

**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

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OVS Newsletter

July 27, 2022

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# Changes To The Victims Compensation Assistance Program As A Result of Act 77 Of 2022

On July 11, 2022, Governor Wolf signed into law Act 77 of 2022 ([Current version is HB2464](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?syear=2021&sind=0&body=H&type=B&bn=2464)). There are a number of changes to the Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) that will take effect on September 8, 2022.  The law is not retroactive, so the changes will take effect for crimes occurring after the date of September 8, 2022.  Below is a full list of changes to VCAP:

1. Adds the following eligible charges:
* 75 Pa.C.S. § 3732.1 (Relating To Aggravated Assault By Vehicle)
* 75 Pa.C.S. § 3733 (Relating To Fleeing Or Attempting To Elude Police Officer)
* 75 Pa.C.S. § 3734 (Relating To Driving Without Lights To Avoid Identification Or Arrest)
* 75 Pa.C.S. § 3742.1 (Relating To Accidents Involving Death Or Personal Injury While Not Properly Licensed) If The Nature And Circumstance Of The Offense Committed Are Substantially Similar To An Offense Under 75 Pa.C.S. § 3742
1. Adds privately owned vehicles to crime scene clean up.
2. Changes filing requirement to 5 years with good case exceptions for filing past 5 years.
3. Changes minimum loss requirement to $50.00.
4. Adds no minimum loss requirement for claimants over the age of 60.
5. Mileage for counseling services can be paid to:
	1. Direct victim.
	2. Individual responsible for direct victim’s welfare.
	3. Intervenor or individual physically present at the crime scene and witness a violent crime.
	4. In case of homicide, an individual who discovers the body.
	5. Anyone related to the direct victim within the 2nd degree of consanguinity.
	6. Anyone maintaining a common law relationship with the direct victim.
	7. Anyone residing in the same household with the direct victim.
	8. Anyone engaged to be married to the direct victim.
6. If the crime involved is a homicide, the conduct of the direct victim shall not be considered for claims by eligible claimants for counseling and funeral expenses.
7. Allows sexual violence and intimidation orders as reporting to proper authorities.
8. Allows a minor who is a direct victim of a sexual offense to request that the minor’s primary insurance carrier not be billed for counseling services if the policy is held or administered by either the alleged perpetrator of the crime or an individual responsible for the minor’s welfare that is not supportive of counseling services.

Training for victim advocates will be provided in the near future that will discuss the VCAP changes in greater detail.

In addition to VCAP, there are other important changes to the CVA within Act 77 of 2022.

* In the 2019-2020 Regular Session, HB962 was signed into law which allowed Sexual Assault victims to file claims to VCAP for counseling without reporting to law enforcement.  This wording has now been added to the CVA as Section 701.1.
* Section 212 of the CVA has two (2) important changes relative to “Responsibilities of State and local law enforcement agencies.”
1. Act 77 of 2022 changes Section 212 (B)(1) and (2) to remove the 48-hour and 24-hour notification requirements and replaces with the following language:

Section 212 (B)(1) - “The law enforcement agency responding to or investigating an incident shall provide basic information on the rights and services available for crime victims and the availability of crime victims' compensation to the direct victim or, if appropriate, a member of the direct victim's family. The information shall be provided when the agency has first contact with the direct victim or, if appropriate, a member of the direct victim's family or as soon as reasonably possible. The information required under this subsection shall be in a written notice in a manner or form developed by the office of victims' services.”

Section 212 (B)(2) – “Law enforcement agencies shall be responsible for ensuring that officers provide the notification required under paragraph (1).”

1. Act 77 of 2022 changes Section 212 (E) from Forms to:

Section 212 (E) – “CONFIRMATION.  The law enforcement agency responding to or investigating an incident shall indicate on the police report that the information required under subsection (B) was provided to the direct victim or, if appropriate, a member of the direct victim’s family.”

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# RASA/VOJO 2023-2024 Funding Announcement is Now Open!

The RASA/VOJO 2023-2024 Funding Announcement for the funding period of January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2024 opened on July 1, 2022.  **RASA/VOJO programs must submit their applications in Egrants by Friday, September 2, 2022.**  Here is the link to the funding announcement:  <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/Active-Funding-Announcements.aspx>.

Rights and Services Act (RASA) and Victims of Juvenile Offenders (VOJO) funds support procedural services mandated by the PA Crime Victims Act, PA Juvenile Act and/or the PA Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure.

Please note that RASA/VOJO program recommendations are made by each county’s District Attorney (DA) in consultation with the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer (CJPO) to the Victims Service Advisory Committee (VSAC). VSAC will then develop final recommendations for consideration by the Commission for final approval. In order for victim service programs to apply for 2023-2024 RASA/VOJO funding, each county’s DA and CJPO must complete the RASA (DA only) and VOJO (DA and CJPO) Recommendation Forms which designate programs and funding amounts.

The RASA and VOJO Recommendation Forms, along with the 2023-2024 RASA and VOJO Allocation Charts will be emailed to each DA and CJPO in early July and they will be due back to PCCD no later than July 15, 2022. The DA and CJPO should also provide copies of the recommendation forms to each recommended RASA/VOJO program by Friday, July 15, 2022 so they can attach the signed/dated forms to their RASA/VOJO Application in Egrants.

Please contact PCCD if there are any questions concerning this announcement.  Program-related questions should be directed to Maria Katulis at 717.265.8741 or mkatulis@pa.gov   or Desirae Myers at 717.265.8460 or desmyers@pa.gov.   Fiscal or budgetary questions should be directed to James Haas at 717.265.8509 or jamhaas@pa.gov.  Questions concerning the Egrants system should be made directly to the Egrants Help Desk by calling 717.787.5887.

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# ETO Receiving Important Correspondence

To ensure the correct staff members are receiving ETO related emails, all agencies using ETO need to complete and regularly update the “***Agency Contact TouchPoint”***. Every agency’s ETO Site Manager should have already completed this General TouchPoint titled ***“Agency Contact TouchPoint”***.  However, it needs to be updated as needed basis by **EDITING the TouchPoint** when there are staffing changes at an organization.

If an email address changes or the contact person for your agency changes, it is your responsibility to update this TouchPoint to ensure PCCD has the most accurate information.  If this is not completed in a timely manner after changes in staff are made, you will miss important communications regarding ETO and grant reporting.

***SPECIAL NOTE***: The TouchPoint must be completed as a new touchpoint in the correct program if your agency has **switched** from a Case Management to Aggregate user of ETO or vice versa.  This will ensure you receive the correct instructions for completing your quarterly VOCA reports.  If your organization falls under this category, please DELETE your current Agency Contact TouchPoint and complete a NEW one in the correct program of ETO.

To complete the ***Agency Contact TouchPoint***:

* Log into ETO and go to the left-hand side navigation bar
* Select TOUCHPOINTS > VIEW GENERAL TOUCHPOINTS > and select TAKE NEW TOUCHPOINT.
* At the top of the drop-down list, you will see ***AGENCY CONTACT TOUCHPOINT***.
* Complete the data fields by providing the names and email addresses of the Site Managers at your agency that are responsible of obtaining and disseminating ETO related information.

To edit the ***Agency Contact TouchPoint***:

* Log into ETO and go to the left-hand side navigation bar
* Select TOUCHPOINTS > VIEW GENERAL TOUCHPOINTS >
* Click the (+) symbol next to ***Agency Contact Touchpoint***.
* Click the pencil icon on the right of the most recently completed touchpoint.
* Complete the data fields by providing the names and email addresses of the Site Managers at your agency that are responsible of obtaining and disseminating ETO related information.

If you need further assistance, please reach out to the ETO Team at RA-CD-OVS-ETO@pa.gov

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# 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) launched the new [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988) recently. The Lifeline accepts calls from anyone who needs support for a suicidal, mental health and/or substance use disorder crisis; and callers will be directly connected to trained mental health counselors.  Call services are free, confidential and available 24/7/365 in English and Spanish, with interpretation services in over 150 languages.

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# Recent Supreme Court Decisions Affecting Domestic Violence Victims

The Supreme Court of the United States released a number of highly consequential decisions impacting people across the country, including domestic violence survivors.

Please click [here](https://nnedv.org/latest_update/recent-supreme-court-decisions-impacting-domestic-violence-survivors/) to read.

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# Confronting School Violence And Victimization

On August 26, Jillian J. Turanovic, PhD and Krista R. Flannigan, J.D. discussed the results from a meta-analysis on the sources of school violence and victimization. The meta-analysis included various forms of aggression and crime within K-12 schools and over thirty different individual, school, and community risk and protective factors. Presenters also discussed promising actions that researchers, practitioners, and advocates can take to advance science and best respond to violence and victimization in schools.

Please click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQjHXQ_XkMA) to view.

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# World Day Against Trafficking In Persons

In recognition of **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** on **July 30**, OVC TTAC offers many resources on trauma-informed and victim-centered approaches to human trafficking, capacity building, and victim identification and outreach

Please click [here](https://www.ovcttac.gov/news/index.cfm?nm=news#AntiTrafficking22) to access.

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# Are Court Slowdowns A Key Reason For Crime Increases?

Many states drastically curtailed the operation of their courts in response to the pandemic, leaving many in jail questioning their right to a speedy trial guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment. Some civil trials and preliminary hearings for criminal matters moved online, but actual criminal trials needed to be conducted in person in front of juries.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/are-court-slowdowns-a-key-reason-for-crime-increases) to read more.

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# Multidisciplinary Team Works To Reduce Preventable Death Of Older Adults

In a new *Notes from the Field* article, a forensic nurse and medicolegal death investigator detail how they worked with a review team to identify cases of possible abuse and neglect, and ultimately reduce the number of deaths. Team members include leaders from the district attorney’s office, a medicolegal death investigation agency, law enforcement, and community partners who work in spaces for older adults, such as the public health department, hospitals, clinic providers, and adult protective services.

Please click [here](https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/multidisciplinary-team-works-reduce-preventable-deaths-older-adults?utm_content=July&utm_medium=email&utm_source=OJP_Digests) to read.

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# Hate Incidents Against Asian Americans Continue to Rise

A new report from Stop AAPI Hate has found that between March 2020 and March 2022, more than 11,400 hate incidents against Asian Americans have been reported across the United States, marking the continued surge of hate incidents against them, [reports The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/jul/21/asian-americans-hate-incidents-study). The findings signaled a persistent rise in harassment, verbal abuse and hate speech that have plagued Asian communities since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Two-thirds of the incidents reported to Stop AAPI Hate between March 2020 and 2022 involved some form of verbal or written harassment, and two in five incidents occurred in public spaces.

Please click [here](https://stopaapihate.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Stop-AAPI-Hate-Year-2-Report.pdf) to read.

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# Gun Violence Leads Community Groups To Take Bolder Action

Community groups across the country that have long sought to prevent violence are adopting new ways to stem the surge in shootings over the past two years as well as a spike in gun purchases, the Associated Press reports.

Please click [here](https://apnews.com/article/gun-violence-philanthropy-seattle-85ae515b7469e22cc1e486893636718a) to read more.

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# Gun Violence Cost $557 Billion Each Year

Gun violence in the U.S. costs $557 billion each year, including $12.62 billion paid by taxpayers, concludes [research](https://everytownresearch.org/report/the-economic-cost-of-gun-violence/) from Everytown for Gun Safety. The report covers immediate costs starting at the scene of a shooting, later costs such as long-term physical and mental health care, lost earnings and criminal justice costs, and puts a dollar value on the pain, suffering and lost well-being of victims and their families.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/gun-safety-advocates-put-annual-gun-violence-cost-at-557-billion) to read more.

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# Violent Victimization By Sexual Orientation And Gender Identity

The report provides demographic characteristics of victims of violent crimes, including sex, race or Hispanic origin, and age. It also presents data on the types of violent crimes involved and whether victims chose to report the victimization to police. Population estimates for persons age 16 or older by sexual orientation and gender identity are also provided.

Please click [here](https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/vvsogi1720.pdf) to access.

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# Homicide & Drug Delivery Resulting In Death Cases And The Role Of The Victim Advocate



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| **Course Information** |
| This extremely important training will be an introduction to the various types of Homicide cases, including Drug Delivery Resulting in Death cases and provide a foundation on how to be a successful advocate for the victims' families. Topics covered will include:* Different types and gradings of Homicides;
* The various penalties;
* The Hows and Whys of Plea Agreements;
* Successful communication with the families;
* Social media how it relates to victims' family and friends;
* A section specific to Drug Delivery Resulting in Death cases.

**Presenters****Stephen R. Zawisky, Esq.**Chief Deputy District AttorneyDauphin County DA's Office**Tonya Lupinacci, Esq.**Assistant Professor of Criminology at Immaculata UniversityConsultant at Saint Joseph's University's Center for Addiction and Recovery EducationFormer Assistant District Attorney with the Montgomery County DA's Office  |
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| Location |
| [**Best Western Premier The Central Hotel & Conference Center**](http://www.ciclt.net/sn/adm/Best%20Western%20Premier%20The%20Central%20Hotel%20%26%20Conference%20Center%20800%20East%20Park%20Drive%20Harrisburg%2C%20PA%2017111%20717-561-2800)800 East Park DriveHarrisburg, PA 17111717-561-2800  |

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| Registration |
| Registration closes on **August 1, 2022**. Attendance is limited to 50 participants. This course is open to DA-based and community-based victim advocates and victim witness coordinators, as well as to attorneys. Click [here](https://www.ciclt.net/sn/events/e_signup.aspx?ClientCode=pdaa&E_ID=500421&RegType=ATT) for more information or to register today. |

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# Assessing Culpability

Collaboration is key to any human trafficking response, but imperative where the complexity of victim-offender dynamics is not easily understood or revealed. This presentation is designed to provide service providers and criminal justice professionals with the strategies to uncover the reality of the victim’s involvement in the trafficking organization. Presenters will provide insight to assessing the culpability of individuals who were identified as both victims and offenders and share suggestions to assist in trauma-informed and appropriate responses.

Please click [here](https://webinars.sharedhope.org/product/just-webinar-series-assessing-culpability/) to register.

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# 2nd Annual Virtual Human Trafficking Summit

The Governor’s Office of Homeland Security is hosting its 2nd Annual Human Trafficking **Virtual** Summit on **Thursday, August 18, 2022, from 9:00 a.m., to 4:00 p.m**.

This year’s focus is on runaways and human trafficking as it ties to domestic violent extremism and terrorism.

This **free**, **virtual summit** is intended for law enforcement, prosecutors, child protective services, juvenile probation and victim advocates, educators, hospital administrations and staff, and those in public health and healthcare.

Please click [here](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-annual-virtual-human-trafficking-summit-tickets-366755905787) to register.

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# Trainings Being Offered On The Changes To The Victims’ Compensation Assistance Program As A Result Of Act 77 Of 2022

Trainings will be offered on the changes to VCAP as a result of Act 77 of 2022 which will go into effect for crimes occurring after the date of September 8, 2022.

The trainings are being offered on the below dates.

August 25, 2022 at 10:00am

September 7, 2022 at 1:00pm

September 22, 2022 at 10:00am

In order to register for these trainings, the Basic Compensation trainings must have been completed.  If you have not taken the Basic Compensation training there is one scheduled for September 7, 2022 at 10:00am.

Click [here](https://pccd.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=pccd&service=6) to register for one of these trainings.

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# Refugee Education Summit And Paving The Way To Educational Success Conference

**Sept. 26–29, 2022 | Kalahari Resorts and Conventions, Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania, and Virtual**

The summit and conference provide a unique opportunity to deepen your knowledge and practice for working with students experiencing homelessness and students in foster care and for understanding, supporting, and engaging newcomer refugee students and their families.

There is no cost to attend.

Registration opens in August.

Click [here](https://pheedloop.com/ptwconference2022/site/home/) for more information

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# 2022 PCADV Conference: Embracing Equity and Centering Communities

**October 6-7 in Harrisburg, PA (or Virtual!)**

After going virtual in 2020, PCADV is excited to announce that our biennial conference will return in October 2022 in Harrisburg, PA. Along with the in-person conference, there will be a virtual option to accommodate even more attendees across PA and beyond.

Please click [here](https://www.pcadv.org/conference/) for more information.

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# Foundational Academy

**Registration Information for the OCTOBER Victim Services Foundational Academy**

The last Academy of 2022 will be held as follows:

**October 26 - 28, 2022**

The Graduate Hotel

125 South Atherton Street

State College, PA 16801

*This is an in-person training only; there is no virtual or hybrid option.*

There is no charge for Academy, and single hotel rooms, parking, and lunch are included. Participants are on their own in the evenings.

Registration will be open August 29 - 31, 2022 under the PDAI Training Calendar at [www.pdaa.org](http://www.pdaa.org). Trainings are listed by date; you will need to scroll down to October to find the information.

**There is a NEW registration process for 2022:** Registration will be open for the above three days only. During this time, those who wish to attend the October Academy will be asked to ***apply*** for a spot. Information on funding and length of time at Agency must be completed as part of this process. Registrations will no longer be automatic and accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Instead, applications to attend will be prioritized by, but not limited to, length of time at agency, number of spots filled by the agency in 2021/2022, etc.

Once prioritized, the top 60 applicants will be notified of their acceptance into Academy. All others will be placed on the waitlist and notified of such. The selection process will take up to 2 weeks. All pending applicants will be contacted as soon as the lists are finalized. We ask for your patience during that time period; as a reminder, **we will contact you** either way.

As a reminder, Academy spots are only for those VOCA, VOJO, and RASA-Funded individuals for whom attendance is required per PCCD’s Consolidated Victim Services Standards. Additionally, only a maximum of 8 staff members per agency may apply for each Academy.

Finally, applicants must be able to attend all 3 days of Academy *in-person* in its entirety, as well as complete an additional supplemental online training requirement.

If you have any questions or to request the supplemental online training form, please contact:

Amy Smulktis, Restitution & V/W Training Consultant E: AJS@RestitutionConsulting.com

T: 717.333.2319 B: PDAA/I 717.238.5416/[www.pdaa.org](http://www.pdaa.org)

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# 2022 School Safety Summit



Join the Center for Safe Schools on November 1-2, 2022 in Harrisburg, PA to receive actionable strategies to support a comprehensive school safety plan and process. Leave inspired and equipped to take school safety and climate to the next level.



Please click [here](https://pheedloop.com/schoolsafetysummitfall2022/site/) to register.

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# Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings

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

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

The following trainings will be held on August 25, 2022.

* Changes to the Victims’ Compensation Assistance Program as a result of Act 77 of 2022 -           10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The following trainings will be held on August 30, 2022.

* Funeral & Burial Expenses Clinic - 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
* Crime Scene Cleanup Expenses Clinic – 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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

* Basic Compensation - 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.
* Changes to the Victims’ Compensation Assistance Program as a result o Act 77 of 2022 –

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on September 22, 2022.

* Changes to the Victims’ Compensation Assistance Program as a result of Act 77 of 2022 -           10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.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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# Legal Aid of Southeastern PA – Employment Opportunities

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

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# YWCA – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](http://www.ywcahbg.org/employment#.YsiECDfMJaQ) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Sexual Assault Resource Counseling Center (SARCC) - Employment Opportunities

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

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# Schuylkill Hope Center – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://schopecenter.org/what-you-can-do/get-involved/job-opportunities/) to see current employment opportunities.

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The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **August 10, 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, **August 3, 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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Pennsylvania’s [Office of Victims’ Services](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/default.aspx)  |  3101 North Front Street  |  Harrisburg, PA  17110 |

(717) 783-0551

[www.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pccd.pa.gov)

**PA Crime Victims Website**

[www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov)

**Twitter:** [@PaCrimeCom](https://twitter.com/PaCrimeComm)m.