

## Services

### **24-Hour Telephone Hotline**

**(315)782-1855 or Toll Free 1-866-782-1855**

Crisis intervention, shelter admission, emotional support, advocacy, and information/referrals.

### **24-Hour Safe Shelter**

Emergency safe housing for ALL victims in crisis and their dependent children. Shelter is handicapped accessible.

### **Homeless Housing**

Licensed shelter for homeless and their dependent children.

### **Advocacy**

24-hour assistance to victims of violence that includes safety planning, criminal justice system, medical, housing, and social services.

### **Counseling**

Counseling to victims and secondary victims of violence and crime. Services are provided in individual sessions and/or support group.

### **Immediate Response Team**

Respond with law enforcement to the scene of a domestic incident or sexual assault to provide immediate advocacy, crisis intervention, transport to shelter and information/referral services.

### **Child Advocacy Center of Northern NY**

Provides direct services to child victims of sexual and physical abuse and non-offending family, using a multi-disciplinary team approach at a single point of contact. Services are provided by law enforcement, District Attorney's office, Victims Assistance Center, Child Protective Services, and local medical facilities.

### **Volunteer Program**

Volunteers provide emergency assistance, crisis intervention, community education, and on-call duty. Volunteers must complete an approved NYS Department of Health 40-Hour training for certification as Rape Crisis Counselors.

### **Student Intern Program**

Field placements for Associate and Bachelor level students to learn about the agency, its services and mission.

Victimization does not end with the violence of the crime itself.

The Victims Assistance Center recognizes these complex issues and assists individuals and families in our community through a variety of direct services for victims and co-victims of:

- Domestic/family violence
- Sexual assault/abuse
- Robbery
- Homicide
- DWI/DUI injury
- Elder abuse and financial exploitation
- Hate and bias crimes
- Stalking
- Gang Violence
- Workplace/School/Campus victimization
- Cyber crime and bullying
- Financial fraud

## **Victims Assistance Center**

**of Jefferson County, Inc.**


120 Arcade Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

### **24-Hour Hotline & Shelter**

315-782-1855  
1-866-782-1855 (free call)

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm  
315-782-1823  
315-782-3760 (fax)

[www.vacjc.com](http://www.vacjc.com) or  Find us on Facebook

# Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County, Inc.



***Justice, Dignity, and Healing***

*Our mission is to assist and provide services through advocacy, education, and emotional support to all survivors of violence and crime in our community.*

*Serving our local and military communities.*

***All services are FREE of charge.***

## Vision

To create and foster a safe, caring community working together to bring hope, inspire change, and empower individuals to move beyond their circumstances.

## Services I can obtain from the victim advocate

- Crisis intervention and support counseling.
- Safety planning and case management.
- Advocacy with emergency services, housing, transportation, food, community agencies, and the Department of Social Services.
- Assistance in obtaining orders of protection, custody, restitution, and/or compensation through the NYS Office of Victim Services.
- Accompaniment throughout the medical, legal, and investigative processes.

## Protection for myself and my children

- Make a safety plan: a victim advocate can help.
- Have an emergency bag with money, medical records, birth certificates, other ID, medicine, keys, and important phone numbers.
- Plan an escape route out of your home and teach it to your children.
- Know your resources (shelter, transportation, money, etc.)
- Ask family, friends, community organizations, and others for help.
- Call the police or have someone else call.
- Get medical care if you have injuries.
- Ask medical staff or someone to take pictures; save any ripped or bloody clothes as evidence and provide to law enforcement.
- Discuss available safety measures with the victim advocate (orders of protection, custody, court, shelter, and information/referrals).

## Domestic/Family Abuse

Including:

- Emotional, psychological, economic and/or sexual abuse
- Isolation
- Stalking
- Physical violence

Does your partner:

- behave in an over-protective manner or become extremely jealous?
- threaten to hurt you, your children, pets, family members, friends or themselves?
- call, text, or email you at an excessive rate?
- deny you access to resources, such as bank accounts, credit cards, the car, medication or health care?
- prevent you from seeing family or friends?
- get suddenly angry or lose their temper?
- destroy personal property or throw things?
- control how you dress?
- use intimidation or manipulation to control you or your children?
- hit, punch, slap, kick, shove, choke or bite you?
- threaten your immigration/citizenship status?
- control where you go, when you can go, and who you are with?
- make you perform sexual acts that you did not want to do?
- threaten to “out” you if you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer?
- humiliate or embarrass you in front of others?
- exploit their or your military status?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may be in an abusive relationship.

**You are not to blame and you are not alone.**

*Signs of abuse checklist provided by the  
NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence*

## Sexual Assault

Including:

- Rape (marital and date)
- Incest
- Sexual abuse and molestation
- Harassment

If you are raped:

- Call 911 or the police immediately.
- Do not shower or change your clothes.
- Do not throw anything away.
- Bring a change of clothes with you, if possible.
- Go to the emergency room.
- Ask medical staff to contact an advocate from the Victims Assistance Center.

As a victim, you have the right to:

- Press charges against the offender.
- Request the services of a rape crisis advocate from the Victims Assistance Center.
- Confidentiality in all the services you use.
- Know if the offender is being released from custody.
- Have a third party explain any medical or legal proceedings you don't understand.

*Designated comprehensive  
victims assistance program*

*Supported by New York State  
Office of Victim Services*

*Certified by New York State  
Office of Children and Family Services*

*Certified by the New York State  
Department of Health*

*Nationally Accredited Child Advocacy Center*

**If you would like to make a donation or are interested in volunteering, please visit our website or contact our office by telephone.**