



# The Voice

Missouri Department of Public Safety  
Crime Victim Services Unit

October 2011

## **Victims of Crime Have the RIGHT**

**Chapter 595 of the Revised Missouri Statutes defines and outlines the rights of victims. The Crime Victim Services Unit (CVSU) works with individuals and organizations to ensure that victims receive these rights. CVSU also assists agencies with identifying effective and efficient ways to implement crime victim rights.**

**A Victim is....** a person who suffers direct or threatened physical, emotional or financial harm as the result of crime or attempted crime.

**A Victim of....** a dangerous felony automatically receives victim rights. Victims of all other crimes and witnesses of crimes must submit a written request to their local law enforcement, juvenile office, prosecutor and/or probation and parole office to obtain their victim rights.

### **A Victim has the right to....**

- ◆ Attend all criminal justice proceedings at which the defendant has the right to attend
- ◆ Testify or provide a written or audio statement at each guilty plea and bail, sentencing, parole, probation and probation revocation hearing
- ◆ Information regarding all trials and preliminary hearings
- ◆ Restitution
- ◆ A speedy disposition and appellate review of cases
- ◆ Reasonable protection from the defendant or any person acting on his/her behalf
- ◆ Information on the release, escape, recapture or death of the accused while in custody or confinement
- ◆ Information about the criminal justice system and the rights and availability of services and information about the crime

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## OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE *Awareness* MONTH

Domestic Violence Awareness Month traces its origin to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence's Day of Unity in 1981. The Day of Unity was initiated to bring together victim advocates working across communities, states and the nation to end domestic violence. The Day of Unity grew into an entire month of awareness dedicated to remembering and recognizing past and present victims of domestic violence across the nation. Domestic violence can happen to anyone, regardless of marital status, race, age, orientation or gender. Join together to end domestic violence, to help keep individuals and families safe and to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

- Margaret Mead

Look for future editions of *The Voice*. If you have any questions or comments regarding the newsletter, or if you know someone who would like to receive the newsletter, please contact Program Specialist Lindsey Williams at (573) 522-3778 or at [Lindsey.williams@dps.mo.gov](mailto:Lindsey.williams@dps.mo.gov).

### 2011 VOCA Compliance Seminar (Mandatory)

*Agencies awarded 2011 VOCA Grants must attend the Compliance Seminar*

*When.....Friday, Oct. 21, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

*Where.....Harry S. Truman Building,  
301 West High Street, Room 492  
Jefferson City, MO 65102*

*Questions.....Call (573)-526-1464 or email  
[cvsu@dps.mo.gov](mailto:cvsu@dps.mo.gov)*

# MVSA



Missouri Victim Services Academy

The fourth annual Missouri Victim Services Academy (MVSA) was held Aug. 31– Sept. 2, 2011 at Lake Ozark, Missouri. This year's Academy achieved record high attendance throughout the three day training session.

MVSA would like to thank all who attended the Academy. We hope you enjoyed the training and gained valuable information that can be used in your office and in the field.

The Crime Victim Services Unit would also like to thank the MVSA Committee and our partners: William Woods University, Department of Social Work and Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (MAPA). We appreciate your hard work and dedication to making the MVSA IV a success!



## Tell Us How We're Doing

The Crime Victim Services Unit, part of the Missouri Department of Public Safety, would like your feedback. If you have any thoughts or comments, please contact Marc Peoples, Program Manager, Lindsey Williams or Tina Utley, Program Specialists at 573-751-4901. We **VALUE** your feedback.

## CVSU CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

- 1- 2011 VOCA Grants begin
- 14- Annual Reports for 2010 VOCA Grants due
- 21- **Mandatory** 2011 VOCA Grant Compliance Seminar, RM 492, Harry S. Truman State Office Building, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- 21- MVSA Committee meeting wrap-up, RM 870, Harry S. Truman State Office Building, 1:30 p.m. -2:30 p.m.

### NOVEMBER

- 1-4- 2012 STOP VAWA/SASP Grant Review

### DECEMBER

- 8- MOVC Advisory Committee Meeting, Conference Call, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 31- 2011 STOP VAWA and SASP Grants end

# National Crime Victims' Rights Week

## April 22-28, 2012

### "Extending the Vision: Reaching Every Victim"

**Annual Crime Victims' Rights Ceremony**  
**Thursday, April 27, 2012**  
**12 p.m. at the Missouri State Capitol**

Crime Victims' Rights Week honors individuals affected by crime and the rights they are entitled to as victims. This commemoration is a tool for individuals, agencies and communities to spread the word that crime victims have rights. Partner with someone in your area to host an awareness event, promoting your agency's services and the rights of victims.

#### Activity Ideas:

- ◆ 5K Walk/Run
- ◆ Poker Run
- ◆ Self-Defense Class
- ◆ Motorcycle or Bike Ride
- ◆ Trivia Night
- ◆ Community Breakfast

*The National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA) is seeking proposals to promote community-wide public awareness of rights and services to victims of all types. There are about 60 awards of \$5,000 each. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, October 23, 2011. For more information visit <http://cap.navaa.org/>.*

## WebGrants: Correspondence



**By Kristina Kirchhoff, Southwest Regional Representative**

**NEW:** If you have a grant contract in DPS WebGrants, any communication related to that contract must now be submitted through the system. For example, if you need to make personnel name changes to your SSVF contract, a request must be submitted through the *Correspondence* component to notify DPS of these changes.

Here is the step-by-step process for submitting correspondence:

1. Log-in to WebGrants and select "My Grants."
2. Choose the title of the project.
3. In the components section, choose "Correspondence."
4. Scroll down to "Inter-System Grantee Correspondence" and click "Add."
5. Select recipients from the drop-down list. You may also enter an e-mail address for anyone you wish to cc the message to.
6. Enter a brief subject line (i.e. "Change of Info" or "Training Request"). The system automatically attaches your contract number to the subject line.
7. Enter the body of the message. Please ensure information is clear and complete.
8. Click "SAVE," and your message will be sent.

# Spotlight on Missouri Victim Service Providers



## Christian County Prosecuting Attorney's Office



According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Christian County is the fastest growing county in Missouri. This growth has presented challenges to serving victims, but the Christian County Prosecutor's Office is meeting these challenges head on, in new and exciting ways.



- \* The office introduced a second victim advocate, funded by a VOCA Grant. The additional advocate has helped the office serve 495 victims this year, a substantial increase from previous years.
- \* The office recently completed the transition to a file-less system. All police reports and case information is stored in a database and is accessible to attorneys and victim advocates anywhere Wi-Fi is available. This system increased efficiency within the office and allows victim advocates more time with victims.
- \* The office received additional funding from a VOCA grant, allowing it to offer an on-call victim advocate for law enforcement. This allows the office to provide services to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault prior to the prosecutor's office receiving the reports. This also allows the advocate to engage and inform victims of their rights and available services.
- \* The office has applied for a grant to hire a part-time investigator to work on domestic violence and sexual assault cases.
- \* The office has introduced a policy mandating assistant prosecutors to talk with victims of Class A and B felonies prior to filing charges. They are also mandated to notify victims when charges will not be filed so they can answer any questions.
- \* An up-to-date Web site that provides information and links to other sites for victims has been completed. View the site at <http://christiancountyprosecutor.net/>.
- \* The Christian County Prosecutor's Office has also clearly demonstrated its commitment to training and education. Two of the office's five attorneys attended and made presentations at the recent MOPS conference. Chris Lebeck made a presentation to prosecutors and Ben Miller presented to victim advocates.
- \* The Christian County victim advocates attended the Missouri Victim Service Academy and have been certified through the Missouri Victim Assistance Network.
- \* The ultimate goal of the Christian County Prosecutor's Office is to review law enforcement reports the day they arrive in the office and to make a decision regarding charges that same day. This allows victims to know about their case quicker, faster prosecution and closure for victims.

***"The Christian County Prosecutor's Office will always strive to better serve victims."***

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**Victim Rights Compliance....** When resources and manpower run low, it can become more difficult to ensure that every victim obtains their rights every time. The Crime Victim Services Unit's mission and role is to provide funding, training and consultation so that agencies and communities can better serve crime victims. This includes assistance and education regarding crime victim rights. **We offer MOVANS as a free and easy way to ensure victim notification.** This free service provides notification of offender custody status, upcoming court events and protection order status.

**If you have questions about victim rights or how to ensure compliance, please contact the Crime Victim Services Unit at (573) 751-4905.**



## Upcoming Training Events



### ***Emerging Concepts in the Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse Cases***

- Oct. 24, 2011 in Kirksville and Oct. 25, 2011 in Maryville
- Hosted by the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS) & the National District Attorneys' Association
- Training is free but requires pre-registration.
- For more details visit <http://mops.mo.gov/TrainingConf.htm>

### ***IMAGINE Conference***

- Nov. 2-4, 2011 in Columbia
- Hosted by the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV).
- For more information regarding registration information and fees visit <http://www.mocadsv.org/>.

### ***3rd Annual Support Staff Training***

- Nov. 8-10, 2011 in Columbia
- Hosted by the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS)
- For more details visit <http://mops.mo.gov/TrainingConf.htm>

The Voice Newsletter is brought to you by the Missouri Department of Public Safety,  
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