

# SPEAK

*Crime - It's Real, It's Wrong  
Speak Out for Yourself or Someone Else*

## *'Knowledge is Power' - Francis Bacon*

Though the frequency of child, adult and elderly victimization is estimated to be high, when it comes to arming ourselves with the knowledge we need cope, if crime ever happens to us, we often choose not to know. No one wants to embrace that they too can become a victim. The topic is considered 'taboo'.

One of the most important needs of a victim, after a crime, is the need for information. It's the old saying, 'Knowledge is power.' Knowledge has a psychological benefit, and it lets victim participate in the process and do effective planning. Victims may never understand their offender but they will know what to expect by obtaining information and knowledge. It's like an emergency plan

- The more you understand, the more you know, the better you'll be able to handle it.

As a premiere Victim Services Provider, CAFY strives to educate its clients and the community as a whole on the dynamics of crime and the resources available to crime victims. CAFY provides a myriad of educational media to the public throughout the year via the Court Education Program, monthly teen victimization sessions and community outreach events such as the annual Victim Services Forum.

CAFY is dedicated to ensuring victims and witnesses of crime are aware of the resources available to help empower them to hold offenders accountable for

their crimes. Throughout this issue, CAFY hopes to educate the reader on 'Who is a Victim?', 'What are victim's rights, What is victim confidentiality?' and other victim concerns.

We truly believe **"Knowledge is power"**...therefore, empowerment is our ultimate goal."

Remember...  
**YOU'RE NOT ALONE!**

Arleen B. Joell  
Executive Director

### Mission Statement

*To Educate, Empower & Embrace victims as they speak the truth on their journey to justice.*

### CAFY's Vision

*To help victims become confident and empowered survivors by holding offenders accountable. To have a shared sense of responsibility and community awareness through continuous education and an advocacy-minded judicial system*

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## **"Tru Loves Doesn't Hurt" Fashion Show**

**hosted by**

**TAVA (Teen against Assault, Violence & Abuse)**

Join us in educating and mobilizing an effort to end violence against teens. Expand your awareness about teen relationship violence, bullying and abuse, then challenge your own attitudes, beliefs and behaviors as TAVA shows through song, skit, and fashion:

### **"Tru Love Doesn't Hurt"**

When: Sunday, March 4, 2007

Time: 4:00 P. M.

Where: Knights of Columbus Hall

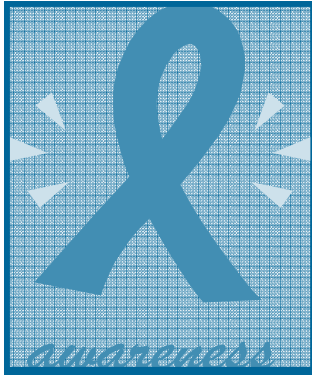
6111 Columbian Way

Bowie, MD 20715

Donation: \$10 in advance & \$12 at the door

For more information or tickets, call Community Advocates for Family & Youth:

**301-390-4092.**



**Crime Victim Bill of Rights**

- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused.
- The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding, or any parole proceeding, involving the crime or of any release or escape of the accused.
- The right not to be excluded from any such public court proceeding, unless the court, after receiving clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding.
- The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in( a court of law) court involving release, plea, [or] sentencing, or any parole proceeding.
- The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case.
- The right to full and timely restitution as provided in law.
- The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.
- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.

-Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance May 2005

**Who is a ‘Victim?’**

A **Victim** is “a person that has suffered direct physical, emotional, or pecuniary harm as a result of the commission of a crime.”

Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking are categorized as **Special Victims** because these crimes often cause mental and emotional trauma as well as physical injury. It may be more difficult for special victims to report these crimes because of the associated social stigma and because the victims often have an ongoing relationship with the offender.

-Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance May 2005

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**Victim’s Rights**

A majority of the Victim’s Rights can be classified in 3 categories:

**The right to be Informed, The right to be Present , To right to be Heard**

Crime victims have the right to receive the “Crime Victims and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services” brochure outlining a victim’s rights as a crime victim and/or witness. Victims have the right to be **INFORMED** about their case - including current status, be informed of the release, transfer, escape, or death of the offender if he/she is incarcerated, and to receive and submit a "Crime Victim Notification Request and Demand for Rights Form " .

The Crime Victim Notification Request and Demand for Rights Form , submitted to the state’s attorney’s office, solidifies the victim’s right to be informed of and **PRESENT** at all hearings related to their case - such as adult and certain juvenile criminal justice proceedings.

During the sentencing and parole stages, victims have the right to be **HEARD** through a victim impact statement , a request for restitution and /or a request for the offender to ‘stay away’ from the victim upon release from incarceration.

If you are a victim of crime in Maryland and your victim rights have been violated, call the **Victim’s Rights Compliance Line** on 1-877-927-4632 (toll free) . Messages may be left 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You may also send an e-mail to [myrights@VictimsVoice.us](mailto:myrights@VictimsVoice.us)

For more detailed information regarding your rights as a crime victim, contact CAFY.

-Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance May 2005

### Victim Confidentiality - Where it Begins and Ends

When confiding in victim advocates, victims and witnesses may ask themselves, can I trust this 'stranger' with the intimate details of the crime I suffered? Will he/she tell anyone my name and what happened?

Victims have a right to confidentiality and Victim Advocates have a duty to keep their client's' confidences. Victim Advocates may not disclose any information revealed by a client or discovered in connection with the client's case management **unless required by law to disclose the information.**

*When does confidentiality end?*  
Victim Advocates are required **by law** to report the following:

- A client's creditable threats of violence or harm to self.
- A client's creditable threats of violence or harm to another identifiable person.
- A client's disclosure of evidence of child and/or elder abuse
- A client's disclosure of knowledge of the name and location of someone who is currently or has in the past sexually or physically abused a child

To learn more about victim confidentiality and victim's rights as a whole, visit the MD Governor's Office of crime prevention and control website: <http://www.goccp.org/>

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### What is the definition of Crime?

A **crime**\* is an act committed or omitted in violation of a law forbidding or commanding it and for which punishment is imposed upon conviction.

The 2 most common categories of crimes are Felony and Misdemeanor:

**Felony** crimes commonly include, but are not limited to aggravated assault, and/or battery, robbery murder, and rape. A felony may be punishable by imprisonment for more than one year or death (in the case of the most serious felonies such as homicide)

**Misdemeanors** are generally punished less severely than felonies. Depending on the jurisdiction, examples of misdemeanors may include: petty theft, prostitution, simple assault, trespass, vandalism and other similar crimes. In general, misdemeanors are crimes with a maximum punishment of 12 months or less of incarceration, typically in a local jail. People who are convicted of misdemeanors are often punished with probation, community service or part-time imprisonment (served on the weekends)

-Wikipedia  
\*American Heritage

### Did You Know...?

The **Miranda warning** is a police warning that is given to criminal suspects in police custody before they are asked questions relating to the commission of crimes. Police may request biographical information such as name, date of birth and address without reading suspects their Miranda warnings. Compulsory confessions will not constitute admissible evidence unless suspects have been made aware of and waived their "Miranda Rights".

In its 1966 Miranda v. Arizona ruling, the Supreme Court established a set of guidelines which must be followed when informing a suspect of his or her rights.

The ruling states:

*...The person in custody must, prior to interrogation, be clearly informed that he has the right to remain silent, and that anything he says will be used against him in court; he must be clearly informed that he has the right to consult with an attorney and to have that attorney present during interrogation, and that, if he is indigent, an attorney will be provided at no cost to represent him.*

- Landmarkcases.org

## *Educate & Empower Youth Victims of Crime - 2007*

**April 28, 2007 - 12:00 NOON - Bowie Gymnasium - 4100 North view Drive Bowie, MD 20716**

Join CAFY in its 3rd annual event to recognize youth who have held offenders accountable. CAFY and TAVA, in partnership with the City of Bowie, will host a Basketball & Madden Tournament. Join us for a day of sports, music and information as we educate and recognize youth who have stepped up and spoke out against crime.

Donations: \$25 per team; \$5 Madden, \$2 Spectators

**Register EARLY!** There are only 15 Teams

To Register: Call or email CAFY @ 301-390-4092 ; [admin@communityadvocates.info](mailto:admin@communityadvocates.info)  
TAVA@communityadvocates.info.

**April is Crime Victim Awareness Month - Make a Difference Attend an Event.**

### "CAFY's Teen Advocate Group - Teens against Assault, Violence & Abuse (TAVA)

TAVA, the only youth focused, youth facilitated group, is reaching out to teens who may be victims of crime. TAVA's mission is to "*Educate and uplift teen spirits to promote a stronger self- evaluation after victimization.*" Join TAVA any 2nd & 4th Friday of the month @ **Bowie Gymnasium - 4100 North view Drive - Bowie, MD 2071 - Time: 6:30 - 8:00.**

For more information call TAVA 301-841-7646 or email [tava@communityadvocates.info](mailto:tava@communityadvocates.info)

**Get Out, Release, Get Lifted!**

## *Community Advocates for Family & Youth*

### Core Services

**Victim Services:** CAFY advocates act as a 'Constant Link' through the criminal justice process by offering case management, court companionship, court preparation, and victim impact statement assistance.

**Restoration Session:** Through self-help group discussion and mediation session we facilitate restoration and reunification for families, youth and adults.

**Outreach Education:** For Youth and Families; We provide Community education such as:

- *Youth Court Education and Parent Court Awareness*
- *Adult Courtroom Education Sessions*
- *Helping Youth Succeed in Court*
- *Identity Theft for Seniors*
- *Knowing Your Rights*

**Contact CAFY:**

**Phone: 301.390.4092**

**Victim Services Outreach 301.772.4273**

**E-mail: [Admin@communityadvocates.info](mailto:Admin@communityadvocates.info)**

**[www.communityadvocates.info](http://www.communityadvocates.info)**

### CAFY Notices & Events

#### Survivors Are Free & Empowered

SAFE support group meetings for Youth, Parents and Adult victims. Sessions are held the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month at Prince George's Community College. Call CAFY to register and to receive the room number.

#### Court Education Programs

CAFY's Youth & Adult Court Education Program for victims of crime educates victims, witnesses and families to better deal with testifying in court. The next sessions will be held February 24th, March 10th and April 21st.. Call or email to register youth, ages 5 -18, or adult victims/witnesses.

#### Teen Awareness Sessions

TAVA's Outreaches are open to all teens ages, 13-21. Next sessions scheduled: February 9, 2006 - "Teen Vulnerability, Victimization & Self-Defense—101; March 23, 2006—Teens Helping Teen Victims—How? Join us at the Bowie Gymnasium or call TAVA at 301-841-7646.