

## TRAINING AND REQUIREMENTS

All volunteers must complete basic training which consists of 80 hours of instruction. This training covers crisis intervention, confidentiality, communication, crime and trauma, as well as the Criminal Justice System. Advocates are also required to complete a two day Suicide Intervention training session.

Monthly In-Service meetings offer advocates ongoing training about Crisis Intervention, Community supports as well as personal development. Additional opportunities are available to attend workshops and conferences relating to Victim Services.

Successful applicants will:

- be reliable, committed, compassionate & empathetic,
- have excellent listening skills
- have strong communication skills,
- be able to provide non-judgmental support,
- be able to work in stressful situations,
- work well in a team setting.

Applicants must complete a volunteer application; provide references as well as successfully completing an enhanced RCMP security clearance.

All training costs are covered by Foothills Regional Victim Services.

## CONTACT US

If you are interested in volunteering with Foothills Regional Victim Services, please contact us by phone, fax or e-mail.

For more information on Victim Services, check us out at:

[www.foothillsvictimservices.com](http://www.foothillsvictimservices.com)

### Foothills Regional Victim Services

Phone: (403) 652-2359

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High River, AB T1V 1W2

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## FOOTHILLS REGIONAL VICTIM SERVICES



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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## VICTIM SERVICES

Foothills Regional Victim Services provides assistance to victims of crime and/or trauma 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Working in partnership with the RCMP detachments of High River, Okotoks, Turner Valley and Nanton, assistance is provided to the communities in the MD of Foothills and the Nanton area.

Victim Services provides victims of crime and/or trauma with

- short term emotional support
- crisis intervention
- referrals to community resources,
- information on victims programs,
- courtroom orientation and accompaniment,
- Information on the criminal justice system.

These services are provided by Volunteer Advocates who have completed extensive training and have a genuine interest in assisting their communities.

By providing timely support and information the impact of a crime and/or trauma can be less severe.

Assistance provided to victims includes:

Immediate support, referrals to community agencies, information about the criminal justice system as well as court support.

## VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES

Volunteer Advocates are not counsellors or therapists. They are highly trained community members that provide confidential crisis intervention and timely follow-up to victims and their families who have been affected by crime and/or tragedy.

Victim Services receive requests from the RCMP, other emergency services or directly from the general public for assistance.

Advocates work on an on-call basis during which time they are available to assist either by phone or in person.

Advocates are expected to commit to a one 12 hour shift per week. They may also be called in to assist in emergency situations.

For safety and security purposes advocates are required to travel in pairs when meeting with victims.

Some of the types of situations where Victim Services are involved are: Domestic Violence, Sudden Deaths, Suicides, Assaults, Property Crimes, Threats, Criminal Harassment, Family disputes, Motor Vehicle Collisions, and Notification of Next of Kin.

## VOLUNTEER COURT SUPPORT WORKERS

Volunteer Court Support Workers are available to provide court orientation, information, support and Court Accompaniment to victims/witnesses of a Criminal Offence.

Court Support Workers provide:

- Information on your case,
- Criminal Court education,
- Court Orientation
- Court Accompaniment,
- Liaising with the crown.

Court Support Workers must be available during daytime business hours and be flexible in their time commitment.

Volunteer Advocates and Court Support workers are also able to provide information and assistance to Victims of Crime on programs & services which include:

- Victim Impact Statements,
- Financial Benefits Program,
- Restitution Forms,
- Appropriate referrals to community based programs,
- Safety Planning,
- Ongoing Emotional Support.