

HOW DO I BECOME A VOLUNTEER VICTIM ADOCCATE?

To become a Volunteer Victim Advocate you must satisfactorily complete several steps before becoming qualified to serve as an advocate:

- 1. Complete an application and questionnaire to be submitted to the Victim Services Program; an interview may be required.*
- 2. Provide three references and have a satisfactory reference check completed.*
- 3. Complete an application for volunteer employment at Mountain Comprehensive Care and be approved for volunteer status by MCCC Human Resources Department and the HRD Director.*
- 4. Complete and pass a criminal records check.*
- 5. Complete a 40-hour Volunteer Victim Advocate training.*
- 6. Be approved for volunteer employment by the Program Director and the Volunteer Coordinator.*

Please call the Volunteer Coordinator at 886-4323, for additional information or to receive an application packet.

Between 1995-1996 more than 670,000 women were the victim of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault. [National Crime Victimization Survey, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Justice 1997.]

In the year 2001, more than half a million American women (588,490) were victims of nonfatal violence committed by an intimate partner. [Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief, Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001, 2/2003.]

Every person has the right to:

...say no to sex and abuse

...to have all relationships free from violence

...access to factual information concerning interpersonal violence; including partner abuse, rape and incest

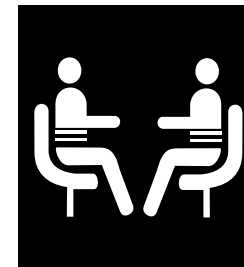
...access to partner abuse and rape prevention techniques and information

**Mountain Comprehensive Care Center
Victim Services Program**

104 South Front Avenue
Prestonsburg, Kentucky
41653

Phone: (606) 886-4397
Fax: (606) 886-4316

**Volunteer
Victim
Advocate
Program**



**Mountain Comprehensive
Care Center
Victim Services Program**

**Phone: (606) 886-4397
Toll Free: 1-800-422-1060**

What is the Volunteer Victim Advocate Program?

The Volunteer Victim Advocate Program provides a number of important services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. The program works in cooperation with area S.A.N.E. programs, to provide victim assistance in each of the five hospitals. The volunteer is called into the hospital once the victim indicates they would like an advocate to assist them. Volunteer Victim Advocates are often the only person who can focus entirely on the victim. They help make the victim as comfortable as possible, they help make sure the victim understands everything that is happening, they help the victim be safe once they leave the hospital and they remind the victim that the assault was not their fault and that the victim is believed. The Advocate is present for the sole purpose of providing support and assistance to the victim through the emergency room procedures and to assist the victim in planning for ways to be safe and to obtain support in the future. Advocates are trained, with specific skills and knowledge. They are always non-judgmental, empathic, and confidential. (Volunteer Advocates help to ensure that victims are given the appropriate treatment, respect, and services, immediately following the trauma, to help them begin their recovery.) Volunteer Advocates advocate for the victim's rights, to empower them, to support them and assist them in coping with the trauma. Volunteer Victim Advocates are also available to assist victims in court hearings.

VOLUNTEER VICTIM ADVOCATES CAN:

...SUPPORT THE VICTIM BY LISTENING AND BY BEING THERE

...SUPPORT THE VICTIM'S FAMILY & FRIENDS BY EDUCATING THEM, LISTENING TO THEM AND BY HELPING THEM HELP THE VICTIM

...HELP THE VICTIM, THEIR FAMILY, & FRIENDS TO UNDERSTAND THE MEDICAL, COURT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES AND PROVIDE THEM WITH ACCURATE INFORMATION

...REASSURE THE VICTIM THAT THERE IS HELP AVAILABLE

...EDUCATE THE VICTIM, THEIR FAMILY & FRIENDS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

...PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE VICTIM AND THEIR FAMILY ABOUT ONGOING COUNSELING, MEDICAL, LEGAL, AND SOCIAL SERVICE ISSUES

...HELP THE VICTIM, THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS WITH A SAFETY PLAN

...EMPOWER THE VICTIM BY PRESENTING OPTIONS FOR THEM TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS

...REDUCE THE RISK OF THE VICTIM FEELING RETRAUMATIZED

All Services are free of charge to the victim.

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