

*“To ensure that victims of crime receive justice and are treated with dignity and compassion through comprehensive victims’ rights and services.”
-Our Mission*

MCVRC HISTORY

After their oldest daughter, Stephanie, was brutally murdered in 1982, her parents, Roberta and Vince Roper, learned they had few rights in the criminal justice system. As a result they founded the agency that bore their daughter’s name, the Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation, now known as the Maryland Crime Victims’ Resource Center, Inc. (MCVRC). Today, the MCVRC is one of the most successful grassroots organizations in the history of Maryland. They have been instrumental in passing more than 70 pieces of state legislation.

Crime Victims’ Rights Act of 2004

- Provides comprehensive rights to victims in federal courts
- Creates free legal clinics to represent victims of federal offenses by enforcing victims’ rights in federal courts

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M D C R I M E V I C T I M S . O R G

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Toll Free: 1-877-VICTIM1
Email: fraud@mdcrimevictims.org

IDENTITY THEFT

Maryland Crime Victims’ Resource Center, Inc.



**FIGHT BACK
AGAINST
IDENTITY THEFT**

M D C R I M E V I C T I M S . O R G

Identity theft and fraud are serious crimes. They occur when your personal information is stolen and used without your knowledge to commit fraud or other crimes. Identity theft can cost you time, money, destroy your credit, and ruin your good name.

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., with the support of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), will be working in conjunction with other national and local agencies to serve victims to the best of our ability.

The funding awarded to the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. is being used to enhance its existing practice to provide free assistance to victims of identity theft and financial fraud through increasing direct victim services; self-advocacy and pro bono attorney development. Our services also include providing victims with legal representation in federal courts.

HOW MCVRC CAN HELP:

- ◆ Provide free direct legal representation to victims of Identity theft and fraud in federal courts
- ◆ Provide social service support to victims by coordinating services locally and nationally
- ◆ Provide training and education to judges, lawyers, advocates and others
- ◆ File amicus curiae briefs on victims' rights issues
- ◆ Provide legal research and educational material on victims' rights to federal criminal justice system representatives
- ◆ Bi-lingual staff member available for non-English speaking victims
- ◆ Free counseling

Defend against ID theft as soon as you suspect it.

- **File a police report.** File a report with law enforcement officials to help you with creditors who may want proof of the crime.
- **Report the theft or fraud to the Federal Trade Commission.** Your report helps law enforcement officials across the country in their investigations.

Online: **ftc.gov/idtheft**

By phone: 1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338) or TTY, 1-866-653-4261

By mail: Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580

- **Place a "Fraud Alert" on your credit reports, and review the reports carefully.** The alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures before they open new accounts in your name or make changes to your existing accounts. The three nationwide consumer reporting companies have toll-free numbers for placing an initial 90-day fraud alert; a call to one company is sufficient:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742)

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289

Placing a fraud alert entitles you to free copies of your credit reports. Look for inquiries from companies you haven't contacted, accounts you didn't open, and debts on your accounts that you can't explain.

- **Close accounts.** Close any accounts that have been tampered with or established fraudulently.
 - Call the security or fraud departments of each company where an account was opened or changed without your permission. Follow up in writing, with copies of supporting documents.
 - Use the ID Theft Affidavit at **ftc.gov/idtheft** to support your written statement.
 - Ask for verification that the disputed account has been closed and the fraudulent debts discharged.
 - Keep copies of documents and records of your conversations about the theft or fraud.