

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NCJRS

FEB 28 1986

ACQUISITIONS

National Sheriffs' Association
1985 Crime Victim's Week
Information Package

A program of the Office for Victims of Crime and the
National Sheriffs' Association
1450 Duke Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
1-800-424-7827

March, 1985

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PREFACE

The week of April 14-20, 1985, has been designated as Crime Victim's Week, 1985. President Reagan, as he has done since 1981, will issue a national proclamation in April urging officials at all levels of government to initiate or support actions to meet the needs of crime victims in their jurisdictions.

The President is also expected to deliver a speech on or about April 15 in connection with his proclamation at which time he may, as he did last year, mention the importance of the role of the local sheriff in achieving the goals of victim assistance efforts.

As an elected official the sheriff is able to link the justice system with citizens and, particularly with those individual citizens who are victims and witnesses. By his position the sheriff can inform and persuade others in their communities about how the system...and its representatives who are public servants...can improve upon the manner in which their system and their local communities respond to victim and witness needs.

In the past twelve months the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) has made significant progress in working with your State Sheriffs' Association (SSAs) and with the SSA Task Force on Victims. Together NSA and your SSA are providing training and other assistance to the sheriffs in your state to enhance your abilities to assist victims of crime.

The information included in this Information Package is designed to provide you with suggested actions that you can take to celebrate Crime Victim's Week in your county. This particular time presents you with an excellent opportunity to inform the citizens in your community of your commitment to help victims and witnesses and to work with others in the criminal justice system toward this end.

Please let us know about activities you have during Crime Victim's Week and if you have any questions call us on 1-800-424-7827.

H. Jerome Miron
NSA Victim Assistance Program
1450 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-7827

WHO ARE VICTIMS OF CRIME

In 1981, more than 20 million persons stated in the National Crime Survey that they had been victims of a violent crime; an additional 20 million reported that their households were burglarized or that they were the victims of non-violent crimes. In 1983, both reported and unreported crime affected nearly 38 million persons...reflecting little change in the numbers of victims over a two-year span.

Who are these 40 million persons and what are the chances of becoming a part of this statistic?

- The chance of being a violent crime victim is greater than that of being hurt in a traffic accident.
- The risk of being the victim of violent crime is higher than the risk of being affected by divorce, or death from cancer, or injury or death from a fire.
- Victims of crime are more often men than women, more often young, more likely to be black, more likely to be divorced or single...however, the risk of becoming a victim depends on a combination of factors.
- Men, blacks and young people face the greatest risk of violent crime by strangers.
- People with low incomes have the highest violent crime victimization rate.

And, the impact of crime is reflected by:

- Relatives, friends and neighbors who hear about a crime and who become often as fearful as the victim,
- Losses from personal and household crime exceeded \$10 billion in 1980 and were almost \$11 billion in 1981, and
- Of the losses of \$11 billion in 1981, \$223 million was due to medical expenses incurred by violent crime victims.

PERSONAL IMPACT OF CRIME ON VICTIMS

Crime is a personal crisis. Its aftermath often leads to a disruption of personal and social functioning of the victim. A crime is a threatening life experience that is sudden or unanticipated, and random or arbitrary, and frequently produces a shattering impact on a person's sense of well being, privacy and ability to function with others.

Crime as a crisis can have consequences that are both physical and psychological.

The psychological impact of crime will vary with the individual victim, but can be expressed in terms of a violation of the self. That is, these are events in which the individual's self is violated beyond personal control. This violation increases in severity as the threat becomes more direct, culminating in the ultimate violation of the self...homicide. An illustration of the impact of violent crime on the self is depicted in the model on the following page prepared by Morton Bard, Ph.D (Victim Witness Programs: Human Services of the 80s., 1981)

VIOLATION OF SELF IN PERSONAL CRIMES

BURGLARY	ROBBERY	ROBBERY WITH PHYSICAL ASSAULT	RAPE	HOMICIDE
(1) VIOLATES EXTENSION OF SELF	(1) VIOLATES EXTENSION OF SELF	(1) VIOLATES EXTENSION OF SELF	(1) VIOLATES EXTENSION OF SELF	(1) ULTIMATE VIOLATION: DESTRUCTION OF SELF
	(2) LOSS OF AUTONOMY	(2) LOSS OF AUTONOMY	(2) LOSS OF AUTONOMY	
		(3) INJURY TO EXTERNAL SELF	(3) INJURY TO EXTERNAL SELF	
			(4) VIOLATES INTERNAL SELF	

-----INCREASING PSYCHOLOGICAL COMPLEXITY/SEVERITY OF STRESS-----

SOURCE: "THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF PERSONAL CRIME" MORTON BARD PH.D., IN
VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAMS: HUMAN SERVICES OF THE 80s, EMILIO C. VIANO, EDITOR (1981)

WHAT DO VICTIMS NEED?

Both the personal and physical impact of a criminal event brought on by an arbitrary and sudden action by another can be ameliorated through supportative and positive behavior of others. The "bad" action of the criminal can be countered by the "good" action of the on-scene officers, victim assistance personnel, family members, neighbors and others. The best antidote for hurtful actions of one person is the intentionally compassionate and helpful actions of another.

Specific actions or attitudes that should be involved are:

- Victim Safety: assurance that the victim will be no longer harmed and "I'm glad you're all right"; both important where there has been a physical attack or the threat of an attack. The responding officer can alleviate such fears.
- Listening-Ventilation: victims should be allowed to vent their feelings...express rage, disbelief, denial..."why, me?"...attitudes. It can be helpful to say "I'm sorry it happened." and "You did nothing wrong." Offenders--not victims are blameworthy.
- Direction: helplessness and feelings of disorientation often accompany the impact of a criminal event. Helpful actions include the quiet and firm suggestion as to actions that should be taken without imposing a moral tone.
- Second Guessing: helpers should avoid making judgemental statements relative to the victim's actions or lack of them. Questions such as "why didn't you fight back"; "why didn't you scream"; "why were you out on the street at that time of night alone" may often lead to inappropriate guilt feelings on the part of the victim.
- Guilt: the helper should understand that guilt feelings on the part of the victim are usual and normally temporary. These feelings arise, not because of a complicity of the crime, but because of a need of the victim to explain what happened.
- Anger: a normal means of expression used by victims which may be directed at the helper or anyone else. Giving full rein to these expressions can have a therapeutic effect on helping the victim to focus this energy on assisting the justice system to hold offenders accountable for criminal acts.
- Rescue Fantasy: helpers, because of their actions and attitudes, can fall into the trap of being seen as the "rescuer" by the victim, leading to long term dependency.

In short, proper, timely and helpful actions can reduce much of the pain and long term disability that may follow in the wake of crime victimization. Supportative relationships can do much to reduce the need for mental health professional intervention at a later date.

These helpful actions and attitudes require committed people, training and institutional bases...and a coordination of the efforts of all who are so involved.

Victims, families of victims and witnesses also need direction and guidance from criminal justice system officials. The justice system is a mysterious process to many victims who may never have had any prior relationship with the system. Professionals in the justice system often take for granted the terms used--such as plea bargaining or a pre-trial conference--or often understand and are familiar with legal procedures associated with an arrest--such as probable cause, warrants, search and seizure, bonds, or release on recognizance. Victims often do not understand either the meaning or purpose of such terms or procedures.

Thus, victims need information, guidance, instruction and advice about what they must do and what they can expect from the system that is designed--in theory at least--to serve and protect them.

Such questions as: What happens after I report a crime? Who do I contact for information? Will I be notified about the progress of the case? What are the names and phone numbers I should call? How do I go about having stolen documents replaced, such as Social Security cards, Driver's Licenses, and other official materials that may have been stolen? Where do I go when I am interviewed? Will the suspect or offender harm me or my family? How do I get advice and help to be protected from intimidation? What am I expected to do in a line-up, at a pre-trial conference, at other proceedings? Who will be there? Can I have an escort who explains what is to occur? What is a trial? Where? Can I speak about the effects of the crime on me and my family to the prosecutor? the judge? the probation office? What is victim compensation? Am I eligible? What are the forms to be used? Can I get help?

These and other similar questions are constantly being asked, but are often unanswered by justice system representatives. These questions must and can be easily answered if you and your colleagues in the justice system--especially your officers and deputies--were to take time to organize a response by publishing letters, and pamphlets, or by using single phone numbers to advise victims, and by continual public education and service. Through such actions many important messages are given to victims: we care; you are not to be blamed by being a victim; we in the justice system will help you. Such actions and messages will have the effect of enhancing the partnership-role of the victim in the operations of our justice system. For without these partners, there is no system, no justice, and no way to hold offenders accountable, under law, for criminal actions.

WHAT IS BEING DONE ON BEHALF OF VICTIMS?

A broad range of steps have been taken at the national level:

- President Reagan first proclaimed Crime Victim's Week, April, 1981.
- The President's Task Force on Victims of Crime report of December, 1982 emphasized the need for meeting the needs of victims and witnesses and offered recommendations to this end.
- Federal Legislation: the Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982; the Victims of Crime Act of 1984; and the Justice Assistance Act of 1984.
- Establishment of the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice.

At the state level:

- 40 states now have Victim Compensation Programs.
- 14 states and federal justice system require the use of Victim Impact Statements.
- 15 states and the federal system have statutorily defined a Victim's Bill of Rights.

Locally, hundreds of prosecutor's offices have established witness assistance programs, which in some cases provide a broader range of help to victim of crime. Many law enforcement agencies now include victim assistance programs that focus the attention of the agency on the needs and rights of victims.

Community based organizations, located in every state, have been established with state or local funding and some with funds from public or private sources. Such organizations are concerned with a broad range of victims in some instances, but more often represent resources for assisting women, children, and the elderly who become victims of crime.

In the past decade, programs to assist victims and witnesses have grown significantly. Much more needs to be done. The sheriff can easily mobilize the resources of his department and the community at large to bring together all who should be concerned with assisting victim and witnesses.

WHAT CAN YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY DO IN 1985 FOR VICTIMS?

There are a number of actions that you can take to celebrate Crime Victim's Week in April, 1985 and throughout the year.

- Be knowledgeable about the needs of victims and witnesses in your county and what is being done and by whom, to meet these needs. In many instances you will find that there are a number of new actions and resources that are needed to assure an optimum level of assistance to victim and witnesses. Instruct members of your department and others to seek out all information concerning victim's needs and victim's rights. Gaps in service delivery when identified by you, will then indicate those specific areas requiring specific attention.

- Develop a public policy statement. Such a statement should serve to inform the public and members of your department regarding the importance you place on the needs and rights of victims and witnesses. A sample policy statement is included in this Information Packet.

- Take a firm position with respect to a Victim's Bill of Rights and include this in your policy statement. One department noted "that Miranda-type warnings have been read to defendants since 1966, but how often are crime victims and witnesses read their rights?" Sheriffs have already produced statements that include the following rights for victims:

- to be free from intimidation;
- to be told about the state's Victim Compensation Act provisions and to be given assistance in filling out and processing appropriate forms;
- to be told about and given help in contacting social services resources available in the county;
- to be provided with a secure waiting area during court proceedings and to be notified when the victim or witness is not needed in court proceedings;
- to a speedy disposition of a victim's case, and to be told of the final disposition;
- to be notified whenever the offender is released from custody;
- to a quick return of stolen or other personal property when no longer needed as evidence;
- to be given information about the status of the case and to participate in decisions regarding prosecution, sentencing, and other processes; and,
- to be treated as a client of the criminal justice system and to be provided assistance by representatives of the system as the case moves through the processes of the system.

- Develop a news release. This should address the actions that you plan to take during Crime Victim's Week of 1985. The release could very well include statements about longer range plans that you may have. A sample News Release is included in this Information Packet. Your public information efforts in connection with this special week could also include:

- a radio broadcast: a sample text for such a broadcast is included in this Information Packet;
- a television program, along the lines of Meet the Press, where the activities of the week and matters relating to victim and witness needs and programs are discussed; and,
- public service announcements to be transmitted by local radio and television stations. Sample Public Service Announcements are included in this Information Packet.

- Publish a proclamation and encourage others to do the same. The President and Governors of 45 states issued proclamations last year. Such a proclamation could easily be made by you, the County Commission, the Mayors of urban centers and cities, as well as your State Legislature and Governor. A sample proclamation is included in this Information Packet.

- Conduct a one-day conference during Crime Victim's Week that focuses on the subject of victim and witness needs. Sample agendas for two such conferences are contained in this Information Packet. This one-day event may be a single activity or be held in conjunction with other activities. For example:

- you may wish to contact representatives of the clergy prior to Crime Victim's Week and discuss your plans with them, urging that they consider using themes for sermons that fit with the subjects of victims, witnesses, family violence and children as victims.
- you may wish to expand the media television program to include others in a round-table format. Representatives of the criminal justice system, community based service delivery agencies, and victims themselves could be included.
- you may wish to create a program for one or one half day that would involve primary, elementary and high school administrators and PTA representatives in a discussion regarding child abuse and molestation.
- a half-day conference could be used for bring together sheriffs from adjacent counties and representatives from city and major urban center police departments for a discussion concerning law enforcement responses to the needs of victims and witnesses.
- a banquet could be organized for the end of the week where the public would be invited and where community leaders would make comments regarding victim and witness assistance issues.

As you move forward in your planning and have questions or need assistance call anyone of the NSA Victim Assistance Program staff, 1-800-424-7827. We can provide other helpful information and ideas.

SAMPLE PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

AN EXPRESSION OF POLICY REGARDING
VICTIM AND WITNESS
ASSISTANCE

COUNTY SHERIFFS' DEPARTMENT
SHERIFF

This Department is aware that for many persons, being a victim of or witness to crime is a first experience and that for many years the concern of the criminal justice system has been for the protection of the rights of the accused, often disregarding or ignoring the concerns and needs of victims and witnesses.

The Department now sees that it is critical that the criminal justice system be prepared to address the concerns and needs of victims and witnesses effectively and bring a balance to the system that will a) lessen the impact of crime on victims and witnesses, and b) allow both to participate properly in the criminal justice process.

Therefore, a policy has been established for this Department that will bring to bear its resources in order that:

- Full information be provided to victims and witnesses concerning the criminal justice system and the role that each must play for it to meet its objective of justice for all.

- Notice of arrest of a suspect will be provided to victims and witnesses.

- Full information will be provided to victims with respect to the state's Victim Compensation Act and needed assistance will be given in execution of pertinent forms.

- Advice and assistance will be provided to victims and witnesses with regard to measures available for their protection against intimidation and harassment from the accused or others.

- Full information concerning social services that are available in the county will be given to victims.

- Assistance will be provided to victim's, where possible, with regard to transportation to hospitals, prosecutors offices and the court.

- Assistance will be provided to victims and witnesses by contacting employers and creditors relative to the victim's situation and encourage their full support for victims and witnesses who are cooperating with the justice system.

- Special attention will be given to children who are victims, the elderly and to families of homicide victims and missing children to help

meet their respective needs and facilitate their participation in the criminal justice system.

This policy will be articulated in the policy and procedures manual of the Department as guidance for its employees in carrying out their respective duties.

This policy is established with the full realization that effectiveness in its execution will demand the full understanding and cooperation of the citizens of the county, of others in the criminal justice system and of those who now provide help to those in our county who become victims of or witnesses to crime.

Sheriff

County Sheriffs' Department

SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE:

April 14, 1985

Contact: Sheriff _____
Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____

NATIONAL VICTIMS OF CRIME WEEK WILL BEGIN APRIL 14. GOVERNOR _____ HAS PROCLAIMED THIS SAME TIME PERIOD AS VICTIMS OF CRIME WEEK TO BE CELEBRATED FOR ALL OF THE CITIZENS OF _____.

SHERIFF _____ AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND OTHERS WILL BE PRESENTING PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS DURING THE WEEK TO WHICH THE PUBLIC IS INVITED.

SHERIFF _____ STATED "THE TIME IS LONG OVERDUE FOR ALL OF US TO BE AWARE OF AND RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF AND WITNESSES TO CRIME. WE ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE CHILDREN WHO BECOME VICTIMS OF CRIME. THE COMMUNITY AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM MUST WORK TOGETHER SO THAT ALL CITIZENS AND ESPECIALLY OUR YOUNG ARE KEPT SAFE FROM THE HARM THAT CRIME DOES TO ALL OF US".

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK WILL BEGIN WITH A WORKSHOP ON "FAMILY VIOLENCE: THE CRIME AND ITS VICTIMS" AT _____ ON MONDAY APRIL 15 AT 9:00 AM.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT SHERIFF _____ AT (telephone number).

SAMPLE BROADCAST

Broadcast: April 14, repeats: April 16, April 18

We Must Have Justice For All...Even the Victim!

Crime continues to be a tragedy in America! Serious and violent crime is still a devastating problem in our society. One in three households will be affected by crime...in some way...this year! This has placed a heavy burden on our community, our criminal justice system and our lives. All of us, in the face of this crisis, have legitimately been concerned about the rights of the offender, Yet, what of the victims of crime? How can we, together, balance the scales of justice so that victims are treated with fairness, dignity, compassion and service. We are all victims. The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports: "The chances of being a violent crime victim, with or without injury, is greater than that of being hurt in a traffic accident. The rates of some violent crimes are higher than those of some other serious life-events. For example the risk of being the victim of a violent crime is higher than the risk of being affected by divorce, or death from cancer, or injury or death from fire."

But in spite of that, few seem to care about the victims who often face even greater pain in the aftermath of the criminal attack. The burglary victim may face the humiliation of being fingerprinted. The rape victim feels violated again by a rape examination. The parents of a murdered child may face bills for hospital care, funeral expenses, and even recovery of the child's property. If the case goes to court, the victims may encounter countless delays and postponements. And, it is rare that the victim is given an opportunity to give an opinion or participate in the proceedings.

Victims need assistance. Representatives of the criminal justice system and others who help victims and witnesses now know this. Changes are underway. All citizens in the community have a role to play...as volunteers, as members of a Neighborhood Watch group or others.

All of us have been or may be victims of crime. Let us make sure that someone is there to help us or our loved ones put the pieces of our lives together. We ensure adequate protection for the accused. But we have yet to ensure justice for all--even the victim.

For ways in which you can help or if you need further information contact Sheriff _____ on (telephone number).

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, serious crime continues to ravage at least one third of all American households each year; and

WHEREAS, the victims of crime often face serious financial, physical, and psychological losses; and

WHEREAS, traditionally such injuries have been ignored and victims have been treated like evidence rather than people; and

WHEREAS, certain types of victims--children, victims of family violence, minorities, and the poor--have often suffered even more when they found that they had little access to the social service and criminal justice systems; and

WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States should have an opportunity to be treated with compassion, dignity and justice; and

WHEREAS, heretofore such treatment has not been afforded to all victims, witnesses, and their loved-ones or survivors;

NOW, THEREFORE I, _____ (name), _____ (title) do hereby proclaim the week of April 14-20, 1985, As:

"Crime Victim's Week"

And urge all citizens and institutions, public and private, to support the establishment of ways to assist victims and witnesses through participation in local and state activities commemorating those rights.

SAMPLE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Broadcast Copy (Radio and Television)

Start: April 14
Stop: April 20

10 seconds

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM'S WEEK, BEGINNING APRIL 14, IS A TIME FOR ALL OF US TO RECOGNIZE THE PLIGHT OF VICTIMS OF CRIME...AND TO FIND WAYS TO IMPROVE THE WAY THEY ARE TREATED. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (name of sheriff and telephone number).

10 seconds

JUSTICE FOR ALL MEANS JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESSES TOO. CRIME VICTIM'S WEEK BEGINS ON APRIL 14 AND PROGRAMS WILL BE PRESENTED BY MAJOR OFFICIALS OF _____ COUNTY. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SHERIFF _____, TELEPHONE NUMBER _____.

20 seconds

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF VICTIMS ARE VICTIMS OF CRIME, TOO. DID YOU KNOW THAT IF ONE OF YOUR LOVED ONES IS MURDERED, YOU MAY HAVE NO RIGHT TO ATTEND THE TRIAL? WHATEVER THE CRIME, EACH VICTIM AND THE VICTIM'S LOVED ONES SHOULD BE TREATED WITH RESPECT, DIGNITY AND CONCERN. CRIME VICTIM'S WEEK BEGINS ON APRIL 14...FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL SHERIFF _____ ON _____ (telephone number).

20 seconds

FAMILY VIOLENCE IS A CRIME! MORE VICTIMS DIE AND ARE INJURED EVERY YEAR BY PEOPLE THEY KNOW THAN BY STRANGERS. IT IS TIME TO RECOGNIZE THAT HOUSEHOLD VIOLENCE CREATES VICTIMS AND PARTICULARLY THAT WHETHER ATTACKED DIRECTLY OR NOT, CHILDREN ALWAYS BECOME VICTIMS WHEN THERE IS VIOLENCE IN THE HOME. CRIME VICTIM'S WEEK BEGINS ON APRIL 14...GET INVOLVED! FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SHERIFF _____ ON _____ (telephone number).

30 seconds

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM'S WEEK IS UNDERWAY. GOVERNOR (MAYOR, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION, SHERIFF) _____ HAS PROCLAIMED THIS WEEK, ALONG WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN, AS A TIME TO RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEMS FACED BY CITIZENS OF ALL AGES WHO BECOME VICTIMS OF CRIME. SHERIFF _____ WILL LEAD OTHER COUNTY OFFICIALS IN A DAY-LONG SEMINAR ON APRIL _____ THAT WILL ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF HOW WELL THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND OTHER COUNTY AGENCIES RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF AND WITNESSES TO CRIME. LAST YEAR ALONE THERE WERE _____ VICTIMS...MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN...OF CRIME IN THIS

COUNTY. MUCH HAS BEEN DONE IN RECENT YEARS TO HELP SUCH VICTIMS...BUT MORE IS NEEDED. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS WEEKS PROGRAMS CONTACT SHERIFF _____ ON _____.

GUIDELINES AND AGENDA FOR ONE-DAY PROGRAMS

PURPOSES OF INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

These Instructions and Guidelines are written to assist the Sheriff and the staff of a Sheriff's Department to plan and implement a one-day, low cost, SHERIFF'S PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE that will address the topic: "THE RESPONSE OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS AND WITNESSES."

The purpose of this SHERIFF'S PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE is to enable local and state justice system professionals and practitioners to understand the meaning of current developments, nationwide and locally, about reforms in the operations of the justice system that provide better, fair, humane, and effective services to victims and witnesses who are served by the justice system.

A secondary purpose is to enable key representatives of the local justice system--law enforcement, prosecution, and judges--to respond to these developments in order to assess the current set of victim or witness service programs in this county and state, with a view of developing new or expanded and coordinated services by the system to victims and witnesses.

THE SHERIFF'S PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE is but one of the many leadership initiatives that are being taken, nationwide, by Sheriffs as part of their work with the STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION AND THE STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION TASK FORCE ON VICTIMS OF CRIME. These actions--at both county and State levels--are part of the NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM which has been created in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice to implement the many recommendations of President Reagan's Task Force Report on Victims of Crime issued in 1983.

LISTING OF INSTRUCTIONS

These Instructions contain the materials that will be helpful in planning and conducting the SHERIFF'S PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE.

SUGGESTED AGENDA

THE SHERIFF'S PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE
"THE RESPONSE OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO THE
NEEDS OF VICTIMS AND WITNESSES"

C O N F E R E N C E A G E N D A

9:30 AM Registration/Coffee and Danish

9:45 Opening of Conference: Sheriff (name)

10:00 "The Role of the Victim and Witness in the American Justice System: New Ideas, New Practices and New Challenges"

--speakers from the Federal or State Government or other knowledgeable expert speakers

12:00 Luncheon Speaker: A Victim or Victim's Organization Representative

1:15 PM The Response of the Justice System: A Local Panel

--Law Enforcement: (Sheriff and other Law Enforcement Officials)

"What do law enforcement officials and practitioners expect from prosecutors and judges about the treatment of victims and witnesses"

--Prosecution: (Prosecutor and others from the Local Bar)

"What does the prosecutor expect from law enforcement, and judges about the treatment of victims and witnesses"

--The Judiciary: (Presiding Judge and others from the Judicial System)

"What does the judiciary expect from law enforcement, and prosecutors about the treatment of victims and witnesses"

2:15 Responses, Observations, and Questions from the Audience

3:30 Summary and Conclusion: Sheriff (name)

ANOTHER SUGGESTED AGENDA

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

AGENDA

9:00 AM Conference registration

9:30 Opening of conference

1. Address by Sheriff _____

10:00 The Dynamics of Family Violence

1. A mental health professional

2. Victimization arising from violent households: mental health or victim service delivery specialist

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 The criminal justice system role and perceptions of the problem

1. Representative of the criminal justice system

12:00 Lunch Break

1:15 PM The county's present ability to respond to victims of household violence

1. Victim services delivery representative

2:30 An Optimum Service Program: Coordinating County Services

Panel discussion:

1. Sheriff

2. Prosecutor

3. Judge

4. Probation officer

5. Mental health professional

3:30 Wrap-up: recommendations for improvement of services to victims of family violence.

CONFERENCE PLANNING CHECKLIST

- A news release to be sent to the print and electronic media and some comments on the potential televising of the Conference by either commercial, public broadcasting or cable broadcasting;
- A letter of invitation sent to each invited participant;
- A letter of invitation to each speaker and panelist;
- A program brochure distributed to each participant at registration at the Conference; and,
- A follow-up thank you letter to each sponser, speaker, and panelist.

THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM

The NSA Victim Witness Program is a joint partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime. Under a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, the NSAVWP takes the results of legal research, studies, demonstration programs, and the experiences of hundreds of different types of victim and witness assistance projects and makes them accessible to sheriffs and others in the law enforcement and justice system community. The goal of the program is to enable sheriffs and State Sheriffs' Associations to implement actions to modify the manner in which the justice system responds to the needs and rights of victims and witnesses.

The activities of the NSA Victims Witness Program that are performed to reach this goal are:

- Regional Workshops which are conducted for SSA Task Force members in all regions of the United States;
- National Conferences which are special one-day conferences or workshops held in conjunction with State Sheriffs' Association meetings, the National Sheriffs' Association Annual Criminal Justice Symposium, the National Sheriffs' Association Annual Informative Conference, the National Sheriffs' Institute held quarterly each year at the FBI National Academy, Quantico, Virginia, and other specially designed national meetings;
- Textbooks and Training Materials which support workshops and conferences;
- The NSA Victim Assistance NEWSLETTER which is published monthly and distributed to each sheriff and each SSA Task Force member which contains articles and updates about the work of Task Force members and provides information about victim or witness services or legislation;
- Technical Assistance for sheriffs and others which is delivered by several means: a toll-free phone number to obtain current information; reports or memorandum about new developments; on-site assistance by staff; and other assistance when requested and needed;
- Publications of articles in THE NATIONAL SHERIFF magazine which is distributed, bi-monthly, to more than 45,000 subscribers. Each issue contains at least one article about some aspect of victim or witness assistance;
- Speakers Bureau which provides staff members who are competent to speak on any aspect of victim assistance

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