

## Common Myths Surrounding Homicide

**Myth:**

There is no such thing as a homicide survivor. The term “homicide survivor” is a contradiction.

**Fact:**

Homicide survivor is a statement seemingly self-contradictory, and yet it expresses the truth. Homicide survivors are the family and friends of a murder victim. The pain, trauma, and turmoil caused by the murder of their loved one forces them into a battle for survival.

**Myth:**

Murder victims are bad people who associate with bad people.

**Fact:**

Murder victims come from all walks of life. Murder strikes in all races, ages and socio-economic levels.

**Myth:**

Murder victims contribute to their own victimization.

**Fact:**

Murder victims do not want to be killed. Some victims may be in unsafe situations; however, they *do not* ask to be or deserve to be murdered. Many are innocently shopping, returning to or from work, or sleeping in their own bed.

**Myth:**

Family and friends of murder victims should go through a grief period the same as anyone else who has lost a loved one.

**Fact:**

A homicide survivor’s pain for the death of their loved one is complicated and burdened with the police investigation, criminal justice system, news media, reactions of family and friends, and society as a whole. A homicide survivor’s grief process is different due to these other complications.