



How to Request VSU:

Victim Services Unit volunteers can be requested by any police department, fire department or hospital within the county, or by the victims themselves. We will respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to the scene, police agencies or other locations.

To request the VSU, contact the Berrien County Sheriff's Department Dispatch.

269-983-3060 Ext. 1



VICTIM SERVICES UNIT



A Service of the Berrien County Sheriff's Department



Sheriff L. Paul Bailey

Call **VSU** at
269-983-7141
Ext. 7242
for more information

*OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
BERRIEN COUNTY
VICTIM SERVICES UNIT
919 PORT STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085
L. PAUL BAILEY, SHERIFF
WWW.BCSHERIFF.ORG*



NON-EMERGENCY
(269) 983-7111 ext. 7242
EMERGENCY 911

What the Berrien County Victim Services Unit Is and What We Do

The Berrien County Victim Services Unit is a trained volunteer group under the direction of the Berrien County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan Sheriff's Association.

Dedicated to helping victims, survivors and their loved ones work through a crisis or crime, we are the helping hands of the police, fire and medical personnel.

Our presence frees authorities to do their job without leaving victims alone or feeling ignored.

Our objective is to assist, and our efforts are focused on avoiding further victimization.



The **Victim Services Unit** is designed to comfort and help victims immediately after an incident by providing short-term crisis intervention. Having no previous experience in traumatic events, most victims feel lost and in need of guidance.

We can offer answers to such common questions as what happens next, funeral preparations, why an autopsy is needed, why a crime scene takes so long to process and who will guide them through the court system.

Referrals can also be made to appropriate agencies and services within the community.



On scene, **VSU** plays a vital role by lending support and assisting victims and witnesses through the initial shock of trauma. We can separate victims from the scene of an investigation while maintaining a link to officers for victim's questions and concerns.

At a secondary site, **VSU** can stay after the officers leave, working to pull a support system of close friends, family or church personnel into place.

When to Request Our Services

- Homicide, Suicide, or any Death or Serious injury
- Traffic Accidents or other Traumatic Events
- Criminal Sexual Conduct Breaking and Entering (especially senior citizens)
- Death Notifications
- House Fires
- Natural Disasters
- Lost Children
- SIDS Deaths
- Natural Deaths
- Whenever Requested



Interested in being trained as a Victim Services Volunteer?

Please contact the Berrien County Sheriff's Department at 269-983-7141 x 7242