

Victims' Rights Brochure



MIRAMAR POLICE DEPARTMENT
11735 CITY HALL PROMENADE
MIRAMAR, FLORIDA 33025

EMERGENCY 911
Police Department (954) 602-4000
Victim Services (954) 602-4130

www.miramarpd.org

Victim/Witness Assistance

The Miramar Police Department is committed to providing comprehensive assistance to victims and witnesses of crimes through the Department's Victim Services Unit. The Victim Services Unit provides a variety of services to victims of all violent crime. The Victim Advocate is available to provide crisis intervention, death notification, assistance with safety planning and shelter, counseling, case management, referrals to community resources, criminal justice advocacy and support, coordination of translation services and assistance with the completion of Victim Compensation claim forms. Additionally, the Victim Advocate may also assist with information regarding transportation, parking and/or waiting areas for criminal proceedings.

Victim Rights

The Florida Constitution and Laws of Florida guarantees that crime victims or the next of kin of homicide victims have certain basic rights. These rights include:

- THE RIGHT to be informed, present and heard at all crucial stages of criminal and juvenile justice proceedings, to the extent that these rights do not interfere with the rights of the accused. Incarcerated victims have the right to be informed and to submit written statements at all crucial stages of the criminal and parole proceedings.
- THE RIGHT to be free from threats, intimidation, or harassment. It is unlawful to cause a witness/victim to be placed in fear by force, or threats of force; to make an assault upon any witness or informant; or to harm a witness by any unlawful act in retaliation. If you are threatened or intimidated, please contact the Miramar Police Department.
- THE RIGHT to ask for restitution (payment for financial loss as a result of a crime) from the defendant and information with regards to enforcement of the restitution order.
- THE RIGHT to request assistance in notification of creditors and employers with regards to financial hardships or absences resulting from the crime.
- THE RIGHT to a prompt and timely disposition of your case, provided that this right does not interfere with the rights of the accused.
- THE RIGHT to be notified of scheduling changes with regards to criminal or juvenile proceedings related to your case.
- THE RIGHT to be consulted by the State Attorney's Office, in certain felony cases, in order to secure your views about the disposition of your case.
- THE RIGHT to have a Victim Advocate accompany you to a deposition. Victims who are incarcerated will not be required to attend discovery depositions at any correctional facility.

- THE RIGHT to not be excluded from any portion of the hearing, trial, or proceeding based solely on the fact that you are subpoenaed to testify, unless the court determines that your presence is prejudicial.
- THE RIGHT to view certain portions of the pre-sentence investigation report, prior to sentencing of the accused.
- THE RIGHT to submit a written or oral Victim Impact Statement to the court.
- THE RIGHT to a prompt return of property unless there is a compelling law enforcement need to return the property. Photographs can be substituted with the State Attorney's Office approval.
- THE RIGHT of a victim or the victim's legal guardian, or the parent or legal guardian of a victim, if the victim is a minor, to request that a person who is charged with any offense enumerated in section 775.0877(1)(a)-(n), Florida Statutes, that involves the transmission of bodily fluids from one person to another, undergo hepatitis and HIV testing.
- THE RIGHT to have the courtroom cleared, with certain exceptions, during your testimony, regardless of your age or mental capacity, if you are a victim of a sexual offense.
- THE RIGHT of the victim to request the presence of a victim advocate during the forensic medical examination. An advocate from a certified rape crisis center shall be permitted to attend any forensic medical examination. No law enforcement officer, prosecuting attorney or government official shall ask or require a victim of a sexual offense to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth-telling device as a condition of the investigation.
- THE RIGHT in certain circumstances, to request that the offender attend a different school from the victim or victim's siblings.
- THE RIGHT to secure information regarding the Address Confidentiality Program administered by the Office of the Attorney General (800) 226-6667, if you are a victim of domestic violence.
- THE RIGHT to be provided with information regarding the victims right of standing and the State Attorney's Office with the consent of the victim to assert the rights of the victim.
- THE RIGHT to receive advance notice of the proceedings of the criminal and juvenile justice process.

Crimes Compensation

If you are physically or psychologically injured as a result of a crime, the victim, juvenile witness, or next of kin of a homicide victim, may be eligible for monetary reimbursement of incurred medical/dental expenses, wage loss, counseling expenses, funeral expenses, loss of support, domestic violence relocation expenses, and under special circumstances, property loss. Information

and assistance with Victim Compensation may be obtained from the Miramar Police Department's Victim Services Unit or through the Bureau of Victim Compensation at (800) 226-6667.

Notification of Arrest of the Suspect

Victims of a crime have a right to be notified of the arrest. When an arrest is made in a reported case, the arresting officer will make every attempt to notify the victim, witnesses, relatives of minor victims and witnesses, lawful representative of the victim, and next of kin of homicide victims provided that these individuals have supplied telephone numbers and addresses to the Police Department.

Notification of the Release or Escape of the Suspect

All Miramar Police Department Officers, will complete a Victim Notification form in all cases where a person is the victim of a crime. Upon the release or escape of the suspect, the victim will be contacted by the automated V.I.N.E. (Victim Information Notification Everyday) system, providing the details of the suspect's release. The victim may also contact this automated system to secure information regarding the suspect's custody status by calling 1 (877) 846-3435.

Victims, the victim's parent or guardian if the victim is a minor, or the homicide victim's next of kin will also receive advanced notification of judicial or post judicial proceedings related to the case including the release, work release, or release to community control of the accused. Victims of crime have a right to be notified of the release or escape of the suspect.

The Victim's Role in the Criminal Justice System

As a victim or witness, your role is critical. You have seen, heard, know or experienced something that is important to the investigation of this case. You may be interviewed by law enforcement to identify the suspect, help find the crime scene, identify stolen property, or provide other information that is pertinent to the investigation. Please keep the Miramar Police Department and/or The State Attorney's Office advised of any changes with your address and your telephone number so as you may be contacted if there are any developments in the case, or if further information is necessary.

Stages of the Criminal Justice System

Crime Committed

- Crime is reported to law enforcement.
- An investigation will be conducted.
- Evidence is collected.
- An arrest may be made if applicable.

Arrest

- A suspect is taken to jail, fingerprinted, and photographed.
- In some cases a suspect may be immediately released and must post a bond to guarantee that they will appear in court.
- In some cases a suspect must attend a First Appearance Hearing regarding release.

First Appearance (Magistrate)

- Usually occurs within 24 hours of an arrest.
- Each suspect that is held in jail must appear before a Judge who establishes whether the charges are reasonable.
- The Judge will also determine if a bond should be set and if so, the amount.
- The Judge will also consider release conditions for the suspect.

Filing of Formal Charges

- The State Attorney's Office will review all law enforcement reports. If charges are filed, a decision will usually be made within 21 days.
- If the facts and circumstances of the case do not warrant prosecution, The State Attorney's Offices will file a No-Information, a formal document indicating that charges are not being filed.
- The victim will be advised of the decision of The State Attorney's Office.

Arraignment

- The Defendant is formally charged with the crime and enters a plea of guilty, not guilty, or no contest.

Plea

- Defendant pleads guilty or no contest without a trial.
- If the defendant gives up his right to a trial and pleads guilty or no contest, the Prosecutor usually offers a reduced charge.

Trial Preparations

- The Prosecutor and the Defense Attorney interview witnesses and exchange evidence.

Trial

- Through a trial, a judge or jury of citizens will determine if the defendant is guilty or not guilty.
- At the trial both the defense attorney and the prosecuting attorney will present evidence and ask questions of the witnesses.

Sentencing

- If the defendant is found guilty, the Judge reviews the sentencing guidelines and determines what type of sentence the defendant should receive.

Cases Involving Juveniles

A juvenile arrested and charged with a misdemeanor or non-violent felony, may be released immediately into the custody of the parent or guardian. Juveniles charged with more serious crimes may go to a hearing within 24 hours to set conditions of release. Victims have the right to attend this hearing. For details regarding the stages of the juvenile system, please contact your law enforcement agency or the State Attorney's Office handling your case at (954) 831-6960.

Local Resources

As a victim of a crime, you may find the following resources helpful to you:

Police Emergency
911

Non-Emergency Police Dispatch
(954) 764-4357

Miramar Police Department
(954) 602-4000
www.miramarpd.org

Miramar Police Department
Victim Services Unit
(954) 602-4130

Miramar Social Services Department
(954) 889-2700
www.ci.miramar.fl.us/socialservices

211 Broward / First Call for Help
(Information and Referral Line)
211 or (954) 537-0211
www.211-broward.org

State Attorney's Office
(954) 831-6955
www.sao17.state.fl.us

State Attorney's Office
Victim Resource Center
(954) 765-4133

Broward Sheriff's Office
Pre-Trial Services Division
(954) 765-4251

Broward Sheriff's Office
Probation Division (Misdemeanor)
(954) 357-5900

Broward Sheriff's Office
Victim Notification Unit
(954) 321-4135

Broward Sheriff's Office
Confinement Status
(954) 831-5987

Florida Department of Corrections
Probation Division (Felony)
(954) 677-5900

Broward County Bar Association
Lawyer Referral and Information
Service
(954) 764-8310
www.browardbar.org/lawyer-referral-and-information-service

Nancy J. Cotterman Center
(Children's Advocacy Center and
Certified Rape Crisis Center)
(954) 357-5775
www.broward.org/humanservices/communitypartnerships/nancycottermancenter/Pages/Default.aspx

Women in Distress
of Broward County, Inc.
(Certified Domestic Violence Center/
Shelter)
(954) 761-1133
www.womenindistress.org

Family Court Services (Injunctions
aka Restraining Orders)
(954) 831-5570 or (954) 831-5579
www.clerk-17th-flcourts.org

Legal Aid Service of Broward County
and Coast to Coast Legal Aid
of South Florida
(954) 765-8950
www.legalaid.org

Henderson Behavioral Health Mobile
Crisis Response Team
(954) 463-0911
www.hendersonbh.org

For additional agencies and
services that may be helpful to you,
please contact the Miramar Police
Department's Victim Services Unit.

Statewide and National Resources

Florida Department of Children
and Families Abuse Hotline
1-800-96-ABUSE
www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/abuse-hotline

Florida Department of Corrections
Victim Services
1-877-884-2846
www.dc.state.fl.us/oth/victasst

Florida Bar Lawyer Referral Service
1-800-342-8060
www.floridabar.org/lawyerreferral

VINE (Victim Information
Notification Everyday)
1-877-846-3435
www.vinelink.com/vinelink/siteInfoAction.do?siteId=10000

Florida Office of the Attorney
General, Division of Victim Services
1-800-226-6667
www.myfloridalegal.com/victims

National Center for Missing and
Exploited Children
1-800-843-5678
www.missingkids.com/home

MADD
1-877-275-6233
www.madd.org

Federal Trade Commission Identity
Theft Hotline
1-877-ID-THEFT
<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft>

National Organization of Parents of
Murdered Children, Inc.
1-888-818-POMC
www.pomc

Notice of Legal Rights and Remedies for Victims or Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Repeat Violence, Sexual Violence, Stalking

IT ISN'T JUST WRONG. IT'S A CRIME. DID YOU KNOW?

- In Florida, a person is killed by a family member every 36 hours.
- Domestic Violence is the leading cause of injury to women.
- More than 124,000 incidents of domestic violence are reported in Florida each year, involving victims young and old, male and female.

YOU HAVE RIGHTS. KNOWING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD ENDING ABUSE.

What is Domestic Violence?

Under the provisions of Section 741.28 of the Florida Statutes domestic violence means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member. A family or household members are spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family, and persons who are parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have been married. With the exception of persons who have a child in common, the family or household members must be currently residing or have in the past resided together in the same single dwelling unit.

Domestic Violence includes:

- Physical Abuse Pushing slapping kicking punching choking & beating
- Emotional/Verbal Abuse - Verbal intimidation, credible threats, following and stalking, acting out in anger
- Sexual Abuse or Battery - Any unwanted touching or forcing of someone to engage in a sexual act against his or her will

What is Dating Violence?

Under the provisions of Section 784.046 of the Florida Statutes, dating violence is violence between individuals who have or have had a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. The existence of such

a relationship shall be determined based on the consideration of the following factors:

- A dating relationship must have existed within the past 6 months;
- The nature of the relationship must have been characterized by the expectation of affection or sexual involvement between the parties; and
- The frequency and type of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship must have included that the persons have been involved over time and on a continuous basis during the course of the relationship.

The term does not include violence in a casual acquaintanceship or violence between individuals who only have engaged in ordinary fraternization in a business or social context.

What is Sexual Violence?

Under the provisions of Section 784.046 of the Florida Statutes, sexual violence is one incident of:

- Sexual battery, as defined in chapter 794;
- A lewd or lascivious act, as defined in chapter 800, committed upon or in the presence of a person younger than 16 years of age;
- Luring or enticing a child, as described in chapter 787;
- Sexual performance by a child, as described in chapter 827; or

Any other forcible felony wherein a sexual act is committed or attempted, regardless of whether criminal charges based on the incident were filed reduced or dismissed by the state attorney.

What is Repeat Violence?

Under the provisions of Section 784.046 of the Florida Statutes, repeat violence means two incidents of violence or stalking one of which must have been within 6 months of filing a petition and must have been directed against the petitioner or the petitioner's immediate family member.

What is Stalking?

Under the provisions of Section 784.048 of the Florida Statutes, stalking occurs when a person willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harass, or cyber stalks another person. Aggravated stalking occurs when that person makes a credible threat to that person through stalking.

What Does the Law Mean?

You have the right to ask the State Attorney to file a criminal complaint, and you have the right to go to court and file a petition requesting an injunction for protection against domestic violence, repeat violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking if you are:

- The victim of domestic violence, repeat violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking
- The parent of any minor child living at home who is seeking an injunction for protection against domestic violence, repeat violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking OR
- If you have reasonable cause to believe, you or your minor child is in imminent danger of becoming the victim of any act of domestic violence.

This may include, but need not be limited to provisions that

- Direct the abuser to leave your household
- Restrain the abuser from any contact or further acts of abuse as a “no contact” condition of pretrial release, which will prevent the abuser from being within 500 feet of your residence, vehicle, school, business, or place of employment
- Award you custody of your minor child or children
- Direct the abuser to pay support to you and the minor child or children if the abuser has a legal obligation to do so

For safety reasons, you may furnish your address to the court in a separate confidential filing when filing the petition for injunction.

You are not required to remain in a residence or household where you are a victim of domestic violence. Your address may be different from that of your partner without penalty.

How Can the Law Help Me?

If you have been a victim of domestic violence, repeat violence, dating violence, sexual violence, stalking, or if you are afraid that you will be hurt, Florida’s domestic violence law enables you to work with the court system to help keep you safe. Contact your local domestic violence center for safety planning prior to filing for an injunction. The Clerk of the Court is required to assist you in seeking both injunctions for protection and enforcement for a violation of an injunction. Representation by an attorney is not required of either party as per Section 741.30(1)(f) of the Florida Statutes.

The process for securing an Injunction for Protection is as follows:

1. You may file for a temporary injunction from the Family Intake Unit, Room

248, Broward County Courthouse, 201 SE 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 (bring valid ID and information about where the abuser can be located). You may also e-file, to learn more about this go to www.clerk.17th.flcourts.org. Please note you can only e-file during regular operating hours for the Clerk’s Office.

2. Obtain a petition package for a Temporary Injunction for Protections Against Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Violence, Repeat Violence, or Stalking.
3. Upon completion, have a staff member review your paperwork.
4. After your paperwork is submitted, return to Room 248 to wait for your order.
5. When you receive your Temporary Injunction for Protection, keep a copy of it with you at all times. You will also receive an Emergency Service Package that may be used should you encounter the respondent prior to him or her being served with the injunction. If you are living with the person against whom you have secured an injunction, you may contact your local police department so as your injunction may be served immediately. Additionally, you should provide a copy of your injunction to the local police department. The abuser must be served by law enforcement, with the injunction, before it become effective. The injunction will tell the abuser what the judge requires and when to return to the court hearing.
6. You are able to request notification of service of the injunction and receive notice automatically within 12 hours after the injunction is served.
7. Report to the courtroom for your injunction hearing at the time and date indicated on your order. Check in with the court personnel and wait until your case is called. You may request the judge to issue a final injunction. It is important for you to attend the hearing so that you can make sure the judge understands exactly what help you need and why. If you do not attend, usually the judge will end the injunction.
8. After the hearing, a final injunction may be granted. The final injunction is valid until dissolved or amended by the court.

Violation of the Injunction

You will receive a copy of the injunction. Keep it with you at all times. Any violation of the conditions of the Injunction for Protection should be reported to law enforcement IMMEDIATELY. If it is an emergency, CALL 911. In some cases, an arrest can be made and criminal charges may be filed. If the abuser is arrested, he/she will be held until the court determines bail. The judge will consider you safety and the safety of your children. The court may order penalties as allowed by law. In addition to reporting to law enforcement, you may want to keep a personal logbook, documenting the details of each violation as it occurs.

If the injunction has been violated, report the violation to the Clerk of the Circuit Court only if law enforcement states it cannot issue an arrest warrant,

or issue a notice to appear because there is no criminal violation. Report the violation in the county where the violation occurred and complete an affidavit in support of the violation. The judge will determine what action should be taken for your safety and the safety of your children. Under the provisions of Section 741.315(2), Florida Statutes, if you have an out of state court order for protection against domestic violence, federal and state law provides that law enforcement recognize and act on the protections in the order as if issued by a Florida court, as long as the issuing court gave the accused the opportunity for a hearing before issuing the order. This includes orders issued by courts from the District of Columbia, Indian tribes, commonwealth territories, or possessions of the United States. If you relocate you should provide a copy of the Injunction for Protection to the local police department or sheriff's office.

Exemption from Public Inspection

Under the provisions of Section 119.071(2)(j) of the Florida Statutes any information which reveals the home or employment telephone number, home or employment address, or personal assets of a person who has been the victim of sexual battery, aggravated child abuse, aggravated stalking, harassment, aggravated battery, or domestic violence is exempt from public inspection and examination. You must make a written request and provide official verification, such as a law enforcement report, to the custodian of the records that an applicable crime has occurred. Such information shall remain exempt for 5 years, after which it will become available to the public.

Domestic Violence/Dating Violence

Domestic violence/dating violence is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through intimidation, fear, threats, and violence. Domestic violence may be committed by a spouse, ex-spouse, a live-in partner, or someone with whom you have a child. Dating violence may be committed by a person whom you have had a continuing and significant relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. Domestic violence/dating violence may include making threats, slapping, pushing, choking, holding you down, kicking, following you, forcing or pressuring you to have sex, or any other unwanted type of touching. If any of these things has happened to you, you may have feelings of helplessness, fear, shame, and anger. Your partner might make it worse by blaming you. There may be other problems in your home such as a lack money and concern for your children or other family members that make it hard to leave an abusive relationship. You cannot stop your partner's abuse, but you can get support and help for yourself.

Domestic Violence/Dating Violence Warning Signs

There are many ways to determine if your relationship is safe. Control, domination and violence are warning signs. Safety, equality and freedom are the domestic ideal. Living free of domestic violence/dating violence is your right. Review the following questions and consider you own relationship.

Does Your Partner:

- Embarrass you with bad names and put-downs?
- Look at you or act in ways that scare you?
- Use intimidation or threats to gain compliance?
- Tell you that you are nothing without him/her?
- Control what you do, who you see or talk to, or where you go?
- Stop you from seeing or talking to friends or family?
- Prevent you from keeping or getting a job?
- Call you several times a night/day or show up to make sure that you are where you said that you would be?
- Take your money, make you ask for money, or refuse to give you money?
- Make all the decisions?
- Tell you that you're a bad parent or threaten to take away your children?
- Act like the abuse is no big deal, tell you that it is your fault, or deny it happens?
- Use alcohol or drugs as an excuse for saying hurtful things or abusing you?
- Destroy your property?
- Threaten to hurt or kill your pets?
- Intimidate you with guns, knives, or other weapons?
- Grab, pinch, poke, push, shove, slap or hit you?
- Force you to perform unwanted sexual acts?
- Force you to drop criminal charges?
- Threaten to hurt or kill your children?
- Threaten to commit suicide if you leave?
- Threaten to kill you?

IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED YES TO EVEN ONE OF THESE QUESTIONS, YOU MAY BE IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP.

The Options

As the victim in an abusive relationship, you do not have the ability to control or change your partner's behavior. You do, however, have options that you can explore to help keep you and your family safe. Only you have the ability to determine with whom you may safely discuss your situation and possible options. It is a good idea to speak to people who may be able to help you before a crisis occurs so that you have a plan as well as an idea of resources that may be able to assist you. Friends or family members who support your decisions

and who are keeping your safety in mind may be a good resource. Victim Advocates, Counselors, Clergy-persons, or Police Officers can also provide you with information, support, and referrals to local agencies that help victims of domestic violence.

The following are options that you may want to consider:

- Stay in the abusive relationship and continue to endure the violence. In most cases, abuse becomes more frequent and severe. You must ask yourself if staying in your present situation is worth it. Is this the way you want to live? Is this what you want your children to learn and see?
- End the relationship. If you choose to end the relationship, there are programs and individuals who are willing to assist you with many of your needs.

Safety Planning

Whatever decision you make, safety planning needs to be explored. As safety planning is extremely important, it is a good idea for you to seek assistance from a Victim Advocate or person who specializes in working with domestic violence/dating violence victims so that you may discuss your safety concerns and options. The following are measures that you can take to increase your safety and prepare in advance for further violence.

Safety While Living with the Abuser:

- Have an escape route and practice how to get out of the house.
- Try to avoid an abusive situation by leaving.
- Identify safe areas of the house where there are no weapons and where there are always ways to escape. When an argument occurs, attempt to move to these areas.
- Keep all weapons and guns locked up and as inaccessible as possible.
- If possible, have a phone accessible at all times and know the numbers to call for help. Know where the nearest pay phone is located. Keep change on hand at all times in the event that you have to use a pay phone.
- Keep money, keys, important telephone numbers, and any other necessary items in the same place in order to assist you in leaving quickly.
- Discuss safety with your children. Identify a safe place for them. Teach children how to dial the telephone to call 911, make collect, local, and long distance calls. Use a code word with children to signal them to call for help or leave the house. Teach them how to get out of the home quickly. Reassure children that their job is to stay safe, not protect you.

Safety While Living Away from the Abuser:

- If you have moved to a new location, be aware that if you provide your address on a police report, injunction or other official document, your abuser may be able to obtain your address. Consider requesting that your address be kept confidential. Request information from a Victim Advocate regarding the Address Confidentiality Program, as well as an explanation of the exemption from public record guidelines and procedures.
- Change your telephone number and request that it be unlisted.
- Contact utility, telephone, and other companies with whom you do business and advise them that you are now living on your own and that your abuser does not have the authority to make changes on your accounts.
- Vary your daily routine as much as possible. Change the routes that you travel to work and your children's school. Utilize different stores and frequent different social spots.
- Consider changing your working hours if possible. Inform your coworkers and supervisor about your situation. Request an escort to and from your car, if possible.
- If you do not have one, consider securing a cellular telephone. Discuss with a Victim Advocate, options for securing a free emergency cellular telephone.
- Consider changing your children's school. Advise the school of your situation and provide a copy of your injunction. Complete a new emergency contact card and identify individuals who are and are not allowed to pick-up your children.
- Alert your neighbors of your situation. If your injunction prohibits the abuser from coming to your home, provide this information to the neighbors and instruct them to contact the police should they see your abuser in your neighborhood. If you live in a gated community with a Security Guard, advise the Security Guard that your abuser is not to be given access to the neighborhood. Provide a copy of your injunction so that it can be kept in the guard booth.
- Install new deadbolt locks on doors.
- Secure all windows and sliding glass doors with bars, locks, poles to wedge against doors, or an electronic alarm system.
- If you already have a security / alarm system, change the code.
- Trim all trees, hedges and bushes for better outside vision.
- Replace wooden doors with metal doors
- Install an outside lighting system at a height that would discourage removal.
- Install smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

Domestic Violence Relocation Program/ Sexual Violence Relocation Program

If a Police Officer has written a police report indicating that you have been a victim of a domestic violence or sexual violence related crime, you may be eligible to receive financial assistance for the purpose of relocating, through the Florida Office of the Attorney General, Crime Victim Compensation Program. Information regarding this program and eligibility criteria may be secured from the Miramar Police Department's Victim Services Unit or The Bureau of Victim Compensation. For domestic violence related cases, you may also contact a certified domestic violence center. For sexual assault cases, you may also contact a certified rape treatment center.

Domestic Violence Shelters

If you are involved in an abusive relationship and believe that you are no longer able to safely live in your home, you may be able to secure assistance with shelter for you and your children through the following programs:

- Women in Distress (954) 761-1133
- Aid to Victims of Domestic Violence (561) 265-2900
- Safe Space (305) 758-2546
- National Domestic Violence Hotline (800) 799-7233

Domestic Violence and Children

More than half of all victims of domestic violence are living in homes with children under the age of 12. Domestic violence is a learned behavior. As children grow up and learn about right and wrong, they learn the most from people who are closest to them, usually their parents. Children need to learn that violent behavior is unacceptable and not an appropriate way to deal with anger and frustration. Children who are exposed to violence in their homes are more likely to display the same type of behavior as adults. Additionally, in a national survey of over 2,000 families, 50 percent of the abusers who frequently battered their partners, also abused their children. Counseling is available for children who have been exposed to domestic violence. You may want to explore counseling options with a Victim Advocate or other professional familiar with domestic violence.

Children who are exposed to domestic violence may be affected in the following ways:

Age Group 0-1 Year

- Physical injury or death
- Fear
- Trauma
- Sleep disturbances
- Eating disturbances
- Colic or Sickness
- Nervousness, jumpiness, extreme crying
- Insecurity
- Inability to cuddle or be responsive
- Premature birth
- Failure to thrive

Age Group 2-4 Years

- All effects listed for ages 0-1
- Acting out violently
- Withdrawal
- Problems relating to other children
- Delayed toileting
- Insecurity
- Depression

Age Group 5-12 Years

- Physical injury or death
- Fear
- Insecurity, low self-esteem
- Withdrawal
- Depression
- Running away

- Early interest in alcohol or drugs
- School problems
- Overachievement
- Bed-wetting
- Sexual activity
- Becoming a caretaker of adults
- Violence
- Developing problems to divert parents from fighting
- Embarrassment of family

Age Group 13-18

- School problems
- Social problems
- Shame and embarrassment of family
- Sexual activity and/or pregnancy
- Tendency to develop serious relationships in order to escape home
- Truancy
- Overachievement in school
- Depression
- Suicide
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Confusion regarding gender roles
- Abusiveness or violence in own relationships
- Belief that violence is normal in relationships
- Attacking mother, father or siblings

Resources

For a list of agencies and services that may be able to assist you, please refer to the Victim's Rights portion of this brochure or contact the Miramar Police Department's Victim Service Unit.

Victims' Rights/ Notice of Legal Rights and Remedies for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Repeat Violence, Sexual Violence and Stalking Brochure Receipt

I, _____, acknowledge receipt of the Victims' Rights/ Notice of Legal Rights and Remedies for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Repeat Violence, Sexual Violence, Stalking provided by the Miramar Police Department.

Victim's Signature

Date

As per Florida State Statute, if you are a victim of one of the crimes listed below, you have the right to have information about your home address and telephone number, your employment address and telephone numbers and your personal assets, kept confidential for a period of five (5) years.

_____ Sexual Battery

_____ Aggravated Child Abuse

_____ Aggravated Stalking

_____ Harassment

_____ Aggravated Battery

_____ Domestic Violence

_____ I want the information to be confidential

_____ I do not want the information to be confidential

Victim's Signature

Case Number

Officer's Name

ID#

Date

