IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF A CRIME

We want to provide you with a better understanding of information and resources available to you as a victim of a crime.

Your BIA Victim Specialist may be able to provide additional information, resources and appropriate referrals to help make this process easier for you.

VICTIM INFORMATION

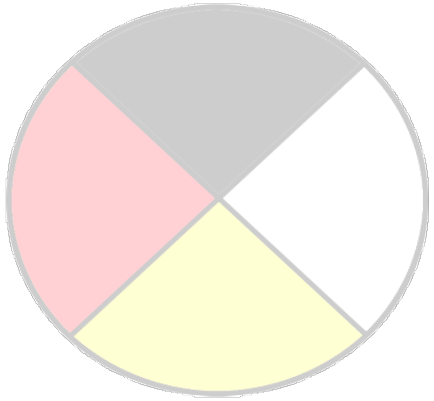
As victim services professionals, we are concerned about the effects often experienced by victims of crime. Most people have at least some reaction to having been involved in a crime, such as anger, confusion and fear.

Other physical and emotional reactions may include any the following:

Physical reactions may include, but are not limited to- shock, lack of energy, difficulties eating or sleeping, nausea, anxiety, sweating, rapid breathing, muscle tension, increased heart rate, headaches and nightmares.

Emotional reactions may include, but are not limited to- disbelief, shame, denial, depression, questioning of faith, sorrow and feeling powerless.

These reactions are normal and may eventually subside. However, help is available if any of these symptoms continue. Your BIA Victim Specialist may be able to provide information, resources and referrals to help you cope with any of these reactions.



WHEN TO SEEK ADDITIONAL HELP

- When your emotions feel dull or numb
- When you are experiencing depression, anxiety or thoughts of harming yourself or others
- When you cannot sleep for long periods of time OR if you are sleeping for unusually long periods of time
- When you feel these reactions are interfering with your life functioning

If you feel overwhelmed by what has happened, now is the time to seek the help you need. Reach out to your BIA Victim Specialist or Tribal/local victim services for appropriate referrals, or reach out directly to counseling services.

IF YOU ARE THREATENED OR HARRASSED

If you are being threatened or harassed because of your cooperation with this investigation, contact Law Enforcement immediately to discuss your concerns.

THE MISSION OF THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE SERVICES:

To provide justice services and technical assistance to federally recognize Indian tribes and communities, and to respect and protect sovereignty through promotion of self-determination

BIA VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The BIA Office of Justice Services established the victim services program specifically for victims located within Indian Country. This program was created in part due to the unique challenges encountered when crimes occur in Indian Country and to help fill the gap between Federal and tribal court systems.

The BIA Victim Assistance Program can offer direct services to victims including: crisis intervention, emotional support, assessment of victim needs, on-scene response, appropriate referrals and information for mental and emotional health and other types of specialized responses, appropriate transportation, court accompaniment and follow-up for services needed as a result of the crime.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

_____
(Name)

_____
(Bureau/Office)

_____
(Telephone Number)

_____
(Report/Incident Number)

BIA VICTIM SPECIALIST

_____
(Name)

_____
(Telephone Number)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

_____
_____
_____
_____

Information for Victims of Crime

BIA Victim
Assistance Program

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Office of Justice Services