continue to receive support and assistance
- Advocate on victim's behalf
- Assist police and other emergency service responders
- Prevent victimization through education, planning, strategies
- Provide opportunities for community members to help others in their own community