

**Who Are We?**

PAVE (Providing Advocacy for Victimized Elderly) is a victim/witness assistance program that provides services to individuals age 60 and above. Our services are free to any victim/witness and their family who have experienced a crime in the city of Philadelphia.

**What Makes our Advocacy Program Unique?**

We are the only advocacy program in the city of Philadelphia providing victim advocacy tailored to the specific needs of older adults who have been victimized in the community or in a long-term care facility.

Unlike traditional victim service organizations that mostly address needs related to the crime itself, PAVE Advocates work holistically with older adults to address whatever needs exist; those related to the crime as well as any other identified needs.

Being housed within an advocacy organization for older adults makes PAVE uniquely situated to serve older adults harmed by crime in a holistic way. CARIE’s range of programs provide victims with referrals and advocacy with community organizations, public benefits, social services and Older Adult Protective Services (OAPS).

PAVE has developed a close working relationship with the District Attorney’s Office, our local Police Department and their Victim Assistance Officers (VAOs) from 24 police districts. These relationships are crucial in identifying the victims and providing a speedy and targeted assistance and support.

**What do PAVE Advocates Do?**

* Advocates reach out to victims before court to educate them about their rights and services available. Advocates arrange for transportation to and from court if needed.
* Advocates meet victims in court to provide accompaniment & advocacy, ensuring that the older adult has a voice in court and is able to communicate with the attorney.
* Advocates support victims of domestic violence, referring them to support resources and helping plan for safety. This can include filing for Protection from Abuse Orders.
* Advocates assist in filing for Crime Victim Compensation and Restitution.
* Advocates assist victims with writing a Victim Impact Statements.
* Advocates visit long term care residents in their facilities, assist with any communication barriers between long term care residents and Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, and help to ensure these victims are notified in a timely manner of a court appearance.
* Advocates ensure victims residing in long-term care facilities have appropriate transportation to court, a nurse’s aide to provide hands on assistance if needed, as well as snacks/medicine, as time spent in court can often be longer than expected.
* Advocates cultivate positive relationships with the local Victim Assistance Officers of each of the 24 Philadelphia Police Districts, connecting victims to them for support.

