



# Sarnia Police Services Board Policy

Issue Number:

**SPS-BP-VA-001**

<b>Subject:</b> <b>Victim's Assistance</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b> <b>September 14, 2023</b>
<b>Replaces:</b> <b>SPS-BP-VA-001</b>	<b>Distribution:</b> <b>All Members</b>
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<b>Approved By:</b> <b>Board Chair</b>	<b>Signature:</b> <i>Paul Wiersma</i>

## **A** Legislative Authority

Section 42(1)(c) of the **Police Services Act** provides that police officers have a duty to assist victims of crime.

Section 29 of the Adequacy and Effectiveness of Police Services Regulation requires a police services board have a policy on victims' assistance.

In addition, section 17 of the Regulation requires the Chief of Police establish procedures on providing assistance to victims that:

- (i) Reflect the principles of the **Victims' Bill of Rights, 1995**; and
- (ii) Set out the roles and responsibilities of members for providing victims' assistance.

## **B** Policy

1. It is the policy of the Sarnia Police Services Board with respect to providing assistance to victims that the Chief of Police will:
  - (a) Working in partnership with the Ministry of the Attorney General's Victim/Witness Assistance Program (V/WAP) and agencies that deliver the Victim Crisis and

Referral Service (VCARS) program, where available, municipalities, community and social service agencies and other local organizations, promote the development of an integrated service delivery framework for providing assistance to victims, including safety planning;

- (b) Ensure that members of the police service are aware of victim service providers or a victim referral service available in the area;
- (c) Establish procedures on providing assistance to victims; and
- (d) Ensure that in each instance where there is police service contact with one or more victims of crime involving physical and/or psychological injury, that such victims are referred to the appropriate community service available in their area.