

Common Feelings and Experiences after the Loss of a Loved One to Homicide

- Feelings of anger and revenge
- Feelings of guilt
- Feelings of isolation
- Feelings of bitterness
- Feelings of injustice
- Feelings that the media coverage is intrusive
- Coping with false or sensational media coverage
- Constantly reliving the experience through the media and/or legal system
- Frustration with the legal system
- Lack of answers or helpful information
- Financial burdens and stress
- Body of the deceased may not be released to family if used for evidence or if an autopsy is performed
- Strain on relationships
- Legal process may take weeks, months or years, hence prolonging or disrupting the grieving process

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS ALONE

This brochure prepared by:
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Free confidential counseling and advocacy for crime victims

Survivors of Homicide: Informational Guide

Information regarding end of life details,
victim resources and grieving for those who
have lost a loved one to homicide



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After a Homicide: Steps for Survivors

1. Plan for funeral arrangements. The funeral home will be able to provide guidance concerning the obituary and how to obtain a death certificate.
2. Find and collect important documents of the deceased, including deeds, bank accounts, safe deposit box, wills, trusts, insurance policies, investments, bills, credit cards, and other information about assets and liabilities.
3. Notify:
 - Employers
 - Medical and health providers
 - Insurance companies (auto, home, life)
 - Social Security Administration (1-800-772-1213)
4. Check with present and previous employers and file for any survivors' benefits that may be payable, such as life insurance, accidental death insurance, pension benefits or Worker's Compensation.
5. Fill out the New York State Office of Victim Services application for potential compensation. The Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center (CVSVC) can assist you in obtaining and filling out an application.
6. Along the way, take care of yourself and those surviving the loss. Seek counseling or support from your family, friends, church or community.

Albany County Coroner's Office
518-445-7604

Contact the Albany County District Attorney's Office if you have questions about the courts and the legal system.
518-487-5460

Resources

Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center
Office: 518-447-7100

Email: cvsvc@albanycounty.com

Website: www.albanycounty.com/cvsvc

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National Center for Victims of Crime
1-800-FYI-CALL (1-800-394-2255)

Jenkins, Bill. (2001) 3rd Ed. What to Do When the Police Leave: A Guide to the First Days of Traumatic Loss
USA: William S. Jenkins

Citizens Against Homicide:
www.citizensagainsthomicide.org

Local Support Groups

Family and Friends of Homicide Victims
1st Tuesday of every month from 6-8 pm
Pastoral Center, 40 North Main Avenue, Albany, NY
518-357-2823

Parents of Murdered Children and Other Survivors of
Homicide Victims (Albany chapter)
3rd Monday of every month from 7-9 pm
Woodlawn Reformed Church, 1858 State Street
Schenectady, NY
518-377-1660

The Compassionate Friends
(grief support following the death of a child)
3rd Tuesday of every month 7:30 pm
Westminster Presbyterian Church
85 Chestnut Street, Albany, NY
518-439-0346