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*Chairman*

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 *Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

August 10, 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 Closes 9/2

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 at 11:59pm.**  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 contact PCCD if there are any questions concerning this announcement.  Program-related questions should be directed to Heather Cureau at 717.265.8712 or hcureau@pa.gov or Maria Katulis at 717.265.8741 or mkatulis@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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# New Translated Materials To Help Young Survivors Of Human Trafficking

To commemorate World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) announced newly translated Child Victims and Witnesses Support Materials for use with young survivors of human trafficking.

Please click [here](https://ovc.ojp.gov/news/announcement/new-translated-materials-help-young-survivors-human-trafficking) to access.

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# Child Abuse Reports

The Child Protective Services Law (CPSL) requires the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services to annually report to the governor and General Assembly on child abuse in the commonwealth. The report provides information on the efforts to protect and help children who were reported as victims of suspected abuse and neglect.

Please click [here](https://www.dhs.pa.gov/docs/Publications/Pages/Child-Abuse-Reports.aspx) to access.

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# Redefining Resilience

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) has launched a new series for child abuse sexual abuse survivors. Once you subscribe, RAINN will send you a text each week for eight weeks to alert you to new materials.

Please click [here](https://www.rainn.org/redefining-resilience-series/) to read.

# Should The Public See Horrific Video, Photos Of Mass Shootings?

Few Americans outside public officials ever see the most graphic videos or photos from the worst mass shootings. In most states, such evidence is displayed only at trials, and most such killers never make it to court.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/should-the-public-see-horrific-video-photos-of-mass-shootings) to read.

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# When Police Miss Red Flags, Domestic Violence Victims May Die

Recognizing red flags is essential for police, prosecutors and courts to make informed decisions as they try to protect domestic violence victims and their families – for example, by requiring abusers to relinquish any firearms they possess or by helping victims connect to shelters and other lifesaving support services.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/when-police-miss-red-flags-domestic-violence-victims-may-die) to read.

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# National Sexual Violence Resource Center

According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey 2016/2017 Report on Sexual Violence nearly one in four men report experiencing unwanted sexual contact at some point in their lifetime.

Please click [here](https://www.nsvrc.org/resource/2500/what-you-need-know-national-intimate-partner-and-sexual-violence-survey-nisvs) to read.

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# Community Violence Resources

National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) have new resources to help youth and families affected by community violence.

Please click [here](https://www.nctsn.org/what-is-child-trauma/trauma-types/community-violence) to access.

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# Indicators Of Workplace Violence

This report presents the most recent data on fatal and nonfatal workplace violence and is produced jointly by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The report provides data on 13 indicators of workplace violence, which include characteristics of workplace homicides, characteristics of nonfatal workplace violence, nonfatal injuries due to workplace violence treated in emergency departments, and nonfatal injuries due to workplace violence resulting in days off work.

Please click [here](https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/indicators-workplace-violence-2019) to access.

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# Nearly 90 Percent Of Black Homicide Victims Killed With Guns

Guns are by far the most common weapon used to kill Black homicide victims in America, according to a new study by the Violence Policy Center (VPC). The study found that 88 percent of Black homicide victims nationwide were killed with guns. Of these, nearly two thirds were killed with a handgun.

Please click [here](https://vpc.org/press/nearly-90-percent-of-black-homicide-victims-killed-with-guns-study-finds/) to read.

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# Gabby Petito’s Family Files $50 Million Lawsuit Alleging Utah Police Failed Her

Gabby Petito’s family on Monday notified Utah officials of plans to file a wrongful death lawsuit alleging that police failed to recognize their daughter was in a life-threatening situation last year when officers investigated a fight between her and her boyfriend.

Please click [here](https://www.pennlive.com/nation-world/2022/08/gabby-petitos-family-files-50-million-lawsuit-alleging-utah-police-failed-her.html) to read.

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# Defending Criminalized Survivors: A Workshop With Survived & Punished CA

What happens when the laws that are supposed to protect survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault become turned against them? Survivors can be criminalized for reacting in self-defense, participating in criminal activity under their abusers’ coercion, or for failing to protect their children from witnessing or being impacted by violence in the home. Survivors of color, who struggle with mental health or substance dependency, or who otherwise don’t fold the “perfect victim” mold are disproportionately incarcerated. In this workshop, API-GBV will be joined by Hyejin Shim and Neda Said of Survived & Punished, who will guide participants through a discussion of the criminalization of survivors, and how advocates can support criminalized survivors.

Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 03:00PM

Please click [here](https://vawnet.org/events/defending-criminalized-survivors-workshop-survived-punished-ca) to register.

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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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# Understanding Victim Trauma

**Women In Need Presents:**

 ***Understanding Victim Trauma***Corporal Angela Weekes (Retired)
Nampa Police Department
Nampa Family Justice Center

Understanding trauma and the aftermath is important for anyone who works with victims. When a victim experiences trauma, certain indicators may be present that can offer insight into their behavior. Trauma can also affect a victim’s ability to remember and recall details of the event. When officers are trauma informed, it can minimize the likelihood of re-traumatizing the victim, and promote healing and empowerment. Another crucial area to emphasize is using trauma indicators as evidence, and how we can use this to hold those responsible for the trauma accountable. Misunderstanding trauma can lead to negative outcomes in investigations, and also pose potential long-term, devastating consequences for the victim, future victims, and community.

This training will focus on the brain and body’s response to trauma. We will also be discussing trauma-informed interviewing and talking about strategies to reframe questions in a trauma-informed manner. By the end of the training, participants will also understand the impact of accurate report writing and documenting trauma. We will wrap up with a discussion on vicarious trauma.

***WHEN:*** *Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022****WHERE:*** *Zoom****COST:*** *FREE*

*\*Angela Weekes is a retired law enforcement officer with over 26 years of experience with specialized training in the areas of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and child abuse. \**

Please click [here](http://winservices.org/event/digital-stalking-other-technology-threats-for-victims-of-domestic-violence/?instance_id=67) 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 of 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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# Women’s Center & Shelter Of Greater Pittsburgh

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

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# Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center – Employment Opportunities

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

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# Center For Victims – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://www.centerforvictims.org/make-a-difference-today/employment-opportunities/) to see current employment opportunities.

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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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The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **August 24, 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 17, 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.