

Legal Services


Attorney services include, but are not limited to, advice and counsel and short-term representation for the following legal matters:

- Sexual Violence Protection Orders
- Protection from Intimidation Orders
- Title IX and School related Sexual Assault Issues
- Employment Matters
- Criminal Justice Advocacy
- PREA Matters for Incarcerated Survivors
- Referral for Fee Generating Cases
- Privacy Issues
- Housing Issues
- Financial Matters
- Referrals for Immigration Issues
- General Legal Questions such as Statute of Limitations



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Sexual Violence Legal Assistance Project



Providing short-term
legal assistance for victims
of sexual assault.

What is the Sexual Violence Legal Assistance Project?

Survivors of rape and sexual assault often face more than criminal justice issues – they may also have other legal problems resulting from the crime. Common legal issues that confront victims involve safety, employment, family law, financial, housing, immigration, privacy, or educational concerns.

To address these needs and fill existing gaps, PCAR launched the Sexual Violence Legal Assistance Project (SVLAP) in 2018 through a generous grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The Project also receives a grant through the Office on Violence Against Women LAV Program.

SVLAP attorneys provide free, confidential, trauma-informed legal services to survivors of sexual violence.

The project targets areas where legal services are unavailable and prioritizes survivors of non-intimate partner sexual violence, to fill existing gaps in legal service provision.

How Our Services Work

We encourage organizations to refer survivors for legal advice and services. Survivors of sexual violence can call SVLAP Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m or submit an online form at www.pcar.org/svlap. When a survivor contacts SVLAP, they will be asked to complete an intake form with an attorney or a paralegal. All information provided is confidential. Following the intake an attorney will review the information and speak with the survivor.

To contact SVLAP, call 717-901-6784

Checklist for Advocates

Please use this checklist to help a survivor identify what issues may affect them. If a survivor mentions any of the following issues, you may want to consider legal services as an option:

- Safety Concerns
- Sexual Violence Protection Orders
- Protection from Intimidation Orders
- Employment Issues
- Sexual Harassment Issues
- Housing Issues
- Financial Issues
- Immigration Issues
- Title IX and School related Sexual Assault Issues
- Navigating the Criminal Justice System
- PREA Matters for Incarcerated Survivors
- Restitution or Victim Compensation Issues
- General Legal Questions such as Statute of Limitations