Victim Services Mission Statement

The Leander Police Department Victim Services Division is committed to protecting the rights of and providing services to all victims of violent crimes and accidents. Through crisis intervention, advocacy, education, information, and referral, the goal is to help alleviate the psychological and emotional trauma incurred because of the crime or serious accident. Addressing these needs will in turn facilitate the victims', survivors', and witnesses' recovery, willingness, and ability to cooperate with the Criminal Justice System in the investigation and prosecution of criminal activity.

Victim Services responds to and can assist with the following incidents:

- Deaths
- Sexual Assaults
- Citizen Assistance
- Family Violence
- Child Abuse (Physical and Sexual)
- Elderly Abuse
- Robbery
- Displaced Persons
- Assault
- House Fires
- Motor Vehicle Crash w/ Serious Injury or Death
- DWI/DUI Incidents w/ Serious Injury or Death

Leander Police Department

705 Leander Drive

Leander, Texas 78641

Police Station Main: 512-528-2800

Victim Services: 512-528-2872

LEANDER POLICE DEPARTMENT

VICTIM SERVICES

"Dedicated to Serving the Leander Community."

CPPD Victim Services Division

The Leander Police Department Victim Services Division serves a dual function of assisting victims of violent crimes and assisting detectives who investigate crimes. Our primary purpose is to alleviate the psychological and emotional trauma experienced as a result of violent crime. Our services provide information & referral, crisis counseling regarding normal reactions to trauma, and a contact person for the victim or family survivor. Addressing these needs will in turn reduce the short term and long term effects of the trauma while helping to facilitate the victims' willingness and ability to cooperate with the Criminal Justice System in the investigation and prosecution of crimes. Our goal is to assist people who are victimized by violent crimes in a professional, compassionate, and helpful manner.

This unit is staffed by a full time Victim Services Coordinator. This coordinator is on-call 24-hours a day, 7-days a week to provide on-scene crisis intervention, resource referrals, follow-up contact, assistance with filing Crime Victims' Compensation, criminal justice advocacy, court accompaniment, hospital accompaniment, as well as assisting victims with other pertinent needs.

Services Offered 24/7

- On-Scene Crisis Intervention
- Information and Referral
- Crime Victim Compensation Assistance
- Court Accompaniment
- Temporary Child Custody
- Hospital Accompaniment
- Children's Advocacy Center Accompaniment
- Shelter Assistance
- Food Vouchers
- Gas/Hotel/Bus Assistance

Victim Services Volunteers

In order to meet the extensive needs of our community with such a small staff, we utilize specially trained volunteers. Victim Services Advocates work various shifts, 7-days a week and respond to a wide range of calls such as: homicide, suicide, accidental death, robbery, sexual assault, family violence, as well as others. These unpaid, volunteers are trained to assist with death notifications, provide crisis intervention and education, and other relevant services.

Victim Services Volunteers are well trained and committed to assisting and serving members of their community whose lives have been touched by a tragic event. These are caring individuals who are willing to share their time, knowledge, and insights in order to help guide and assist others through a very difficult time. The coordinator is readily available to support the volunteers at all times.

Victim Services Volunteers

Victim Services Volunteers must attend and successfully complete the 40-hour Victim Services Volunteer Academy and participate in ride outs with a least two different patrol officers during three different 12-hour shifts. These ride outs give the volunteer a chance to see "patrol duties" up close and it gives the officers a chance to evaluate how the volunteer responds. Training instruction includes topics such as: homicide, suicide, sexual assault, crisis intervention strategies, victim issues, as well as a wide range of other topics.

Application Process

Interested volunteers can begin the process by completing the victim services volunteer application and background packet and returning it to the

Victim Services Coordinator. A thorough background investigation, criminal history check and interview will be conducted prior to an applicant's submission to the Victim Services Volunteer Academy. Upon completing the academy, the volunteer serves as a probationary volunteer for three months.

Contact Information

Individuals interested in serving the Leander community as a Victim Services Volunteer can contact Mirna Johnson, Victim Services Coordinator at (512) 528-2872 for further questions.