

Florida Crisis Response Team

In 2003, the Office of the Attorney General established a crisis response initiative by forming a partnership with the Florida Crisis Response Team (FCRT). This initiative strengthens the Attorney General's mission to provide exemplary services to the citizens and visitors of Florida in the aftermath of a crisis.

The Attorney General's Florida Crisis Response Team is a state-affiliate team of the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA). Established in 1988, the FCRT includes volunteer crisis intervenors, educators, victim assistance specialists, mental health providers, law enforcement officers, clergy, and allied professionals and others who volunteer their time, talents, and expertise to assist communities and their members throughout Florida. The team is diverse and culturally competent. The FCRT's primary responsibility is to provide crisis intervention/psychological first aid in individual or group settings. Other FCRT functions include assisting local officials and leaders in planning short-term and long-term activities to care for their community members, training local caregivers in immediate psychological first aid and long-term stress reactions to trauma, and helping identify the high risk populations in need of assistance. The FCRT responds to all types of community tragedies, including natural disasters, criminal acts or human-caused events.

The Attorney General's Statewide Crisis Response Coordinator provides all training for team members and potential team members and is often called upon to provide specialized training to various community-based organizations. Additionally, the coordinator provides technical assistance and consultation and manages deployment of the team for large scale events.

To become a member, successful completion of a 40-hour Basic Community Crisis Response Team training is necessary. This training is designed to cover all facets of trauma and is available to victim service professionals, fire/rescue, law enforcement, clergy, mental health providers, and other concerned community members. Directors and community organization leaders seeking assistance, or individuals interested in becoming a trained member, may call the Office of the Attorney General, Crisis Response Team Coordinator at 407-317-7037. (Please note this is not a crisis hotline.)