

**Charles Ramsey**

*Chairman*

**Michael Pennington**

 *Executive Director*

OVS Newsletter

Dec 28, 2022

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# Final RASA/VOJO Program Reports Due January 20, 2023

**Important Message For All RASA and VOJO Programs – Final Program Reports for the 2021-2022 Funding Cycle due January 20, 2023!**

**Final Program Reports for the 2021-2022 RASA/VOJO Funding Cycle will cover the time period from October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 and should be submitted in Egrants no later than Friday, January 20, 2023.**

Below are instructions for the report sections that will need to be completed in the final program reports in addition to the report sections normally completed.

**Other Standard Questions Section** – Please complete the questions in this section to recap the second year of the grant and be sure to enter a response to each question in this section.

**Annual Training Certification Section** – Please complete this section to certify that all RASA and/or VOJO funded staff have completed annual training hours for calendar year 2022.

 Note: All RASA/VOJO funded staff are required to complete at least ten (10) hours of annual training each calendar year (January through December).

If staff did not complete at least ten (10) hours of annual training in 2022, please list the following: 1) employee name, 2) how many training hours were completed in 2022, and 3) explain how the employee(s)

 will make up the training hours still needed for 2022 in calendar year 2023. This is in addition to the ten (10) training hours that will be required for 2023.

**REMINDERS:**

The report due by January 20, 2023 is a Final Program Report. Please **click on the “Final Report” button** on the main page.

 No narrative is required in the  “Briefly List Activities Conducted During This Period” Section on the main page of the report. Simply enter “Not Applicable” in this section on the main page of the report and

 save it.

**It is very important to submit program report in Egrants by the due date of January 20, 2023**. PCCD applies a risk level to each sub-grantee. One of the factors that impacts an agency’s risk level is

 delinquent quarterly reports. RASA and VOJO Reports submitted later than January 20, 2023 may adversely impact the agency’s risk level. If unable to enter report data and submit the report by the due date,

 please contact the Office of Victims’ to receive instruction on how to proceed.

 For questions or assistance in completing the quarterly program reports, please contact Maria Katulis at mkatulis@pa.gov or (717) 265-8741, or Heather Cureau at hcureau@pa.gov  or (717) 265-8712.

Quarterly fiscal reports for RASA and VOJO grants will also be due in Egrants by January 20, 2023. Please contact the fiscal staff person listed on the grant for assistance with the final, fiscal report.

For technical assistance with Egrants, please contact the Egrants Support Line at RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov or (717) 787-5887.

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# Victims’ Rights Trainings

On July 11, 2022, Governor Wolf signed into law [Act 77 of 2022](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2022&sessInd=0&act=77). A crucial piece of this legislation makes explicit that crime victims will have legal standing at the statutory level as of September 8, 2022 (effective date of the Act).  By making “legal standing” for victims explicit, Act 77 fills a gap in Pennsylvania’s Crime Victims’ Act by recognizing crime victims’ ability to claim their rights under the Victims Bill of Rights, including when those rights are overlooked or violated.  The recognition of legal standing is a significant and positive change for Pennsylvania’s crime victims.

On November 14th, 15th and 16th, 2022, three specific virtual trainings were held to help attorneys and victim advocates understand how legal standing for crime victims affects their role as they work with victims.  Presenters for the trainings were Meg Garvin, MA, JD, MsT Executive Director and Clinical Professor of Law, Terry Campos, JD and Rebecca Khalil, JD from the [National Crime Victim Law Institute](https://law.lclark.edu/centers/national_crime_victim_law_institute/). Professor Garvin is one of the nation’s experts on crime victim’s rights.

These trainings were recorded and are now available on PCCD’s YouTube Channel ([PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/%40pacommissiononcrimedelinqu7692)).  The three trainings were:

**Making Victims’ Rights Meaningful: The Role of Advocates after Act 77 of 2022**

* **Target Audience:** Advocates (system-based and community-based)
* **Length:**  1.5 hours
* **Overview:**  Every jurisdiction in this country -- including Pennsylvania -- has provided victims of crime legal rights in the criminal and juvenile justice systems for decades. These legal rights include the rights to privacy, protection, and fairness. Sadly, when these rights are not protected victims experience re-victimization, which can have tremendous negative impacts on the victim’s mental and physical health and on the functioning of our justice systems. When victims’ rights are protected and their voices are heard, both victims and the justice system benefit: victims can experience more empowerment while the justice system operates more effectively. With passage of Act 77 of 2022, victims now have a clearer path to assert and seek enforcement of their rights in courts. This is often called “standing” – but what is standing? And what is the role of advocates in protecting those rights? Presenters provided an overview of victims’ rights assertion and enforcement, and through hypothetical scenarios help advocates ensure rights are protected.
* **YouTube Link:**  [Making Victims’ Rights Meaningful: The Role of Advocates after Act 77 of 2022 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxYd-6ijvEo)

**Victims’ Rights and Legal Standing-Understanding Act 77 of 2022**

* **Target Audience:** Attorneys and Legal Advocates
* **Length:**  2.5 hours
* **Overview:** With passage of Act 77 of 2022, victims in Pennsylvania now have a clear path to assert and seek enforcement of their rights in juvenile/criminal court. But what does that look like? Presenters will share lessons from jurisdictions across the country that have passed similar laws. Presenters will describe what it looks like when victims with standing in juvenile/criminal courts assert and seek enforcement of their rights. The session reviewed the existing rights of crime victims in Pennsylvania, explore common legal challenges to victims’ rights assertion, and successful legal strategies to overcome those challenges.
* **YouTube Link:** [Victims’ Rights and Legal Standing: Understanding Act 77 of 2022 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgydbeCmWxo)

**Victims’ Rights Litigation After Act 77 of 2022**

* **Target Audience: Attorneys and Legal Advocates**

\*\*participants should have taken Victims’ Rights and Legal Standing-Understanding Act 77 training or have basic knowledge of rights enforcement training.

* **Length:** 2.5 hours
* **Overview:** Drawing on lessons from jurisdictions across the country, this session will offer practical strategies and guidance on the practice of rights enforcement as a result of the successful passage of Act 77 of 2022. Using case scenarios, the training will help attendees identify trauma-informed legal strategies for representing victims regarding assertion and enforcement of their rights in trial and appellate courts.  The session included consideration of creating an effective trial court record to allow for effective, precedent-setting appellate review.
* **YouTube Link:** [Victims’ Rights Litigation After Act 77 of 2022 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fbn_u3ms2aQ)

Also new on the YouTube Channel is an 8-minute video PCCD created in conjunction with the PA Chief’s of Police Association notifying law enforcement of their responsibility under Act 77 to notify victims of their rights under the Crime Victims Act.  This video can be found at [Law Enforcement's Role: Providing Victim's Compensation & Victims' Rights Information - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6f-6I7384Y)

Please feel free to share these links.  If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeff Blystone at jblystone@pa.gov or at 717-265-8747.

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# National Stalking Awareness Month

January 2023 marks the nineteenth annual National Stalking Awareness Month (NSAM), an annual call to action to recognize and respond to the serious crime of stalking.

Please click [here](https://www.stalkingawareness.org/stalking-awareness-month-2023/) to read.

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# 2021 Hate Crime Statistics

The 2021 data, submitted by 11,834 law enforcement agencies, provide information about the offenses, victims, offenders, and locations of hate crimes. This is the first year the annual hate crimes statistics are reported entirely through the [National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)](https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/more-fbi-services-and-information/ucr/nibrs). Compared to the previous crime data collection system, NIBRS collects significantly more detailed data for each individual criminal incident.

Please click [here](https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/press-releases/fbi-releases-2021-hate-crime-statistics) to access.

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# Preventing Youth Hate & Identity Based Bullying Fact Sheet

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has launched a comprehensive national initiative to prevent youth hate crimes and identity-based bullying. OJJDP has published a one-page fact sheet summarizing key takeaways and resources from the Initiative.

Please click [here](https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/publications/fact-sheet-preventing-youth-hate-crimes-identity-based-bullying.pdf) to access.

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# State Guide On Employment Rights For Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, And Stalking

FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE and [Legal Momentum](http://www.legalmomentum.org/) finds that few states have enacted the kind of employment laws that help people facing violence keep their jobs – and the laws that do exist are not always complied with or enforced.

Please click [here](https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/unfinished-business-states-providing-robust-workplace-protections-survivors-violence/) to access.

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# Philadelphia Plagued By Gun Violence

Philadelphia has recorded its 500th homicide this year, surpassing a bleak milestone for the second year in a row as the city’s gun violence epidemic continues at an unrelenting pace

Please click [here](https://www.inquirer.com/news/homicides-philadelphia-2022-gun-violence-crisis-20221220.html) to read.

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# Justice Today

Justice Today is the official podcast of the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs.   The focus of the podcast is on the most pressing criminal justice issues and seeks to explore efforts to prevent crime, assist victims, and strengthen the criminal and juvenile justice systems by providing vital research, data and best practices.

Learn how [Dr. Katherine Scafide](https://justicetoday.buzzsprout.com/1861872/11662728-shedding-light-on-assault) uses alternate light sources to better identify signs of bruising linked to domestic abuse cases and improve outcomes for victims of various genders, sizes, ages, and skin tones.

Hear NIJ [Scientist Mary Carlton](https://justicetoday.buzzsprout.com/1861872/11842658-understanding-preventing-and-responding-to-human-trafficking) discuss her research on human trafficking which is focused on developing tools and information to help better understand, prevent, and respond to trafficking.

Please click [here](https://justicetoday.buzzsprout.com/1861872) to access all episodes.

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# Coping With The Holidays For Victims Of Crime

Through the holiday season, victims of crimes, family members, friends, and colleagues may experience life-changing traumas again through flashbacks, nightmares, and overwhelming sadness.

Though there are no rules to help someone get through the holidays, OVC offers suggestions from survivors based on their lived experience.

Please click [here](https://ovc.ojp.gov/news/featured-resources/december-2022-featured-resources?utm_campaign=featuredresources&utm_content=december_2022&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsfromovc#coping-with-the-holidays-for-victims-of-crime) to access.

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# Juvenile System Staffing Crisis

Juvenile system across the U.S are experiencing a staffing crisis that spans corrections, probation, and services provider agencies.

Please click [here](https://www.ncja.org/crimeandjusticenews/addressing-the-national-juvenile-justice-system-staffing-crisis) to read.

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# National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

In recognition of National Impaired Driving Prevention Month, OVC highlights materials to help ensure the field has the necessary resources to serve victims of impaired driving.

Please click [here](https://ovc.ojp.gov/news/featured-resources/december-2022-featured-resources?utm_campaign=featuredresources&utm_content=december_2022&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsfromovc#national-impaired-driving-prevention-month) to access.

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# Biden Community Violence Initiative Ends

The White House recently marked the end of its 18-month initiative known as the Community Violence Intervention Collaborative. Some involved in the initiative say 18 months isn’t long enough to complete the work.

Please click [here](https://www.politico.com/news/2022/12/06/guns-community-violence-intervention-collaborative-00072630) to read.

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# Local Elections Will Define Criminal Justice Policy in 2023

Big-city mayor races and elections for prosecutor and sheriff—will shape policing, punishment and jail conditions in 2023.

Please click [here](https://boltsmag.org/2023-criminal-justice-elections/) to read.

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# Military – Civilian CCRT Self- Assessment Checklist

The Community Self-Assessment Checklist is a guide for developing a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) approach to preventing and responding to dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking (DVSAS) involving military members, veterans and their families.

The step-by-step guide is intended for new and pre-existing CCRTs to support in assessing, engaging and elevating the unique needs of military-connected survivors within a community CCR approach.

Please click [here](https://www.trynova.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Military-CCRT-Assessment_Final.pdf) to access.

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# Child Homicides Show A Sharply Rising Trend Since The Pandemic

The number of children killed as the pandemic spread across the U.S. in 2020 rose steeply, as did the number injured by firearms, scientists reported in two recent studies.

Please click [here](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/19/health/gun-deaths-children-covid.html) to read.

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# National Convening: Human Trafficking In Illicit Massage

January 11-12 2023

**OMNI Hotel at California Plaza
‍**251 South Olive Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Join a national convening about the illicit massage industry—arguably one of the most prolific and misunderstood forms of human trafficking in the United States. The two-day gathering will provide a collaborative space to learn from professionals across the anti-trafficking field, along with expert training on promising and effectives strategies to combat human trafficking in illicit massage businesses. The convening will be educational and action-oriented: to both improve understanding of the issue and to equip professionals with the insights, tools, and best practices that will lead to positive impact.

Please click [here](https://www.thenetworkteam.org/conference/main) to register.

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# Upcoming Events – Stalking Awareness

Stalking and Older Adults Webinar + Ask the Experts January 12 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Identifying and Responding to Stalking January 17 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Context is Key: Recognizing and Responding to Stalking January 19 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Showcasing Success: National Stalking Awareness Month January 20 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Please click [here](https://www.stalkingawareness.org/upcoming-events/) to view.

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# Group Crisis Intervention Training

Learn the Group Crisis Intervention Model to respond to community trauma.

*Become KCIT Certified—Join a Statewide Team*

KCIT’s Group Crisis Intervention (GCI) is a secondary response that addresses the gap that exists in-between traditional trauma services offered. After a tragic event, first responders leave, and a community may then be left on its own to navigate their path forward. KCIT can address large numbers of people at a time to help a community come together and to start to tell the story of what happened and connect them to necessary resources and services.

During a GCI a group is led by a facilitator through a series of questions using time progression—starting in the past, present, and then future. Questions aim to help participants sort through their experience of the event, sensory impact, reactions, and what they continue to hold as a result of the trauma. The group process assists in restoring connection and the feeling that “I am not alone” in my suffering. It is important to understand that a GCI is not therapy and is a onetime intervention.

**Length**: 12 hours

**Cost**: Provided at no cost! Funding made possible by PCCD

**Format**: Virtual and offered in four 3-hour sessions

**Dates**: Fridays in February

* February 3, 2023
* February 10, 2023
* February 17, 2023
* February 24, 2023

**Time:** 10:00-1:00 PM

*(Must attend all sessions to receive KCIT Certification and be present with camera on)*

**Registration:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMudOirrTMqG9PYomZyoP3zfh\_5u5rLk02f**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fmeeting%2Fregister%2FtZMudOirrTMqG9PYomZyoP3zfh_5u5rLk02f&data=05%7C01%7Cledorsey%40pa.gov%7Ccba9e169c74c4d1786c708dad21bd860%7C418e284101284dd59b6c47fc5a9a1bde%7C0%7C0%7C638053314281882512%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Ct6Yp5vQb4NpXsu6SGbWq1NYsRcQGK5s%2B1WX3h38tYc%3D&reserved=0)

**Questions?:** Contact Melissa McDermott at Melissa@novabucks.org

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# Addiction And Connection To Treatment

Thursday January 26, 2023 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Live Virtual Training Session

Instructor: Steve Forzato

The Center for Addiction and Recovery Education at Saint Joseph’s University, under a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, delivers first responder, opioid response, and refresher training across the Commonwealth. Current and former first responders will train law enforcement, firefighters, and related professionals on the topics of substance use disorder and the use of Naloxone (NARCAN) as well as stigma and implicit bias when engaging persons with addiction or substance use disorder issues.

Please click [here](https://events.eventzilla.net/e/pennsylvania-district-attorneys-association-2138574864) to register.

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# March 2023 Foundational Academy

The first Academy of 2023 will be held as follows:

**March 22 – 24, 2023**

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 February 6 – 8, 2023 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 March to find the information.

Registration will be open for the above three days only. During this time, those who wish to attend the March 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 55 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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# Victims Compensation Assistance Program Online Trainings

The following trainings will be held on January 5, 2023

* Stolen Benefit Cash Expenses Clinic– 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Loss of Earnings Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on January 11, 2023.

* Loss of Support Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Relocation Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on January 18, 2023.

* Medical Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Counseling Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on January 26, 2023.

* Basic Compensation – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on February 1, 2023.

* Transportation Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Motor Vehicle-Related Crime Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on February 7, 2023.

* Funeral & Burial Expenses Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* Crime Scene Cleanup Expenses Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The following trainings will be held on February 22, 2023.

* Myths of Compensation Clinic – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
* “Wow, That’s Covered by Compensation” –11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.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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# Court Appointed Special Advocates For Children Philadelphia County – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://www.idealist.org/en/nonprofit-job/813412aff8ff45f18b2509cb21644c63-casa-educational-decision-maker-advocate-supervisor-casa-of-philadelphia-county-philadelphia) to see current employment opportunities.

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# YWCA Hanover Safe Home – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://www.ywcahanover.org/who-we-are/careers/) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://pcar.org/about-us/employment) to see current employment opportunities.

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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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# Turning Point Of Lehigh Valley – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://www.turningpointlv.org/home/employment-and-contract-opportunities/) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Safe Berks – Employment Opportunities

Please click [here](https://recruiting.paylocity.com/recruiting/jobs/All/30c7801b-0ca4-49dc-80bf-6558d7b75f0e/Safe-Berks) to see current employment opportunities.

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# Crime Victims Council Of The Lehigh Valley – Employment Opportunities

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

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# Women’s Resources Of Monroe County – Employment Opportunities

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

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The next OVS Newsletter will be published on Wednesday, **January 11, 2023**.  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, **January 4, 2023**.

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.