

# Crime And The Law Part 3

## At this point you will learn:

- define human dignity and self-respect
- know how it feels to be a victim
- understand the importance of respecting the human dignity of others
- identify what really happens when someone becomes a victim

# Victims and Witnesses

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING ACTIVITY

*Can you lose what you cannot see?*

### EMPOWER YOURSELF

Can you imagine what it would be like to temporarily or permanently lose control over your life, where you actually lost the ability to live your everyday life the way you had been used to doing? Explore with your small group the scene below that describes just such a situation.

**The Scene:** Three youths walk down a dark street looking for trouble. They see a lady on her way home from work. They smile at each other and then jump in front of her, shrieking and flashing knives, to scare her to death. She screams in horror, unable to take another step. The youths walk way, laughing, taking nothing, but pleased with themselves. She makes her way to a restaurant and begins to get chest pains.

### What makes a victim a victim?

1. Have you ever heard about where one person insulted or tried to do harm against another person? Perhaps on the news? Discuss the effects this could have on a person's life.
2. Look at the following list of words. Place them in groups by writing them in large circles on a piece of art paper. Make sure each person in the group places at least one word in each of the groups. You will probably have two to four circles.

Word  
List

Money, clothing, your life, feeling of security, peace of mind, jewelry, confidence, control over things that happen to you, guilt, motor vehicle, physical health and well-being, emotional health and well-being, fear, anxiety, embarrassment, self-respect.

3. Next, label the word groups by writing why the items were placed in each group (what they have in common). Write a statement that draws a conclusion about them on the blackboard. Participate in a class discussion on what the groups and labels might have to do with the story.
4. Compare your word group with those of others. Make a list of things a victim can lose that you can see. Then make a list of things a victim can lose that you cannot see. Label these lists: visible and invisible.
5. Now look at the original list of words and write down only the words that are about feelings and how people think of themselves. Are they positive? negative? Discuss this in the group and make a list of positive feeling words. Change the negative one already in the list to positive, and add them to the list.

Complete  
this on a  
separate  
sheet of  
paper.

### While reading this chapter...

Stop and think about how important human dignity is to everyone, no matter what their background story might be.

Kate J. came home from work at 3:20 A.M. She parked her car some distance from her apartment house. As she walked toward her house, a man attacked her. She screamed loudly and struggled to get away. The whole block could hear her cries for help.



CHECK vocabulary words in bold.  
LOOK UP word meanings in the glossary beginning on page 92.



### CRITICAL THINKING

How easy or difficult do you think it would be to identify a suspect, even a few days after the crime?

Kate J. eventually died from her injuries. The attacker disappeared and was never brought to justice. People in the community promised themselves that they would not let this happen again. However, it was too late for Kate J.

In this chapter, you will find out why reporting crime is necessary. It will describe how you can be a crimebuster. It will also tell how you can help the victim.

## Why Report Crime?

The faster a crime is reported, the better the chance is of solving it. If you are a victim, call the police right away. If you are a witness, call the police right away. This helps the police to catch the suspect. Even if the crime has already happened, you should still report it quickly. There are five important reasons for doing this:

1. You may be able to get your property back. If the police know what was stolen, they might be able to find it.
2. If the crime was violent, some states will pay your doctor bills and for stolen property, but only if there is a police report.
3. A **police report** is a legal record. If you have insurance to pay for stolen property, you need a police report.
4. If you report the loss of property on your income tax, you need a police report.
5. You will be helping others. The police need to know where the high-crime areas are. They need to know the suspects to be



Officer Perkins says: "Often a crime will happen on a crowded street, but we cannot find a single witness. They disappear into the woodwork because they do not want to get involved. The excuse is that someone else will report it. It is up to everyone to help catch criminals. The next victim might be a friend, a relative, or even you."

1. When you lose control over your life , what have you lost? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What were the three youths looking for? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did the lady react to their actions? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How did the youths react? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What happened to the lady when she got to the restaurant? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How could the actions of the youths affect the lady's life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What does "feeling of security" mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What do fear and anxiety have in common? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What can a victim lose that you can see? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. From #2 write down the words that are about feelings and how people think of themselves.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why is human dignity so important to everyone? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Why was Kate J. out so late at night? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What eventually happened to Kate? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What happened to the attacker? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What did the people in the community decide? \_\_\_\_\_
16. If you report what was stolen quickly what might the police do? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Some states will pay what if you suffer from a violent crime? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
18. What is a police report? \_\_\_\_\_
19. When do you need a police report? \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_
20. The police need to know where what is? \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

News Article Summary: *About Courts or  
Court action*

Who wrote the article: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of the Article: \_\_\_\_\_

When did the events in the article occur?

Where did the events occur?

List all that are named in the article with their titles if given:

What was the article about?

Why is this article important?

What did you learn from the article?