



# Media Advisory

**WHEN:** Tuesday, October 30, 2018

**WHAT:** On Saturday, October 27, 2018, the entire Pittsburgh Region was impacted by a senseless act of mass violence at The Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill where 11 individuals lost their lives and 6 were wounded.

**WHO WE ARE:** **Center for Victims is here to help.** Center for Victims is the most comprehensive and inclusive provider of services, advocacy and education for victims of all types of crime in Allegheny County. Center for Victims offers a comprehensive response to help people heal from the trauma and harm caused by all forms of violence and crime, including domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, physical assaults, child abuse, elder abuse, homicide, DUI, robbery, and burglary.

Center for Victims also has over 40 years' experience as a primary provider of counseling for homicide, grief and loss.

Incidents of mass violence affect everyone. Center for Victims is available to assist, free of charge. Our trained crisis response team offers immediate crisis intervention for victims and witnesses, their families, and the community as a whole. Please see Governor Wolf's related Press Release below referencing our services and qualifications.

**All services are accessible via our  
24-hour hotline at 1-866-644-2882;  
All services are free and confidential.**

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# UPDATED: Wolf Administration Offers Information on Support Services for Victims, Families, First Responders and Community Affected by Pittsburgh Mass Shooting

October 28, 2018



**UPDATED 11:25 AM, Sunday, October 28:**

**Pittsburgh, PA** – The Wolf Administration today offered information on resources available to victims, families, community members and first responders dealing with the aftereffects of the mass shooting yesterday at the Tree of Life Synagogue in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

“We now know the names of those lost in this horrifying act and that makes this tragedy even more personal for many. It is normal for people to feel confused, scared and angry when violence of this magnitude is close to home even if you were not directly impacted,” Governor Tom Wolf said. “Acts of hate send a ripple effect into communities and their purpose is to induce fear in all. Please know that you are not alone, there are services. Reach out for resources if you are struggling, it is okay to ask for help. In times such as these having a connection to our community is vital in healing.”

Staff from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services' Office is on site at the Victims Assistance Center set up at the Jewish Community Center, 5738 Forbes Avenue in Pittsburgh, to help with counseling and other support services.

Victims and survivors, family members and impacted community members also can access the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) resources for first responders, victims and their loved ones and all affected by this traumatic event. People can call the toll-free Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746 to receive immediate counseling from trained, caring professionals. Helpline staff can also make referrals to in-person counseling services and other support services.

SAMHSA's Disaster App is also available for first responders. The app helps first responders through all steps of disaster deployment, compiles resources for crisis counseling and behavioral health services, and resources to help first responders cope. The app is available for free through the Apple and Google Play app stores.

Those affected by this tragedy also can access free services available through the [Center for Victims](#) in Pittsburgh. The center assists with the traumatic impact of crimes and can offer emotional support, counseling, long-term therapeutic assistance and access to the commonwealth's [Crime Victims Compensation Assistance Program](#), which can provide aid toward various financial expenses that may arise.