

Profile of the Week



CALEDON \ DUFFERIN VICTIM SERVICES

What We Do:

Caledon\Dufferin Victim Services offers a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week short term crisis support, practical assistance and an information and referral program to victims of crime, tragic circumstance and disaster. Our mandate is to lessen the impact of crime and tragedy, increase the victim's level of empowerment, increase the victim's safety, help prevent re-victimization, connect victims with appropriate community services and assist police and other emergency service providers in meeting a victim's emotional and practical needs.

Services Offered:

The key services that Caledon\Dufferin Victim Services offers are:

SUPPORT:

On Scene Support

May be delivered on-scene at homes, police stations, Victim Services offices, hospitals, shelters, courts or at another "safe" location. This is face to face interaction between representatives of the agency and victim(s).

Emotional Support

- Listening.
- Validation.
- Assistance in gathering natural supports.
- Identification of options/choices.

Practical Assistance

- Transportation.
- Accompaniment.
- Safety planning.
- Victim Impact Statements.
- Criminal Injuries Compensation.
- DVERS personal alarms.
- SupportLink pre-programmed cell phones.

Caledon/Dufferin Victim Services also provides telephone support, email support, court support, community support, school and community education programs.

SAFETY PLANNING:

Caledon\Dufferin Victim Services encourages individuals to be more conscious of their personal safety in various surroundings. To accomplish this, the organization provides comprehensive safety planning and offers programs that improve an individual's safety status while increasing self confidence. The agency's safety plan, "*A Guide for Victims of Domestic Violence*", attempts to create a safer environment at home, at work, in the community and while travelling. The agency has also produced a comprehensive 30 minute Safety Planning DVD. DVD's are available to the public on a loan basis or may be viewed online in the Resources section of the Caledon\Dufferin Victim Services website. (www.cdvs.ca)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM (DVERS):

Domestic Violence Emergency Response System (DVERS) home alarms are personal alarm systems installed in the homes of victims who are deemed at serious risk of violence or death by an estranged partner.

SUPPORTLINK:

This program provides comprehensive safety planning, follow-up telephone contact, and where appropriate, a wireless cell phone, pre-programmed to dial 9-1-1 in an emergent situation.

VICTIM QUICK RESPONSE PROGRAM (VQRP):

VQRP has been established by the Ministry of the Attorney General, Ontario Victim Services Secretariat, to provide financial assistance to victims of homicide (including attempted murder), serious physical assault, domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes. Immediate financial assistance is available to victims of violent crimes who require financial support that cannot be obtained through other sources.

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