**Who we are**

Victim Services is a police-based support unit providing services to victims of crime, with a focus on domestic and sexualized violence.

The Unit is comprised of civilian employees and volunteers who work with police members.

**What we do**

Victim Services responds to:
- Assault (including domestic & sexual)
- Break and enter/home invasion
- Homicide
- Robbery
- Sudden death
- Suicide
- Criminal harassment/stalking
- Other traumatic incidents

**Contact us**

Business hours are 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Phone:** 902.490.5300  
**Text:** 902.497.4709 (for hearing impaired)  
**Email:** victimservices@halifax.ca
Victim Services Unit

The Unit’s role is to work collaboratively with police officers to assist victims of crime.

How we make contact with victims:
- Telephone follow up by staff
- Police office referral
- Victim initiates contact by phone
- On-scene response

Services:
- Case information
- Crisis intervention
- Emotional support
- Referrals
- Advocacy
- On-scene response
- Safety planning
- Short-term follow up by counsellors
- Liaise with police officers
- High Risk Domestic case management
- Community/public education & training
- Police training

Remember:
- You DO NOT deserve to be assaulted for any reason.
- You are not to blame.
- You are not alone.

Police response to domestic violence

Police are required to respond and fully investigate all incidents of spousal or intimate partner violence.

Police will charge the abuser when:
- A person states s/he was abused
- And/or there is evidence of abuse

If one, or both, of these conditions are met, the partner or spouse can be removed from the home.

Police have phone numbers and information about people who can help.

If a Peace Bond, Emergency Protection Order, or Undertaking/Recognizance is broken, and police are called, have a copy of the order available to show the officers.

If you are afraid and need to return home for personal items, police will go with you.

General questions in non-emergency situations:
Please phone:
- Non-emergency dispatch at 902.490.5020
- Halifax Regional Police Victim Services at 902.490.5300

If police have pressed charges against your partner or ex-partner, someone from HRP Victim Services will contact you to provide information on your case and refer you to community agencies.

Police response to sexual violence

If you have recently been sexually assaulted:
- Call the police as soon as you can.
- Use 911 if the situation is still dangerous or if you need immediate assistance. Call 902.490.5020 if you are out of immediate danger.
- Know you are not alone. You can call the hospital, Avalon Sexual Assault Centre, or a Victim Services worker to assist you in filing a report.
- Call SANE nurses within 120 hours (or five days) for the collection of physical evidence (forensic medical exam), or a medical exam to check your health.

You can still report a sexual assault even if it happened a long time ago:
- Even if you can’t remember everything that happened
- Even if you think there is no evidence

The police are not required to lay charges when you report a sexual assault. This choice is yours alone. You may report and choose not to press charges. Your decision can also be altered at any point.

Some information the police will want to know includes:
- Who assaulted you?
- What was said?
- How were you sexually assaulted?
- Were there any witnesses?