**Josh Shapiro**

*Chairman*

**Derin** **Myers**

*Acting* *Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

July 6, 2016

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Upcoming Events

* + [WebEx Online Trainings Available](https://copa.webex.com/mw0401lsp13/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=copa&service=6)Compensation Related: Basic, Advanced-Counseling, Transportation Expenses, Restitution and much more!

Credits towards VOCA/RASA/VOJO training requirements are available for all sessions (unless indicated otherwise in the session description). To receive training credits: 1) you must be logged into the session and 2) the WebEx application must be on your computer for the entire duration of the session. As the OVS recognizes that emergencies may arise and you may not be able to attend the entire session, there is no prohibition against attending part of a session (although training credits will not be given in that instance).

* + [Training/Networking Opportunities](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/OVS-Training-Networking-Opportunities.aspx)
	+ [Additional RASA/VOJO/VOCA Approved Training](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Pages/RASA-VOCA-VOJO-Trainings.aspx)
	+ [2016 Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute Victim Services Training](http://www.pccd.pa.gov/Victim-Services/Documents/2016%20Victim%20Services%20Training%20Save%20The%20Date.pdf)

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# 2016 National Training Institute

The National Center for Victims of Crime is holding its 2016 National Training Institute, September 19-21, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The National Center for Victims of Crime National Training Institute is a 2 ½ day training which features more than 130 leading experts and 72 skill-building workshops with several key presentations pertaining to a wide range of crime victim issues.

This training offers a chance to network and learn from other professionals in the victims field, as well as connect with victim advocates, counselors, program managers, attorneys, social workers, psychologists, researchers, nurses, volunteers, administrators, clergy, nonprofit managers, system-based service providers, and leaders from across the country.

Click [here](https://victimsofcrime.org/training/national-training-institute/2016-national-training-institute) to register.

For more workshops, information, a full agenda, and registration information, click [here](https://victimsofcrimetrainings.secure-platform.com/a/page/Current/NTI). Please contact Kathleen Wilber at Kwilber@ncvc.org, or 202-467-8744 with any questions.

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# The National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) has announced their 42nd Annual Training Event

The National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) has announced their 42nd Annual Training Event, August 14-17, 2016 at the Westin Peachtree in Atlanta, GA.  Professionals engaged in the victim advocacy and crisis response fields can choose from nearly 120 workshops and plenary sessions designed for those new to the field, experienced professionals, and program managers. Click [here](http://www.trynova.org/2016-nova-training-event/) for more information and to register online.

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# Hopeful FUTURE Honored Past National Sexual Assault Conference (NSAC) 2016

Registration is open for the Hopeful FUTURE Honored Past National Sexual Assault Conference (NSAC) 2016. Join us August 31st -September 2nd at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C. for 2 ½ full days of workshops, guest speakers, and the opportunity to connect with others. For more information and to register, please click [here](https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=155429).

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# Scholarships Available for 2016 National Victim Service Conferences

The Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute (PDAI) is pleased to announce the availability of funding for scholarships to attend eligible national victim service conferences.  This funding is made available through a grant awarded to PDAI by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for the purpose of subsidizing the costs associated with attending these training conferences.  These costs may include registration fees, per diem (for food), and reasonable transportation and lodging expenses.  The scholarships are only available to victim service professionals to attend any national conference focused on victim service training.  To qualify, the applicant’s entire job focus must be on providing support, information, and assistance to victims.  Any eligible conference must be completed within the 2016 calendar year.  Only one person per agency can receive a scholarship and only after providing a sufficient justification of need.  Recipients are selected based upon the information provided in the application, the number of scholarships previously awarded, and remaining available funding. Click [here](http://www.pdaa.org/wp-content/plugins/civicrm/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=3845&qid=597339) for the Scholarship Application.

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# The Crime Victims Alliance of PA (CVAP) Membership Meeting And Justice Reinvestment Initiative Focus Group

The Crime Victims Alliance of PA (CVAP) is pleased to announce that the CVAP membership has been invited to participate in a focus group sharing experience and expertise and offering input as Pennsylvania re-evaluates its Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI). The JRI is an important and on-going criminal justice reform movement nationally and in Pennsylvania at all levels, and as such significantly impacts not only offenders, but also communities and victims.

In order to guide this next JRI process, a new Justice Reinvestment Working Group has been convened, and includes representatives from the Governor’s Office; agency heads from DOC, PBPP, PCS, OVA and PCCD; representatives from the Judiciary; adult probation and parole; the District Attorneys Association; and the Majority and Minority Chairs of the House and Senate Judiciary Committee.  This bi-partisan and multi-agency working group is partnering with Council of State Government (CSG) Justice Center staff to analyze Pennsylvania’s criminal justice data, develop strategies and solutions based on that data, with an overarching goal of developing and implementing policies and programs (e.g., pre-trial diversion and treatment) that will continue to avert the growth of the Commonwealth’s prison population while ensuring that public safety is not compromised.  The group is seeking to invest in evidence-based programs and innovative practices proven to reduce recidivism rates in the long-run.

They want to hear from YOU, victim service providers, to get a grasp on our concerns, issues, ideas, thoughts etc. about front end diversion. Two staff, Patrick Armstrong and Grace Call, from CSG will be in attendance to run an hour long focus group.  Please consider attending and providing your vital voice on **Monday, July 11th at 1:30pm at the CVAP general membership meeting**.

CVAP seeks to unite crime victims, survivors, advocates and activists to collectively ensure that the issues affecting victims of crime are addressed. If you would like to become a member of the alliance please contact the membership chair, Liz Gavin at egavin@yorkcountypa.gov

Committees will meet 11am-12noon July 11th; feel free to join a committee meeting to learn more about the work being done and if you would like to serve.  After a 30 minute lunch break the membership meeting will begin at 12:30 followed by the JRI Focus Group at 1:30pm.

Mark your calendars for bi-monthly Committee meetings, General Membership meetings and training dates remaining for 2016:

* Monday, September 12, 2016
* Monday, November 14, 2016

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# ****Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings****

The following trainings will be held on July 7, 2016.

Transportation Expenses Clinic – 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec0701lsp13/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&siteurl=copa&confId=3579698093&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

Basic Compensation -10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec0701lsp13/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&siteurl=copa&confId=3579698946&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

The following trainings will be held on July 19, 2016.

Loss of Support Clinic – 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec0701lsp13/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&siteurl=copa&confId=3579698394&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

Loss of Earnings Clinic -10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. [Click here](https://copa.webex.com/ec0701lsp13/eventcenter/enroll/register.do?formId=0&formType=0&loadFlag=1&siteurl=copa&confId=3579698722&internalProgramTicketUnList=null) to register.

\*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 2.15.

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# Compensation Corner - $100 Minimum Loss

In order for the Victims Compensation Assistance Program to be able to make an award on a claim, there must be a $100.00 minimum loss (if the victim is age 60 or older no minimum loss is required). If the claim does not meet the $100 minimum loss, there are additional expenses the advocate should ask the victim if they incurred. Other eligible expenses can include mileage or public transportation for counseling, pharmacy, medical services, criminal justice or PFA proceedings; replacement services (i.e. mowing the lawn, shoveling snow, cleaning the house, childcare, babysitting); meals and hotels when traveling 50 miles or more for medical appointments, court, etc; lost wages due to reporting the crime/filing the PFA or cooperating with the police or courts; over-the-counter medications purchased as a result of the crime. The vast majority of claims that do not initially reach the $100 minimum, can meet that rather quickly when thinking of all the reimbursements VCAP can pay.

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# ****Pennsylvania's Innovative Approach to SORNA Trainings****

These sessions will provide an overview of the innovative partnership with the Office of Victim Advocate and the PA State Police to provide timely and sensitive notification to crime victims when a sexually violent predator is identified by the courts and falls under the Adam Walsh Act. This partnership has significantly increased the number of victims in PA who are now empowered with tools to assist in their safety.

Immediately following the WHERE ARE MY SEX OFFENDERS NOW? PENNSYLVANIA'S INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO SORNA trainings, there will be an additional training hour for the Justice Reinvestment Focus Group.

Click the dates below to register.  Send completed registration forms to rebressler@pa.gov.

[July 28, 2016](http://www.ova.pa.gov/_layouts/download.aspx?SourceUrl=http://www.ova.pa.gov/Features/Documents/July%2028%20Where%20Are%20My%20Sex%20Offenders%20Now.docx)
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Cranberry Township Municipal Building

2525 Rochester Road

Cranberry Township, PA  16066-6499

[August 11, 2016](http://www.ova.pa.gov/_layouts/download.aspx?SourceUrl=http://www.ova.pa.gov/Features/Documents/August%2011%20Where%20Are%20My%20Sex%20Offenders%20Now.docx)
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Ray Harley Training Center
Mezzanine Level
Philadelphia District Attorney's Office

Three South Penn Squire
Philadelphia, PA  19107

[August 15, 2016](http://www.ova.pa.gov/_layouts/download.aspx?SourceUrl=http://www.ova.pa.gov/Features/Documents/August%2015%20Where%20Are%20My%20Sex%20Offenders%20Now.docx)
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Centre Lifelink EMS Inc.

125 Puddintown Road
State College, PA  16801

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# Free Training Offered by Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR)

**Engaging Latin@ Communities To End Gender Based Violence –** This knowledge exchange will focus on sharing Fuerza Unida (Strength United), a community engagement strategy utilized by Casa de Esperanza to engage with, and enhance the leadership of Latin@ communities as agents of change.  Fuerza Unida encourages individuals to think critically about their approach to community engagement and the process that will be most effective for their organizations and communities.

**July 26, 2016**
**9:00AM-4:00PM**
**Radisson Hotel Harrisburg**
**1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, PA 17011**
**717-763-7117**

**Presenter: Heidi Notario-Smull, M.A.**

**Please click** [here](https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=PCAR&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=d0dd4dd5-b39e-4b1e-a4c1-69c4b689c5d5) **to register online.**

**Deadline: July 18, 2016**

**Supporting Sexual Assault Survivors With Developmental Disabilities** - This multidisciplinary, skilled based training will provide a framework for understanding the challenges sexual assault survivors with autism and intellectual disabilities face when navigating the criminal justice and victim services systems. From reporting the assault to staff and then police, emergency department medical services, rape crisis advocates from first contact (emergency room, hotline, or scheduled appointment) through the judiciary process.

**August 9, 2016**
**9:30am-3:30pm**
**Giant Community Center, Camp Hill**
**3301 E Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011**
**717-724-1166**

**Please click** [here](https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=PCAR&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=1ad11bba-6235-4137-87c9-2e655ddc9646) **to register online.**

**Deadline: August 2, 2016**

**Serving Immigrant Victims Of Sexual Violence: A Holistic Approach –** Sexual violence is a familiar occurrence in the lives of many immigrants—victim rights advocates, lawyers, crisis counselors, healthcare providers, and law enforcement officers have become increasingly aware of sexual assault occurring against immigrant community members. In this discussion-oriented workshop of the Victims Rights Law Center, participants will learn about the ways in which immigrants are particularly vulnerable to sexual assault and why a holistic approach is essential for advocates and others serving victims of sexual violence within immigrant communities.

**August 17, 2016**
**8:30AM-3:30PM**
**Radisson Hotel Harrisburg**
**1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, PA 17011**
Presenter: Nency Salamoun

Please click [here](https://netforum.avectra.com/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=PCAR&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=23a83419-1705-4527-afed-1e745c1c7b01) to register online.

**Deadline: August 3, 2016**

For questions about **registration**, please contact Erin Levine, Database and Training Assistant, at elevine@pcar.org or 717-728-9740 x 106.

For questions about **the training**, please contact Kayla Houser, Outreach Coordinator, at knhouser@pcar.org or 717-728-9740 x 117.

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# Free Webinar Series Through The Office On Violence Against Women

Preventing sexual assault requires collaboration between a range of disciplines with a variety of perspectives, including victim advocates and sex offender management professionals, such as specialized offense-specific treatment providers and supervision officers. The Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is supporting a partnership between four organizations – the Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM), the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), the Resource Sharing Project (RSP), and the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) – on a novel initiative to enhance such collaboration. The project includes training, technical assistance, written resources, and a series of webinars that include:

Promising Examples of Collaboration Between Sexual Assault Victim Advocates and Sex Offender Management Practitioners

Friday, July 22, 2016, 1-2:30 ET

Please click [here](http://www.nsvrc.org/calendar/23694) to register.

This upcoming webinar series – the final set in this initiative – is designed to address the questions, information needs, and interests expressed by victim advocates, survivor service providers, offender treatment providers and supervision officers, and others over the course of this initiative. Don’t miss out on this opportunity. Registration is required. For inquiries regarding this webinar series, please contact Leilah Gilligan at lgilligan@cepp.com.

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# Free Webinar: ****Digital Evidence**** - ****Successfully Identifying And Acquiring Electronic Evidence To Combat The CSI Effect****

**Date/Time**

Tuesday, July 12th

90 Minutes

2:00 PM ET

**Course Description**

Given the common delays in reporting crimes of sexual assault and other forms of gender-based violence, traditional forms of corroboration such as medical and physical evidence may be limited or non-existent in some cases. Law enforcement must be open to other types of evidence that can be used to support their investigations. For example, electronic evidence is an avenue that law enforcement can often successfully utilize in both stranger and non-stranger investigations. Tapping into the digital life of the offender; crafting search warrants for cell phones, computers, tablets, social media and conducting pre-text (one party consent) communications are just a few of the ways to successfully combat the *CSI* effect. This presentation will include examples of sanitized search warrants used in actual cases to advance an investigation.

**Course Objectives**

* Recognize the different **types** of digital media that might be available (preservation letters, video, phone records, phone texts, cell phone tower information, social media)
* Understand how to legally seize electronic evidence by utilizing warrants that include requests to not just seize, but examine any evidence obtained as a result of a search warrant
* Develop a theme for the pretext communication and discuss what mode of communication might work best (e.g., phone calls, texting, email)

To register, please click [here](https://www.evawintl.org/WebinarRegistration.aspx?webinarid=1023).

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# Reminder To All VOJO And RASA Programs: Program Reports Due By July 20, 2016

The following program reports will need to be submitted in Egrants **by July 20, 2016**:

**VOJO Program Reports – periodic report for the six month period from January 1 – June 30, 2016 of current VOJO grants**

**RASA Program Reports – periodic report for the six month period from January 1 – June 30, 2016 of current RASA grants**

NOTE: Fiscal reports for VOJO and RASA grants will also be due in Egrants by July 20, 2016.

Please contact Vicki McCloskey at Vmccloskey@pa.gov or (717) 265-8746 if you have any questions or need assistance regarding your VOJO or RASA Program Reports.

For fiscal-related questions, please contact the fiscal staff member listed on your grant. If you need technical assistance with Egrants, please contact the Egrants Support Line at (717) 787-5887.

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# Nominations for the 2017 National Crime Victims' Service Awards

Nominations for the 2017 National Crime Victims' Service Awards will be accepted from May 1 to July 31, 2016. Click [here](https://ovcncvrw.ncjrs.gov/awards/default.html?e%20d2f26df2d9c416fbddddd2330a778c6=wrpcwgfcfd-wdpgfect) for more information.

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# U.S. Department Of Justice Office For Victims Of Crime Seeks Fellowship Proposals

The U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) seeks fellowship proposals in nine purpose areas that further the goals of Vision 21 by supporting OVC's efforts to provide training, technical assistance, capacity building, assessment, or strategic planning. Through these cooperative agreements, OVC will make one award for each of the nine purpose areas of up to $150,000 to individuals to work with OVC in the below purpose areas -

Purpose Area 1: Human Trafficking Task Forces

Purpose Area 2: Human Trafficking Survivor-Informed Services

Purpose Area 3: Mass Violence and Terrorism

Purpose Area 4: Post-Conviction Victim Services

Purpose Area 5: Underserved Victims of Sexual l Assault

Purpose Area 6: Victim Services in Law Enforcement and Prosecution

Purpose Area 7: Services for Male Victims

Purpose Area 8: Model Standards for Victim Assistance

Purpose Area 9: Child Sexual Exploitation

Applications must be submitted by July 11, 2016 through [Grants.gov](https://n1.m.tt/a/kvbbvllksl-vbfbmmfm.html). Applicants are encouraged to begin the application process well in advance of the deadline. For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the Grants.gov Customer Support Hotline at 800-518-4726 or 606-545-5035, or via email to support@grants.gov. The Grants.gov Support Hotline hours of operation are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, except federal holidays.

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# Together We Can Fight Human Trafficking

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Blue Campaign is launching two new tools to help raise public consciousness of the terrible crime of human trafficking across the Nation.

The Blue Campaign was founded on the simple premise that if everyone in the United States knows what human trafficking is, together we can work to end human trafficking in the United States.  Every year, thousands of human trafficking cases are reported to law enforcement, but many more go unnoticed. While the Department of Homeland Security works alongside state and local law enforcement each day to combat human trafficking in our communities, we cannot do it alone.  The new Blue Campaign video provides a brief overview of what human trafficking is, what it looks like here in the United States, and what we must do together to end it. Click [here](https://www.dhs.gov/blog/2016/05/16/together-we-can-fight-human-trafficking) for more information.

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# Report Finds The Military Punished Women Who Reported Sexual Assault by Discharging Them

A new [report from Human Rights Watch](https://www.hrw.org/node/288710/) estimates that the military has terminated and stigmatized thousands of survivors of military sexual assault after they filed official complaints about their abuse. The report compiles the stories of 163 survivors of sexual assault who were given "bad discharges" and forced to leave after reporting assaults from 1966 to 2015, ranging from harassment to rape. Veterans with bad discharges remaining on their records can face no or reduced benefits and slim job prospects. While the military has improved its management of sexual-assault cases over the past several years, "virtually nothing has been done to address the ongoing harm done to thousands of veterans who reported sexual assault before reforms took place and lost their military careers as a result of improper administrative discharges," the report says. Click [here](http://nymag.com/thecut/2016/05/military-survivors-of-sexual-assault.html) to read more.

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# Human Trafficking Task Force E-Guide

Developed in partnership by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), this Guide is a resource to support established task forces and provide guidance to agencies that are forming task forces. Its purpose is to assist in the development and day to day operations of an anti-human trafficking task force and to provide fundamental guidance for effective task force operations. Click [here](https://www.ovcttac.gov/TaskForceGuide/eguide/) to read more.

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# Domestic Abuse Can Become Financial Abuse

Few spouses or partners in a relationship oversee their finances equally. One spouse invariably carries the biggest burden when it comes to managing investments, insurance and banking. One partner might have it easier, watching the household budget, paying the bills or serving as the guard dog for important documents or online accounts. All that might be fine until one spouse or partner uses joint finances to control the other. That's when serious problems can arise. Financial abuse, which can be tied in with physical violence, is a tool whereby one person in a relationship tries to subjugate the other through tactics designed to increase isolation and dependence. Click [here](http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/2016/05/20/domestic-abuse-can-become-financial-abuse/84243932/?platform=hootsuite) to read more.

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# Why We Need To Teach Men NOT To Rape

I observed the inner workings of “guy code” as a captain of my college’s basketball team. In the locker room, we’d assert ourselves by nonchalantly referencing girls we had slept with. I heard more than once: “If we couldn’t have sex with girls, we’d never talk to them.”

I participated in the bravado, even if begrudgingly. Guy code didn’t come easy to me, something that had a lot to do with my upbringing. I was 12 years old when my father died in a car accident, turning my family’s lives upside down. In the wake of his death, my mother became the picture of strength. My coming of age was spent helping my mom, who taught me (whether inadvertently or not) that only a gender-equal, open-minded perspective could lead to happiness. Click [here](http://www.teenvogue.com/story/sexual-assault-activist-jonathan-kalin-teach-men-not-to-rape) to read more.

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# Sexual Assault Survivors Now Have A Basic Federal Bill Of Rights

A bill shaping a federal model for sexual assault survivors’ basic rights passed unanimously in the Senate, with the hope of inspiring states to follow suit. The Sexual Assault Survivors’ Rights Act passed as a part of the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act, which extends funding for programs registering sex offenders. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) introduced the bill in February after she met with 24-year-old Amanda Nguyen, a survivor who has faced complex policies in order to keep her rape kit intact. Nguyen, Shaheen wrote in a piece for[Medium,](https://medium.com/%40SenatorShaheen/establishing-basic-rights-for-survivors-of-sexual-assault-af4e868525e8#.5xzck47nh) must return to Massachusetts, the state of her assault, every six months in order to prevent her evidence from being destroyed. Click [here](http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/sexual-assault-survivors-now-have-basic-federal-bill-rights) to read more.

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# The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, July 20, 2016. If you would like any training events, fund raisers, or notable news published in this newsletter, please submit them to Heather Hewitt at hhewitt@pa.gov by Wednesday, July 13, 2016.

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 Heather Hewitt at (717) 265-8730 or via email at hhewitt@pa.gov.

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:** [@PaCrimmCom](https://twitter.com/PaCrimeComm)