



Frequently Asked Questions (Q & A) About the Virginia Victims Crisis Assistance and Response Team (VCART)

Formerly known as the Crisis Response Team (CRT)

1. What is VCART?

Victims Crisis Assistance and Response Team (VCART) is a statewide team of crisis responders coordinated by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

2. What does VCART do?

VCART offers support to localities that require additional assistance in times of crisis brought about through a mass casualty criminal event.

3. What is the time requirement to be a part of the team?

- All members must complete 24 hours of basic Crisis Response Team training.
- This will vary from person to person. Responses are done at the availability of the team member.
- Each team member will also be asked to participate in a quarterly team meeting provided within their region.

4. How is VCART different from mental health professionals?

VCART members are volunteers and come from many different professions, backgrounds, and experiences. Our members do not respond with clinical services. The VCART responds in the short term to offer whatever victim-centered services are needed by the community. This includes crisis intervention to primary and secondary victims, support to the locality, and information for long term community services.

5. How is VCART activated?

To request a response, a community or organizational leader with decision-making authority can contact DCJS. After assessing the needs, DCJS coordinates a response team if needed.

6. If a team is activated, who pays for the costs?

If a team is asked to travel, travel expenses will be covered by DCJS. Lodging is direct billed, mileage and per diem expenses are reimbursed at the federal government rates.

7. What is a GCI?

GCI stands for Group Crisis Intervention, which are groups that are conducted and facilitated to assist victims in processing the trauma that they have experienced and build resilience for moving forward.





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(Continued)

8. How much training is needed?

24 hours of National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) based training is required before a person is eligible to be a part of the VCART. DCJS offers this training several times per year.

9. How much is the training?

The training is free; however, if you must travel to a training outside of your local area, you would be responsible for your travel expenses. Scholarships are often available to those that need additional assistance.

10. What other trainings are available?

DCJS offers NOVA basic and advanced crisis response team courses and are working to expand the training opportunities available for our teams. That information will be provided as it becomes available.

To Learn More About Becoming a Member of the VCART Team
please contact Andrew Kinch at andrew.kinch@dcjs.virginia.gov.

To Request a Training
please contact Dawn Bush at dawn.bush@dcjs.virginia.gov.

For General Crisis Response Information or to Request a Response
Please contact Julia Fuller-Wilson at julia.fuller-wilson@dcjs.virginia.gov.

