

## **VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMIZATION**

People who have not personally experienced victimization may never fully understand the painful reality and consequences of being a victim. No one ever expects or seeks to become a victim. Victims often experience many difficult emotions. In some cases, they may be so traumatized that it can be challenging to care for themselves and resume their daily activities.

A violent, unexpected death of a family member, intimate partner, or close friend can be one of the most traumatic experiences a person can face, and it prompts a wide range of emotional reactions. Co-victims also may find that the “normal” grief of losing a loved one is further complicated by the trauma or stigma of the crime.

Violent crime victims may face extensive physical, emotional, and financial consequences from the crime. Some victims may not die but could face serious or permanent injuries. Even if they were not seriously physically injured, they have faced the possibility of death and fears of leaving behind loved ones. These fears and the potential physical aspects of the victimization may have a significant immediate and long-term emotional impact on victims.

## **RESOURCES:**

**Maricopa County Victim/Witness Division**  
602-506-8522

**Maricopa County Medical Examiner’s Office**  
602-506-1138

**Maricopa County Victim Compensation**  
602-506-4955

**Maricopa County Sheriffs Office**  
**Victim Notification Unit**  
602-876-8276

**Parents of Murdered Children (POMC)**  
602-254-8818

**New Song Center for Grieving Children**  
480-951-8985  
[newsongcenter.org](http://newsongcenter.org)

**Crisis Preparation and Recovery, Inc.**  
**(Glendale Office)**  
623-930-3453

**MISS Foundation**  
602-279-6477  
[misschildren.org](http://misschildren.org)

**24 hour Crisis Hotline**  
602-222-9444

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**GLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **ROBBERY**

Anyone can become a victim of robbery. It is the second most committed violent crime in the United States. Robberies occur in almost any setting: on the street, in the home, on public transportation, or in a business such as a store, hotel or gas station.

A robbery can be a frightening, life threatening situation. How victims react to robbery varies from person to person. Although you may feel as if you are the only one experiencing these feelings and no one else can understand what you are going through, remember your reactions are normal.

## **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT**

Assault—an unlawful physical attack or threat of attack—is the most common violent crime in the United States.

Aggravated Assault is an attack, with or without a weapon, resulting in serious physical injury, such as a broken bone, lost teeth, or internal injuries. The definition also includes a threat or attempted attack with a deadly weapon, such as a gun or knife, resulting in no physical harm.

If you were assaulted, your emotional reactions may be immediate or delayed. Some feelings subside within a few days, while others continue for some time or resurface after being triggered by another event. You may feel shock that this could happen to you and guilt that you could not prevent it.

## **HOMICIDE**

Homicide is the willful, intentional killing of one human being by another, including murder, manslaughter, and vehicular homicide. Survivors of homicide victims, also called co-victims, are generally defined as the family members, friends, and other loved ones of the victim. They feel the life changing impact of the trauma, hardship, devastation, and loss that result from the crime.

Many families must contend with financial issues as a result of the crime. You and your family may need to quickly plan and pay for a funeral and cope with the loss of income resulting from the death of the family's primary wage earner. Each state administers a victim compensation program that may provide you with financial reimbursement for expenses such as funeral and burial costs, counseling expenses, medical care, and lost wages.

The investigation and criminal justice process following a homicide may be confusing and traumatic for co-victims. Family and friends may have questions about the manner in which their loved one died. It is important for you and your family members to stay in contact with the investigators and the victim assistance professionals assigned to the case.

## **HELPING VICTIMS BECOME SURVIVORS**

**The Glendale Victim Assistance Unit (VAU) specializes in helping crime victims deal with the emotional impact of their victimization. This includes helping victims understand and overcome any post-traumatic stress reactions.**

### **Victim Assistance staff can:**

- Help you access counseling resources
- Explain your rights as a crime victim
- Answer questions about the investigation or prosecution of your case
- Coordinate outside professional and/or community resources
- Assist you in restoring stability in your life

**If you or your family is having trouble dealing with what has happened and the impact of the traumatic event, please remember we are always here to help.**

**Contact us at 623-930-3030.**

