

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

Assisting and Educating Victims of Identity Theft and Fraud

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

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Statewide Non-Profit Organization assisting victims of
crime in Maryland.

- Offers comprehensive victim services to any victim of crime including identity theft and fraud.

History of Organization

- Private nonprofit.
- Grassroots organization founded by Vince and Roberta Roper after the murder of their daughter Stephanie in 1982.
- 25 years of assisting victims of crime.
- 70 pieces of legislation passed concerning victims' rights in Maryland since inception.

Objectives

- Appreciate the needs of victims of identity theft.
- Recognize the importance of filing a police report.
- Comprehend the resources available to assist in responding to victims of identity theft.

Definition of Victim

Maryland law defines a “victim” as a person who suffers—

- Actual
- Threatened
- Physical
- Emotional
- Financial harm as a direct result of a crime or delinquent act.

What Rights Do Victims Have?

- Maryland Constitution, Declaration of Rights, Article 47
- “(a) A victim shall be treated by agents of the State with dignity, respect, sensitivity.”

What Rights Do Victims Have?

- The **right to be notified** of a criminal justice proceeding.
- The **right to attend** criminal justice proceedings.
- The **right to be heard** at a criminal justice proceeding.
- The **right to request restitution.**

Guidelines for treatment of victim

- Criminal Procedure 11-1002
- Guidelines for treatment of victim of crime, victim's representative, or witness.
- A victim of a crime, victim's representative or witness:
 - (2) should receive crisis intervention help, if needed, or **be told by the appropriate criminal justice unit where crisis intervention help, emergency medical treatment, creditor intercession or other social services and counseling may be obtained.**

Who Can Be a Victim?

How Does Identity Theft Affect Victims?

- Why did this happen to me?
- The police don't care
- Anger/Frustration
- Vulnerable/Violated
- Helpless/Stressed
- Depressed
- Suicidal

How Does Identity Theft Effect Victims?

- **“We are largely invisible to law enforcement and the judicial system and often seen as victims of property crime or not seen as victims at all.”
—Jaimee Napp, victim of identity theft**

Jaimee Napp, Executive Director of the Identity Theft Action Council of Nebraska, *When Identity Theft Strikes Home, The Crime Victims Report (volume 12, No. 2. May/June 2008).*

What If Victims Need More Help?

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center,
Inc.



Why Refer to the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center?

- Identity Theft and Fraud Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.
- We provide free services.
- Direct Victim Services assist victims with—
 - Legal
 - Emotional
 - Financial consequences of crime

Direct Victim Services

- Victim Advocates
- Attorneys
- Therapist
- Access to Pro Bono Attorneys
- Partners with other nonprofit organizations:
 - National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI)
 - National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC)
 - Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC)

Victim Advocates

- Initial contact with victim
- Victim advocate conducts intake interview
- Needs are assessed
- Inform the victim of the first steps he or she needs to take to defend against identity theft:

Victim Advocates

- Information packets dispersed
- Court accompaniment and emotional support
- Financial loss assessed
- Encourage self-advocacy

Self-Advocacy for Victims

- Report identity theft immediately.
- Obtain copy of police report.
- Obtain a copy of credit report.
- Close compromised accounts.
- Place a fraud alert on credit report.

Counseling and Therapy Services

- Free therapy and counseling services to assist victims.
- Licensed therapist on staff at Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

Legal Services

- Assist victims with creditors.
- Work with credit report agencies to ensure paperwork is filed and accurate.
- Write letters and make followup contact on victims' behalf.

Legal Services

- Provide free direct legal representation to victims of identity theft and fraud in federal and Maryland state court.
- Mediation
- Access to pro bono attorneys

Other MCVRC Resources

- Act as technical consultant to law enforcement.
- Reach out to local community.
- Provide training programs and outreach to law enforcement and pro bono attorneys.

Contact Information

- **REFER THE VICTIM**

- **Federal and State Resources**

- **Federal Agency**

- **Federal Trade Commission**

- **www.ftc.gov/idtheft**

- **International Association of Chiefs of Police**

- **<http://investigateid.org/>**

- **www.idsafety.org**

Contact Information

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- 1-877-VICTIM 1
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Wrap Up

- Please Take The Police Report!



- Refer Victim to Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.!

*© No person can make a difference
and every person should try.*



Questions???

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