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OVS Newsletter

Nov 2, 2022

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# Boeing Plea Deal Violated Victims' Rights

In a broad repudiation of the Justice Department’s approach to prosecuting Boeing for crashes of its 737 Max planes, a federal district judge ruled that a deferred prosecution deal with the company violated the Crime Victims’ Rights Act because victims’ families were excluded from negotiations.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/boeing-plea-deal-violated-victims-rights-judge) to read.

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# Absence Of Good Crime Data Means ‘Misinformation And Poor Decisions’

Are crime rates in the U.S. skyrocketing, as some claim? We don’t really have a common definition of what crime means, when you ask that question, “says Jeff Asher, a New Orleans-based data analyst who specializes in crime statistics.

Please click [here](https://www.npr.org/2022/10/27/1131825858/us-crime-data-midterm-elections) to read.

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# Pennsylvania Courts Launch Data-Based Imitative To Better Serve Court Users With Autism

As work continues to bring lasting reform to the judicial system for individuals with autism, a new data initiative is being piloted within the dependency court system to assist children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Please click [here](https://www.pacourts.us/news-and-statistics/news/news-detail/1119/pennsylvania-courts-launch-data-based-initiative-to-better-serve-court-users-with-autism) to read.

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# Emergency Department Visits Have Increased Drastically For Sexual Assault Survivors In The Last Decade

A new study from *JAMA Network Open* found that emergency room visits for sexual assault survivors have increased dramatically in between 2006 and 2019.  You can read highlights of the study published by RAINN [here](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frainn.org%2Fnews%2Femergency-department-visits-have-increased-drastically-sexual-assault-survivors-last-decade%3Femci%3Df8add01a-2356-ed11-819c-002248258e08%26emdi%3D6d7d91c4-dd56-ed11-819c-002248258d2f%26ceid%3D9143207&data=05%7C01%7Cledorsey%40pa.gov%7Cc1cca1e20e6f436ea26708dabb43634c%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C638028195352993915%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QF%2FJctRYdSGn1HkVqjKLQc8nznyFNyoP6Dey1wP4%2FvQ%3D&reserved=0), and the full study report can be found [here](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fjamanetwork.com%2Fjournals%2Fjamanetworkopen%2Ffullarticle%2F2797504&data=05%7C01%7Cledorsey%40pa.gov%7Cc1cca1e20e6f436ea26708dabb43634c%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C638028195353149578%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dxzAXpkRISvL3JEe2U0oVo6WP7%2BV0%2B%2Fa5v6jIX5dtOc%3D&reserved=0).

Please click [here](https://rainn.org/news/emergency-department-visits-have-increased-drastically-sexual-assault-survivors-last-decade?emci=f8add01a-2356-ed11-819c-002248258e08&emdi=6d7d91c4-dd56-ed11-819c-002248258d2f&ceid=9143207) to read.

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# Crime Survivors Speak 2022

Protecting public safety is an essential function of government. Yet, despite the crucial importance of this responsibility, public safety policies and investments are rarely informed by the experiences of people who have been hurt by crime and violence. In 2016, Alliance for Safety and Justice (ASJ) responded to this oversight by commissioning a nationwide survey of victims regarding their experiences with the justice system and public safety policy preferences. To inform the urgent debate on crime policy, in August of 2022, Alliance for Safety and Justice commissioned our second National Survey of Victims’ Views — the 2022 National Survey of Victims’ Views. This report describes the findings from this survey and points to opportunities for further research and reform to advance policies that align with the needs and perspectives of victims.

Please click [here](https://allianceforsafetyandjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Alliance-for-Safety-and-Justice-Crime-Survivors-Speak-September-2022.pdf) to read.

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# The Shadow Pandemic

Domestic violence against women peaked to record levels during the pandemic as COVID-19 forced the nation into lockdown and imposed heavy restrictions to help reduce the risk of exposure, unaware of the harmful impact it would have on women around the world.

Please click [here](https://www.washingtonpost.com/washington-post-live/2022/10/20/domestic-violence-victim-advocates-case-uptick-during-pandemic/) to read.

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# Prevalence of Online Sexual Offenses Against Children in The US

According to research from University of New Hampshire’s Crimes against Children Research Center, 16% of young adults in the U.S. have experienced at least one type of sexual abuse online before the age of 18. The study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association Network Open, is the first comprehensive study to look at multiple forms of child sexual abuse online.

Please click [here](https://www.unh.edu/ccrc/sites/default/files/media/2022-10/online-sexual-offenses-against-children.pdf) to access.

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# Do New Laws On ‘Revenge Porn’ Serve The Needs Of All Victims?

Sweeping reform in the last decade criminalized the nonconsensual distribution of intimate images (NCDII), better known as “revenge porn”, in 48 states, providing victims a new legal remedy. Despite this new wave of policy changes, new research suggests it may be too narrowly focused on “revenge porn” to serve all victims of NCDII effectively.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/do-new-laws-on-revenge-porn-serve-the-needs-of-all-victims) to read.

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# PCADV’s Lethality Assessment Program Reaches 10-Year Milestone

Since 2001, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) has been tracking domestic violence homicides in Pennsylvania and publishing annual [**fatality reports**](https://www.pcadv.org/resources/fatalities/) and a public [**homicide tracking dashboard**](https://isra.hbg.psu.edu/pcadvdashboards/Home/Homicide-Dashboards). In 2012, PCADV began leading the implementation of Maryland’s evidence-based Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) in Pennsylvania. [**LAP**](https://www.pcadv.org/initiatives/lethality-assessment-program/) is risk assessment tool used voluntarily and collaboratively through partnership between local police departments and the local domestic violence program.

Please click [here](https://www.pcadv.org/blog/pcadvs-lethality-assessment-program-reaches-10-year-milestone/) to read more.

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# Criminal Victimization, 2021

This report presents official estimates of criminal victimizations reported and not reported to police from BJS’s National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The report is the 49th in a series that began in 1973 and includes statistics on nonfatal violent (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault) and property crimes (burglary or trespassing, motor vehicle theft, and other types of household theft). The report also describes the characteristics of crimes and victims.

Please click [here](https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/criminal-victimization-2021?utm_content=October&utm_medium=email&utm_source=OJP_Digests) to read.

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# Reporting Sexual Abuse By A Family Member

[Disclosing](https://www.rainn.org/articles/telling-loved-ones-about-sexual-assault?_ga=2.208507346.1950289932.1667248257-1392951893.1655133858) sexual abuse by a family member is entirely up to the survivor and can be extremely complicated.

Please click [here](https://rainn.org/news/disclosing-sexual-abuse-family-member?emci=f8add01a-2356-ed11-819c-002248258e08&emdi=6d7d91c4-dd56-ed11-819c-002248258d2f&ceid=9143207) to more.

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# Human Trafficking Data Collection Activities, 2022

This report describes BJS’s activities during 2021 and 2022 to collect data and report on human trafficking as required by the Combat Human Trafficking Act of 2015. It details ongoing and completed efforts to measure and analyze the nationwide incidence of human trafficking, to describe characteristics of human trafficking victims and offenders, and to describe criminal justice responses to human trafficking offenses.

Please click [here](https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/htdca22.pdf?utm_content=default&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) to read.

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# CNN Creates Reporting Team To Focus On Gun Violence In U.S

The new beat will explore who buys and sells guns, who makes and regulates them, and the communities most affected.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/cnn-creates-reporting-team-to-focus-on-gun-violence-in-u-s) to read.

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# Act 77 and Legal Standing for Victims

On July 11, 2022, Governor Wolf signed into law [Act 77 of 2022](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2022&sessInd=0&act=77). A crucial piece of this legislation makes explicit that crime victims will have legal standing at the statutory level as of September 8, 2022 (effective date of the Act).  By making “legal standing” for victims explicit, Act 77 fills a gap in Pennsylvania’s Crime Victims’ Act by recognizing crime victims’ ability to claim their rights under the Victims Bill of Rights, including when those rights are overlooked or violated.  The recognition of legal standing is a significant and positive change for Pennsylvania’s crime victims.

Three specific virtual trainings are being held to help attorneys and victim advocates understand how legal standing for crime victims affects their role as they work with victims.  Presenters for the trainings will be Meg Garvin, MA, JD, MsT Executive Director and Clinical Professor of Law, Terry Campos, JD and Rebecca Khalil, JD from the [National Crime Victim Law Institute](https://law.lclark.edu/centers/national_crime_victim_law_institute/). Professor Garvin is one of the nation’s experts on crime victim’s rights.

**\*\***Please note the target audience for each training

**Making Victims’ Rights Meaningful: The Role of Advocates after Act 77 of 2022**

* **Target Audience:** Advocates (system-based and community-based)
* **Date of Training:** Monday, November 14th
* **Time:** 12:00-1:30pm
* **Registration:** [The Role of Advocates after Act of 2022 Registration](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QSiOQSgB1U2bbEf8Wpob3qqhfxc0L8dJr_W0QDKxno5UQU5aRDdSWVVQM05CVlVBRVVEVjlIQklLMC4u)

Every jurisdiction in this country -- including Pennsylvania -- has provided victims of crime legal rights in the criminal and juvenile justice systems for decades. These legal rights include the rights to privacy, protection, and fairness. Sadly, when these rights are not protected victims experience re-victimization, which can have tremendous negative impacts on the victim’s mental and physical health and on the functioning of our justice systems. When victims’ rights are protected and their voices are heard, both victims and the justice system benefit: victims can experience more empowerment while the justice system operates more effectively. With passage of Act 77 of 2022, victims now have a clearer path to assert and seek enforcement of their rights in courts. This is often called “standing” – but what is standing? And what is the role of advocates in protecting those rights? Presenters will provide an overview of victims’ rights assertion and enforcement, and through hypothetical scenarios help advocates ensure rights are protected.

**Victims’ Rights and Legal Standing-Understanding Act 77 of 2022**

* **Target Audience:** Attorneys and Legal Advocates
* **Date of Training**: Tuesday, November 15th
* **Time:** 12-2:30pm
* **Registration:** [Understanding Act 77 of 2022 Registration](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QSiOQSgB1U2bbEf8Wpob3qqhfxc0L8dJr_W0QDKxno5UNUxQTjZESDFBNDZWTUlCS1JXQjJTMFBZRi4u)

With passage of Act 77 of 2022, victims in Pennsylvania now have a clear path to assert and seek enforcement of their rights in juvenile/criminal court. But what does that look like? Presenters will share lessons from jurisdictions across the country that have passed similar laws. Presenters will describe what it looks like when victims with standing in juvenile/criminal courts assert and seek enforcement of their rights. The session will review the existing rights of crime victims in Pennsylvania, explore common legal challenges to victims’ rights assertion, and successful legal strategies to overcome those challenges.

**Victims’ Rights Litigation After Act 77 of 2022**

* **Target Audience**: Attorneys and Legal Advocates

*\*\*participants should have taken Victims’ Rights and Legal Standing-Understanding Act 77 training or have basic knowledge of rights enforcement training.*

* **Date of Training:** Wednesday, November 16th
* **Time:** 12-2:30pm
* **Register:** [Victims’ Rights Litigation After Act 77 of 2022 Registration](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QSiOQSgB1U2bbEf8Wpob3qqhfxc0L8dJr_W0QDKxno5UMkRRRVZMOE1TNzUyRFVWUEY4RVJONDM2RS4u)

Drawing on lessons from jurisdictions across the country, this session will offer practical strategies and guidance on the practice of rights enforcement as a result of the successful passage of Act 77 of 2022. Using case scenarios, the training will help attendees identify trauma-informed legal strategies for representing victims regarding assertion and enforcement of their rights in trial and appellate courts.  The session will include consideration of creating an effective trial court record to allow for effective, precedent-setting appellate review.

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# In Their Names

In Their Names busts open the public safety myth that uses victims’ rights to perpetuate mass incarceration, and offers a formula for what would actually make us safe.

Join the National Center for Victims of Crime in celebrating the launch of [In Their Names](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvictimsofcrime.us10.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Ddb5de61499b6cf77db23bb1ca%26id%3D4d8cdee34d%26e%3D80b790999c&data=05%7C01%7Cledorsey%40pa.gov%7Ccaa64172070f43c82e6f08dabad0767e%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C638027702272827625%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Yy1HtvbDR52G8vsnlLF6dDgVPlT7oSLB2fdtirZs5UA%3D&reserved=0), the urgent and timely book by Alliance for Safety and Justice President Lenore Anderson, at one of two virtual book talks co-hosted by [Alliance for Safety and Justice](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvictimsofcrime.us10.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Ddb5de61499b6cf77db23bb1ca%26id%3Db34520742c%26e%3D80b790999c&data=05%7C01%7Cledorsey%40pa.gov%7Ccaa64172070f43c82e6f08dabad0767e%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C638027702272827625%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=EMf1%2BpV0tEjho7p6WhRSXGyP%2B%2Btf0SkGFWGmT8LcvmI%3D&reserved=0), [REFORM Alliance](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvictimsofcrime.us10.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Ddb5de61499b6cf77db23bb1ca%26id%3Da41a249216%26e%3D80b790999c&data=05%7C01%7Cledorsey%40pa.gov%7Ccaa64172070f43c82e6f08dabad0767e%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C638027702272827625%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=otlutfHA93QuEFISSNfcf02Od95QTIlQIgMxwE9s2GE%3D&reserved=0) and the [National Center for Victims of Crime](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fvictimsofcrime.us10.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Ddb5de61499b6cf77db23bb1ca%26id%3D118b931ad5%26e%3D80b790999c&data=05%7C01%7Cledorsey%40pa.gov%7Ccaa64172070f43c82e6f08dabad0767e%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C638027702272827625%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=A5GBIYORnMdI6905SHARgiiln%2FjCN%2FtwREuNlKaMfjg%3D&reserved=0).

November 1 at 6:00 pm Please click [here](https://safeandjust.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_USW7FTNxSwCqd2fsOMRd1Q) to register

November 2 at 6:00 pm Please click [here](https://safeandjust.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9tev7zJGSPK0qCStaM3C6A#/registration) to register

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# Nov 7 Meet Up: Gun Violence Prevention

Please join us – on [Facebook Live](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ft.e2ma.net%2Fclick%2Fwrkvbg%2Fwbcy31%2Fg7hn6s&data=05%7C01%7Chhewitt%40pa.gov%7Cbd3cee5e3daa4da7482708dab292a993%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C638018640271274303%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RO9QJv3UNWBQiDxxx3OIdzl%2BdIR4oYenhtUUsQ8MZEM%3D&reserved=0) – on Nov 7 at 7:00 pm for what is sure to be an incredible discussion on gun violence and community response. We will be joined by

* Adara Combs, Philadelphia Victim Advocate
* Chardan Huston, Harrisburg Police Director of Community Relations & Engagement
* Darlene Wilson, survivor expert and activist

Laura Madeline, Executive Director of Souls Shot Portrait Project

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# Understanding And Confronting CSEC: A Specialized Training For Prosecutors

November 9, 2022 9:00am – 1:00pm

Participants will enhance their knowledge of what is CSEC, how to effectively engage child victims, and more. This no-cost training is offered as a joint presentation by Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center and PennCAC and will be an in-person event located in State College.

Breakfast provided. CLEs pending.

Please click [here](https://penncac.coalitionmanager.org/eventmanager/trainingevent/details/291) to register.

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# SafeNet’s 2022 Intimate Partner Violence Medical Conference

Thursday November 10, 2022

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Ambassador Conference Center

7794 Peach Street

Erie, PA 16509

Please click [here](https://www.safeneterie.org/the-silent-secret/) to register.

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# 2022 Governor’s Victims Services Pathfinder Award Ceremony

Join the Office of Victims Services on **November 17, 2022** at **2:00 p.m.** as we honor the 2022 Governor’s Victims Services Pathfinder Award recipients during a virtual awards ceremony.  Mr. John Delaney, Esq., Chair of the Victims Services Advisory Committee will be our Master of Ceremonies and the event will include a keynote address by Ms. Karen Widdoss, 2021 Governor’s Victims Services Pathfinder Award Recipient for Survivor/Activist.

No need to register in advance, please join us the day of the event via Microsoft Teams

Please [Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_YTM4YTdmNjYtY2U2Yy00ZDBkLTg5ZDAtNGQ5MTFkN2MxOTgy%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22418e2841-0128-4dd5-9b6c-47fc5a9a1bde%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22c443f3ec-15aa-4475-a492-b90690e84332%22%7d)

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# Dangerousness And Lethality Assessment

This course gives participants a more in-depth look into intimate partner violence, and the importance that dangerousness and lethality assessment can play in either initial response for the patrol officer, or the follow-up investigator that may be assigned the case. This course will help attendees recognize the significance for all to be aware of the importance of lethality assessment as they provide services to either a victim of abuse or if in the position of holding abusers accountable. Participants will also see methods from various surrounding states and how it may be utilized in rural settings compared to urban settings, but with the importance of taking all approaches to be victim centered and with trauma-informed lenses.

WHEN: Friday, Dec. 9, 2022 TIME: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. WHERE: Zoom COST: FREE

Please click [here](http://winservices.org/event/dangerousness-and-lethality-assessment/?instance_id=75) to register.

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# Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings

The following trainings will be held on November 9, 2022.

* Funeral & Burial Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Transportation Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on November 15, 2022.

* Relocation Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on December 7, 2022.

* “Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation” – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Counseling Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on December 13, 2022.

* Basic Compensation – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

All trainings count towards 1 hour of the required RASA/VOCA/VOJO training hours, except Basic Compensation which counts towards 2 and DAVE training which counts towards 2.25.

Please click [here](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=pccd&service=6) to register.

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# Safe Berks – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://recruiting.paylocity.com/recruiting/jobs/All/30c7801b-0ca4-49dc-80bf-6558d7b75f0e/Safe-Berks) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Crime Victims Council Of The Lehigh Valley – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://cvclv.org/employment/) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Women’s Resources Of Monroe County – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://www.wrmonroe.org/who-we-are/employment-opportunities/) to see current employment opportunities.

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# A Woman’s Place – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://awomansplace.org/get-involved/) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Turning Point Of Lehigh Valley – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://www.turningpointlv.org/home/employment-and-contract-opportunities/) to see current employment opportunities.

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The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **November 16, 2022**.  If you would like any training events, fundraisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Lea Dorsey at ledorsey@pa.gov  by Wednesday, **November 9, 2022**.

You have signed up to receive the OVS Newsletter from the Office of Victims' Services.  This newsletter will be sent to you on a biweekly basis via email.  If your email address changes or you would like to be removed from the OVS Newsletter distribution list, please contact Lea Dorsey at (717) 265-8733 or via email at ledorsey@pa.gov.

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