

OUTREACH AND ADVOCATE EXCHANGE

SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division

Department of Crime Victim

Compensation (DCVC)

www.sova.sc.gov



Fourth Quarter
April - June 2017

SOVA Transition to the Attorney General's Office

Please note, the following is an excerpt from Act 96 of 2017 Effective - July 1, 2017:

An Act to amend the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, so as to enact the "South Carolina Crime Victim Services Act" to restructure and consolidate victim services; by

adding Article 8 to Chapter 7, Title 1 so as to create the Office of the Attorney General, South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division, move the State Office of Victim Assistance, the South Carolina Crime Victim Ombudsman, and

that portion of the Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs under the Department of Public Safety which administers certain victim services grants under the newly created Division, and to create four departments under the Division to oversee and

administer different aspects of the victim services delivery system.

The Division:

The Office of the Attorney General, South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division, Department of Crime Victim Compensation.

Training and Field Visits FY 16-17

The State Office of Victim Assistance conducted 35 trainings and trained over 900 participants between July 2016 and June 2017.

Types of trainings conducted by SOVA:

- Mass Casualty
- 2016 SOVA Advanced Victim Assistance Academy

- Sexual Assault and Compensation
- Sheriff's Conference-Victim Assistance Fines, Fees and Assessment Fund
- 2017 Victims' Rights Week

In addition, the outreach coordinator conducted networking on a quar-

terly basis and met with 55 business owners/managers in the Columbia area to provide information on crime victim compensation.

Also, there were 7 displays at various community events across the state to provide compensation information to several

hundred participants. This is in addition to the 35 trainings and over 900 participants trained in FY 16-17.

Furthermore, SOVA distributed over 18,000 publication items statewide to advocates and providers regarding Crime Victims' Compensation.

DID YOU KNOW?

World Youth Skills Day is observed July 15

August is Don't be a Bully month

International Overdose Awareness Day is August 31, 2017

World Alzheimer's Day is September 21, 2017

Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance Day (U.S.) is September 11, 2017

New DCVC Employees:

Teresa Green

Cindy Popenhagen

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Transition according to

Merriam Dictionary:

A movement, development, or evolution from one form, stage, or style to another.

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What Happens Within Processing Services?

The State Office of Victim Assistance Processing Services Department is responsible for providing assistance to victims of crime by processing payments or reimbursements for crime related expenses such as; medical, dental, counseling, burial, and lost wages expenses that occurred as a direct result of the victimization. For full stipulations of all considered expenses, please visit the State Office of Victim Assistance's website at www.sova.sc.gov.

Listed below are some requirements regarding four major covered expenses:

1. Medical and Dental Expenses:

SOVA is payer of last resort; therefore, when the victim has health

insurance coverage, he/she will be required to provide insurance information along with the medical claim form.

2. Funeral Expenses:

The person (s) responsible for the funeral expenses incurred may file for reimbursements relating to the cost of the funeral. The responsible party is the person (s) who signed the contract or who paid the funeral bill.

3. Counseling Expenses:

SOVA is the payer of last resort. If the victim has health insurance, Medicaid or Medicare, and the victim elects not to use his/her insurance for treatment,

SOVA will not cover The cost. It is the providers responsibility to ensure that other avenues of payment are explored and used prior to filing for payment from SOVA.

4. Lost Wages:

Because SOVA is a Payer of last resort, all sources such as annual or sick leave, long/short term disability, SSA/SSI must be exhausted before SOVA will consider lost wages benefits. Payment for lost wage benefits are limited to one half of the overall compensation award amount and a 12 month disability period.

SOVA Collaboration

SOVA collaborated with the Second Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office to coordinate and conduct a free one day training on the Victim Assistance Fines, Fees and Assessment Fund Update. The training was held at the Aiken County Government Center located in Aiken, South Carolina. There were 27 participants that attended the training. Among the participants

that attended were law enforcement victim advocates, town treasurer's, non-profit organizations, clerk of court and a Chief of Police.

The Solicitor for the Second Judicial Circuit, J. Strom Thurmond, welcomed participants while his victim services staff provided light refreshments.

SOVA's Deputy Director

and the auditing team updated participants and provided detailed explanations on the new Proviso 93.35 regarding Carryforward funds, Contracts, Donations, Time and Activity Forms, etc.

The training was successful!

