



Victims Rights

At any moment you could become the victim of a crime. It happens to millions of Americans each year. Victims are people that we know: families trying to rebuild after financial fraud, grandparents living in the shadows of elder abuse, children whose right to safety has been stolen by violence or neglect. Many struggle to get help in the aftermath of a crime, and some never report their crime at all. Over the past 30 years, great strides have been made towards giving victims the right to be involved in their case. In Lewis County, advocates are available to help support and explain these rights, both in and out of court.

The State of New York enforces five main rights ...

- 1. The right to compensation and assistance:** Victims may file for monetary support due to a crime to help pay for medical bills, therapy, or even damages.
- 2. The right to be notified of judicial proceedings:** Victims are able to be notified of any court dates and have the right to be present at court proceedings.
- 3. The right to be involved in judicial processing:** Victims are able to contact the lawyer or District Attorney to receive information and updates on the statuses of their case.
- 4. The right not to be intimidated:** Victims are able to have an “order of protection” to protect them from their abuser.
- 5. The right to a Victim Impact Statement:** The victim is able to let the court know during sentencing how they were affected by the crime.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of a crime, has been abused or sexually assaulted and would like more information, please call Lewis County Opportunities' Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Program.

Support and therapy referral can be provided.

For more information call 376-8202 ext 4 or 376-4357 (HELP).