

Erie County STOP-DWI

The mission of the STOP-DWI office is to reduce the number of persons killed or injured in drunken driving crashes in Erie County. Its function is to promote drunken driving countermeasures as an enforcement, judicial, and community priority.

- ❖ In conjunction with the Victim Impact Panel this office provides presentations to high schools, parent teachers groups, chemical rehabilitation facilities and any community group that is interested in the affect DWI has on the community.
- ❖ Provides funding to law enforcement for Sobriety Check Points in the community to help keep our roads safe.
- ❖ The sole source of funding is fine revenue collected from convicted drunken drivers in Erie County Courts. There is no tax dollars used in STOP-DWI projects.

Erie County District Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Assistance Program

Services available to crime victims, witnesses and/or their family members include:

- ❖ New York State Crime Victims Compensation claim application assistance
- ❖ Court Preparation, Accompaniment and Support
- ❖ Victim Impact Statements
- ❖ Social and Crisis Service Agency Referrals
- ❖ Home/Hospital/Off Site Visits
- ❖ Correctional Process Advocacy

The Erie County DWI Victim Impact Panel would not be possible without the participation of each panelist. Their courage and dedication is greatly appreciated.

The Erie County DWI Victim Impact Panel is a coordinated effort between the following agencies:

ERIE COUNTY CENTRAL POLICE SERVICES
STOP-DWI OFFICE
858-6291

ERIE COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
858-4640

ERIE COUNTY
PROBATION DEPARTMENT
858-8200

C.A.I.D.
CRUSADE AGAINST IMPAIRED DRIVING
www.karens crusade.org

MADD
MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING
ERIE COUNTY
662-0642

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Erie County
Driving While
Intoxicated

**VICTIM
IMPACT
PANEL**

Education & Healing
In the Face of
Adversity

ERIE COUNTY VICTIM IMPACT PANEL

Erie County has been working to combat the problem of needless and tragic injuries and deaths caused by drunk drivers. One approach was the formation in 1995 of the DWI Victim Impact Panel.

DWI victims and offenders tell their personal and tragic stories to groups of convicted DWI offenders, high school and college students, and others.

Victim panelists do not blame or judge those in the audience, they simply tell their stories about how their lives and families have been affected by a DWI crash.

Offender panelists relate to the audience how being convicted of DWI has affected their life, not only financially but emotionally as well.

Our goal is to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future, by having others hear first-hand, the possible consequences of irresponsible drinking.

Panel presentations are structured AND scheduled during both day and evening hours. The presentations are held in various locations throughout Erie County.

The VICTIM IMPACT PANEL

- ❖ Enables those in the audience to understand drunk driving from the victim's perspective.
- ❖ Provides an opportunity for victims to present their story to those who need to hear it most.
- ❖ Provides healing for victims by offering an outlet to speak about their experience, and to reinforce the hope that the telling of their story may prevent others from experiencing a similar tragedy.
- ❖ Provides the perspective of DWI from previous offenders. This allows the audience to view "the other side" of the coin and the affect it has on the offender as well as the offender's family.

For further information please
Contact:

Erie County Central Police Services
STOP-DWI Office
45 Elm Street
Buffalo, New York 14203
(716) 858-6291
dwivip@erie.gov
www.erie.gov/stopdwi/

Or

Erie County District Attorney's Office
Victim/Witness Assistance Program
25 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 858-4640
www.erie.gov/victimrights/

Becoming a Victim Impact Panelist

We would like to hear your story if your life has been touched by drunk driving .

Drunken driving crashes do not always mean death; these crashes affect many people who have had to live with life altering injuries. Many of the injuries are not visible to the naked eye. Many victims have been injured financially, emotionally as well as psychologically.

On the other side of the spectrum, being an offender also has its victims. Family members are most often affected by the offenders' actions.

If you are an offender and have completed your sentence you are also invited to tell your story.

Your story can make a difference to audiences that may include students, or people who never have been convicted of DWI. It will give the audience a true picture of what can and most likely will happen to them if they choose to drink and drive.