

Emergency Numbers

POLICE: 911

Police will respond and fully investigate all complaints of family disturbances and sexual violence.

Community and social services: 211

Information on government and community based health and social services.

Avalon Sexual Assault Centre

24-hour crisis line/SANE response line: 902.425.0122

Business line: 902.422.4240

SANE business line: 902.422.6503

Crisis line for immediate sexual assaults (within five days) and counselling.

Bryony House

24-hour crisis line: 902.422.7650

Community outreach: 902.429.9003

Administration: 902.423.7183

Crisis line for support, counselling and shelter for abused women and their children.

Domestic violence 24-hour toll free line:

1.855.225.0220

For victims and/or concerned individuals to get information and ask questions on domestic violence. Initiative of Neighbours, Friends & Families.

Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team: 902.429.8167

24-hour support in a mental health crisis.

More Help in Halifax Regional Municipality

Addiction/drug dependency: 902.424.5623

Individual, family and group counseling for adults affected by alcohol, drugs and gambling.

Adsum House: 902.423.4443

Shelter for homeless women and their children.

Alcoholics Anonymous: 902.461.1119

Alice Housing: 902.466.8459

Second stage safe housing and counselling for abused women and their children.

Barry House: 902.422.8324

Shelter for homeless women and their children.

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Child Protection

Halifax: 902.425.5420 | Dartmouth: 902.424.3298

Bedford/Sackville: 902.869.3600

Communities Addressing Suicide Together:

902.466.6600

Information and support for survivors of suicide loss.

Coverdale: 902.422.6417

For women in conflict with the law.

Dept. of Justice Victim Services: 902.424.3307

Information, support and assistance as your case moves through the courts.

Emergency Protection Orders: 1.866.816.6555

For victims of domestic violence in an emergency.

Family Benefits/Social Assistance: 902.424.4150

Family Court – Halifax: 902.424.3990

Summary Advice Counsel: 902.424.5616

Family Law Info Program Centre: 902.424.5232

Family Services Association: 902.420.1980

Counseling services.

ISANS: 902.423.3607

Services for immigrants and refugees.

Kids Help Phone: 1.800.668.6868

Legal Info Society of NS: 902.455.3135

Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Society: 902.420.1576

Support and social-based programming.

New Start Counseling: 902.423.4675

Counselling and support for men who are abusive, and their partners.

NS Legal Aid (Family Law)

Halifax: 902.420.3450 | Dartmouth: 902.420.7921

Provincial Court

Halifax: 902.424.8718 | Dartmouth: 902.424.2390

Stepping Stone: 902.420.0103

Support and assistance for sex workers.

Youth Project: 902.429.5429

Support and services to youth (under 25) around issues of sexual orientation and gender identity.

VICTIM SERVICES



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 or
- 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?