What is the Network?

The Victim Support Network is comprised of crime victims, survivors and those touched by crime throughout the state of Montana who have registered to share their information.

The network is a peer support system for members to share and connect through lived experiences.

This network is what you make it! The main purpose is to connect individuals who have a shared experience, whether that is through the criminal justice system, corrections, community services, etc.

You can join anytime regardless of when your experience occurred.



VICTIM SUPPORT NETWORK

Victims for Victims:
A peer support network for crime victims and survivors.



OUR VISION

There are no expectations, requirements, or time limits.

The Montana Department of Corrections (DOC) maintains the data to ensure confidentiality, privacy and availability of information. No one gains from your involvement in this program, but you.

This program is yours to use in the way you see fit. It's not a 9-5 professional group, it's real people; victim's, family members, people in need of support, guidance and understanding.

This is not a program for anyone to attempt to "fix" anyone else. It simply is an opportunity to connect with other individuals who have a shared experience.

Don't be afraid to speak with someone that has experienced a different crime. Often, you will find shared experiences, emotions and thoughts.

WHAT NEXT

1.) Submit your information to the network which is then added to the database and distributed to all members. You will also receive a copy of the network and its members.

Forms Required to Participate:

- · Code of Conduct
- · Release of Information
- · Confidentiality Disclosure
- 2.) Welcome! A member will reach out to you to answer any questions you may have and simply welcome you to the network. You can reach out to a member first if you wish.
- 3.) Safety is top priority. If you choose to meet another member in person, please utilize a public setting or call DOC Victim Services to have a Victim Liaison accompany you or arrange a meeting place if possible.
- 4.) Not a fit? No hard feelings! If you meet or speak with a member of the network and you decide that it wasn't the right fit, you do not need to offer an explanation or apologize to anyone. You can simply reach out to someone else!

IMPORTANT

CONFIDENTIALITY

DOC does not release any information regarding the crime, the offender or circumstances. It is your discretion to share what you are comfortable with within the network.

Information made available through the network is confidential and is not available to the public.

COMMUNICATION

You can update your communication preferences at any time or terminate your involvement.

There is no participation requirement. You can participate as little or as frequent as you would like.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

If you are aware of a conflict of interest within the group, please notify DOC Victim Services immediately.

REFERRAL

The network is currently word of mouth referral only. Please do not advertise this program to maintain the integrity of the network.

All members must complete required forms before allowed access to network database.