

UW Whitewater Police



Juveniles as Victims of Crime

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Special Instructions:			
Approved By: Chief Kiederlen	Effective Date: 2/26/2012	Revised Date: 10/26/2022	Revision number: 2

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clarify with officers and the public the victim services that are available to juveniles as victims of crime.

II. Policy

It is the policy of the UW-Whitewater Police Department (UWWPD) to respond to all victims of crimes with empathy. Staff at UWWPD function as a community and value-based police department and will strive to serve all victims as best they can.

III. Procedure

A. Dealing with Juveniles as Victims of a Crime

1. Officers will deal with Juvenile victims with the same empathy as any crime victim. Officers will be aware of the fact that juvenile victims may require the assistance of a parent or legal guardian prior to the interview. Officers will also follow GO 44.2.3- Custodial Interrogation of Juveniles.
2. Officers should try to minimize the trauma of any sensitive crimes by limiting the number of times a victim will be interviewed by coordinating the full interview with all law enforcement and social service agencies involved in the investigation.
3. Juveniles may also be interviewed at Treehouse Child and Family Center in Walworth County.
4. At the end of the initial contact, all juveniles will be provided a Crime Victim Information Form that includes the date, officer's name, Incident Number and Offender's Name. This form has contact information for UWWPD, Wisconsin Department of Justice's Office of Crime Victim Services, Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) and county contacts for the Sheriff's Office, Human Service and District Attorney's Office.
5. Officers will not only keep the juvenile, but any parent or legal guardian apprised of the ongoing investigation.

B. Resources Available to Juvenile Victims

1. Walworth County Department of Health and Human Services would be the main resource available to juvenile victims or any juvenile referred that live in Walworth

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County. Human Services Staff will most likely coordinate any follow up services for the victim, which may include below:

- a. The Association for the Prevention of Family Violence (APFV).
 - b. Walworth County Victim Assistance Coordinator.
2. Jefferson County Human Services would be the main resource available to juvenile victims or any juvenile referred that live in Jefferson County. Human Service Staff will most likely coordinate any follow up services for the victim, which may include below.
 - a. Protect, Advocate, Validate and Educate (PAVE).
 - b. Jefferson County Victim Assistance Coordinator.
 3. Juvenile victims may be referred for assistance to the county in which they currently reside, if they do not reside in Jefferson or Walworth County. UWWPD Staff will coordinate the services with the county the juvenile is from. In some situations, Child Protective Services (CPS) maybe involved in the investigation and will assist with victim services for the Juvenile.
 4. UWWPD has some resources available that can be used by crime victims of any age. Below is a listing of some of the services available.
 - a. Safety Escort through UWWPD using Police Officers and Campus Service Officers.
 - b. Educational Programming for prevention of future events.
 - c. Residence Hall Liaison Officer that does foot patrol and training with juveniles that use On Campus Housing for events during the Summer Months.
 5. UW-Whitewater also has some resources that are available to juveniles that are students at UW-Whitewater. Below is a listing:
 - a. Sexual Assault Survivors Assistance;
 - b. University Health and Counseling Services;
 - c. Winther Hall Counseling Laboratory;
 - d. Dean of Students Office;
 - e. Center for Students with Disabilities;
 - f. Continuing Education.