

# SOVA OUTREACH ADVOCATE EXCHANGE

Department of Administration  
State Office of Victim Assistance

[www.sova.sc.gov](http://www.sova.sc.gov)



## SOVA OUTREACH PURPOSE

The field of victim services continues to expand and develop new and informative ways to meet the needs of our citizens and visitors in South Carolina. In our effort to meet the needs of victims, SOVA has implemented new outreach initiatives. The new SOVA Outreach Initiative is two fold. However, one of the components will include site visits to each of the solicitor's offices highlighting new and

innovative programs and services provided by the Court Based Solicitor Victim Advocates to crime victims. Secondly, the Outreach Coordinator will provide technical assistance and support to advocates as it relates to their program. We look forward to collaborating with victim advocates to ensure we are providing the best quality of services to crime victims throughout the state.

Site visits completed during FY 14-15 by the SOVA Outreach Coordinator were beneficial for the Court Based Victim Advocates. All victim advocates interviewed during the site visits agreed that networking and collaborating within their circuit and with outlying agencies was vital to victim services.

## How Can SOVA Outreach Help You?

Is your organization planning a regional training event in the near future? Another component of our Outreach is to assist with regional training events. SOVA is available to assist with registration notifications, confirmation notices, agendas, printing of

certificates, assembling packets to be distributed during the training event, and help with evaluations. Also, we can set up and monitor a SOVA display booth/table. We want to share resources within your community. SOVA is available to

answer questions about benefits and services regarding Crime Victims' Compensation. We are also available to conduct trainings and provide publication material for your organization on Crime Victims' Compensation.

### Did you know...

Renee Graham retired February 2015 after 20 years of service with State Government.

Erin Morrison, former Restitution Coordinator with SOVA's Restitution Department, is now with the 5th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office as of February 2015.

Annie Bryant retired on May 29, 2015, former Financial Liaison.

### New SOVA Employees:

Fatima Britt

Terri Stephens

Ashley Harrell

Candida Wright

Kathryn McDuffie

### What's Inside:

New SOVA Website **2**

Restitution/Subrogation **2**

Community Involvement **2**





#### What Is Leadership?

Leadership is...

Create an inspiring vision and then motivate and inspire others to reach that vision.

#### Contact Information:

Laura Hutchison

Outreach Coordinator

1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: 803.734.0484

Fax: 803.734.1708

[laura.hutchison@admin.sc.gov](mailto:laura.hutchison@admin.sc.gov)

## New SOVA Website

The State Office of Victim Assistance's website recently received a facelift. The updates to the site were incorporated to streamline the site as well as make it more user friendly for victims, their families and service providers. As victims and service providers navigate through the site, they have access to vital information to assist and educate them on resources

and questions they may have regarding completing a crime victim compensation application through SOVA. Whether you are a victim, a family member of a victim or a service provider, the site will give detailed information on the compensation program. If you are a victim or assisting a victim, there is a tab regarding "Frequently Asked Questions". Also, there is a tab for providers regard-

ing payment. The site may not answer all your questions; however, SOVA staff is available to assist you. So, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 803.734.1900. Also, if you would like publication items, please fill out the material order form located under the advocate tab and send to SOVA.

## Restitution and Subrogation

The State Office of Victim Assistance's Restitution Department has been instrumental in recouping funds through restitution and subrogation. During the last fiscal year, SOVA paid out on behalf of approximately 5,800 victims over \$6.5 million with regards to crime related bills. The agency also prevented many

victims from being turned over to a collection agency. Within the last several years SOVA has recovered approximately \$350,000.00 through restitution and subrogation by way of various court hearings. Therefore, SOVA respectfully requests that all victim advocates ask for restitution

to be ordered by the presiding judges in their respective counties. Make the defendants financially responsible for their actions. This will assist in protecting the Crime Victim Compensation Fund and will ensure that financial assistance is available for future victims.

## Community Involvement

The State Office of Victim Assistance strives to be involved with numerous events throughout the State of South Carolina. During fiscal year 2014-2015, the agency hosted the South Carolina Victim Assistance Advanced Academy (SCVAAA). The SCVAAA was held in

Columbia at the Bill Rogers Community Connections Center. The SOVA Staff went above and beyond to make this a great time of networking and collaborating for all victim service providers. The agency co-sponsors the annual Victims' Rights Week. SOVA collaborated

and partnered with the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network to ensure advocates and victims are informed of victims' rights and services. It is also a time when victims can meet others who may have gone through similar situations.