

## **LPPD Offers Assistance to Victims**



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Being the victim of a crime is an unfortunate and stressful experience for anyone. In an effort to help crime victims in our community, the La Porte Police Department maintains a Victim Assistance Program, which provides much welcomed aid to those in need.

The Victim's Assistance Program is mostly funded through a grant from the Texas Attorney General's Office and is designed to help victims of crime rebuild their lives.

The Victim Assistance Program strictly adheres to the belief that no victim should be alone.

The police department's program exists to assist crime victims and shield them from both the short and long-term traumas which all too often accompany victimization.

To this end, the Victim Assistance Program offers several specialized services, such as crisis counseling and intervention, criminal justice support and advocacy, victims' rights notification, or simple acts of kindness which can only come from listening and providing emotional support.

"We just try to put ourselves in their shoes," said La Porte Police Victim Assistance Liaison Carol Scott. "Of course we wish we could fix everything and give them a fresh start, but unfortunately that's just not always possible. Still, we can provide support and do whatever we can to help in the recovery process. I believe deep down that's what we're all called to do."

The La Porte Police Department's Victims Assistance Program focuses on crimes involving bodily injury and has been coordinated by Scott since it began in 2002. Services typically begin as soon as patrol officers provide on-scene literature to victims and the process is later completed by the Victims Assistance Liaison. Services are also offered after the Liaison makes a daily review of known criminal incidents and then places calls to all known victims. Additionally, victims can initiate their own contact with the Victims Assistance Liaison by stopping by or calling the police department for an appointment. Both La Porte officers and the Victims Assistance Liaison help victims make sense of what's happening and advise them what to do. Whether help is provided through the completion of the required State Crime Victim Compensation Forms or through the implementation of a personal safety plan for the injured parties, police department employees are available to complete the process of ensuring that those affected by crime receive the assistance they need.

A crime victim consists of everyone from the person directly affected to those who may have simply been a witness. The Victims Assistance Program is designed to provide a sympathetic ear, while continually assisting in all areas of psychological, financial, and medical recovery. The term "survivor" is earned, but with the help of the police department's Victim Assistance

Program, citizens can achieve the title with much less sorrow and much greater satisfaction. For more information, please contact the La Porte Police Department's Victim Assistance Liaison, Carol Scott, at 281-842-3172 or log onto the department's website, located at <a href="https://www.laportetx.gov/gov/police/">www.laportetx.gov/gov/police/</a> and click on the link titled "Victim Assistance."