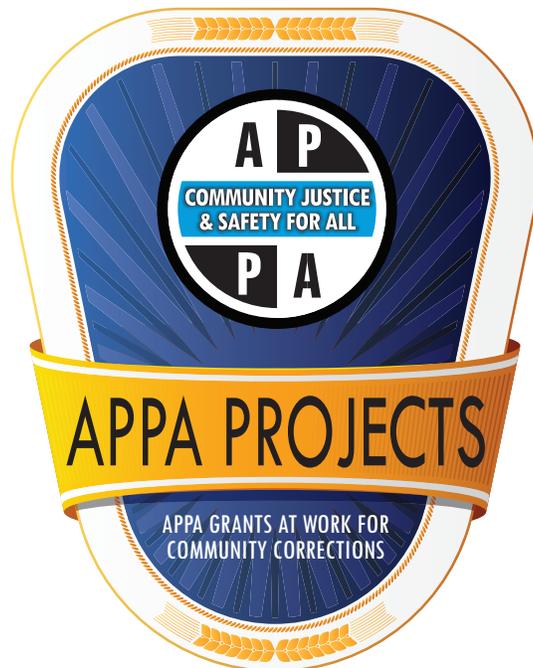


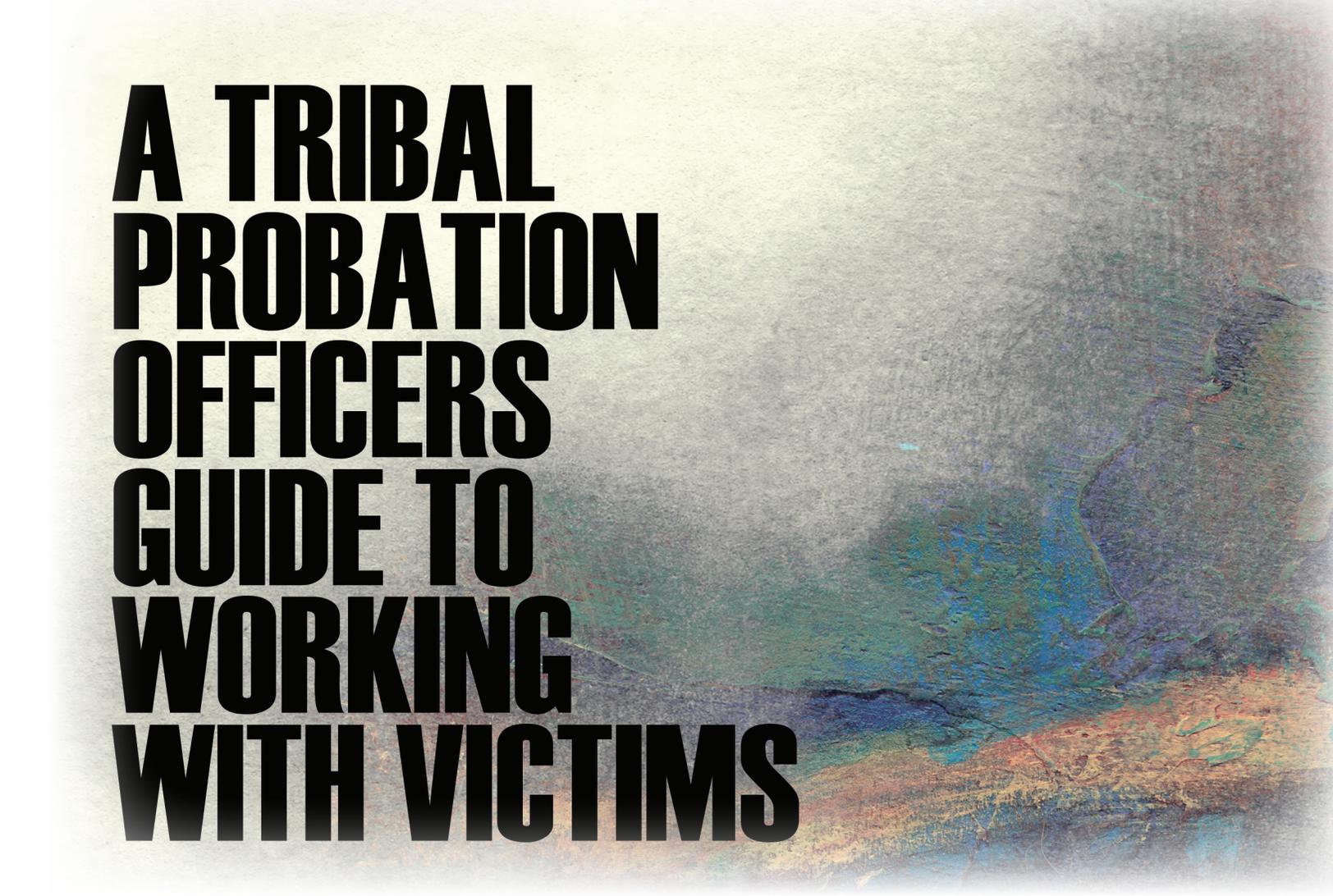
# **A TRIBAL PROBATION OFFICERS GUIDE TO WORKING WITH VICTIMS**

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# A TRIBAL PROBATION OFFICERS GUIDE TO WORKING WITH VICTIMS

## **WHY TRIBAL PROBATION OFFICERS SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT CRIME VICTIMS**

The work of tribal probation officers (TPOs) is essential in promoting individual and community safety. Victims and survivors are members of the tribal community whose lives are often irrevocably harmed and changed by crime. They are often called upon as witnesses for tribal and criminal justice proceedings, and can sometimes provide important information that is useful to both the case and to effective offender supervision in the community. When victims are validated as “clients” of justice systems, it can:

- Become a key factor in their willingness to participate in justice processes;
- Increase their cooperation as witnesses;
- Increase the effectiveness of their input (through processes including victim impact statements and pre-sentence investigation reports);
- Decrease their potential to endure secondary trauma as a result of participating in justice proceedings; and
- Improve their favorable perceptions of tribal and criminal justice processes.

While victims are not the primary client for you as a tribal probation officer, you are in a unique position to provide them with critical information and link them with services. This bulletin is designed to provide TPOs with a brief overview of victims’ rights, tips to help coordinate and improve the delivery of victim services, and information about the varied services available to victims of crime.

## **THE IMPACT OF CRIME ON VICTIMS**

It is important to remember that every crime is unique, and every victim/survivor is unique. The impact of crime on victims can be affected by any possible existing stressors in a victim's life; the availability of social support and victim assistance services to help the victim; and individual/ personal resiliency. In general, crime affects victims in five ways:

1. Emotional/Psychological – shock, high anxiety and levels of distress, disturbed concentration, depression, alcohol and other drug use/abuse, concerns about personal safety, suicide ideation, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
2. Physical – physical wounds, short- and long-term physical disabilities, and psychological effects that can lead to physical impacts, i.e., sleep disturbances, alcohol/other drug abuse, etc.
3. Financial – costs associated with medical and mental health expenses, relocation, housing, transportation and family support (which are often affected by lack of employment or job loss resulting from the crime)
4. Social – concerns about who to tell, being believed and not being blamed; and problems with personal relationships and trust issues
5. Spiritual – questioning faith in a Higher Power in the aftermath of victimization, or reliance on spiritual beliefs to cope with the impact of crime

Understanding the impact of crime on victim and being knowledgeable about available victim services will guide you in making appropriate referrals for survivor support.

## **VICTIMS' RIGHTS LAWS**

Victims in Indian Country have eight specific rights under the federal Crime Victims' Rights Act:

- To be reasonably protected from the accused
- To reasonable, accurate and timely notice of any public court proceedings, or any parole proceeding, involving the victim or any release or escape of the accused
- Not to be excluded from any public court proceeding, unless the court, after receiving clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding
- To be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, sentencing, or any parole hearing
- The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case
- To full and timely restitution as provided in law
- To proceedings free from reasonable delay
- To be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy

## **BARRIERS TO VICTIM PARTICIPATION IN CRIMINAL AND TRIBAL JUSTICE PROCESSES**

In “Violence Against Native Women: A Guide for Practitioners Action,” 13 barriers to justice and healing for Native women who have survived domestic and sexual violence and stalking were identified:

1. Federal restrictions on Tribes’ criminal authority
2. Access barriers for Native women who have survived domestic violence
3. Barriers to the enforcement of Tribal protective orders
4. Lack of reciprocal cross-deputization
5. Reluctance to report sexual assault crimes
6. Lack of a legal response to rape and sexual assault
7. Need for basic domestic violence and sexual assault education
8. Insufficiency of protection orders
9. Not allowing the Native woman to be in control
10. Challenges associated with life in small communities
11. Burnout
12. Emotional barriers
13. Cultural barriers

These barriers apply to all types of crime victims.



Commensurate to federal law, many Indian Nations have tribal laws and codes that are specific to crime victims. Two resources that are helpful include:

The National Indian Law Library (<http://www.narf.org/nill/index.htm>) sponsored by the Native American Rights Fund, which features a database of tribal laws searchable by topic, i.e., peacemaking and conflict resolution, jurisdiction, criminal justice, Tribal Law and Order Act, Indian Child Welfare, health and human services, etc., along with sample Tribal Codes for victims' rights (Sample Tribal Code for Victims' Rights - Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians <http://www.narf.org/nill/Codes/saultcode/ssmcode75victim.htm>).

VictimLaw, sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime, which includes a database searchable by "contents" – including "tribal" – that features tribal victims' rights laws and codes from over 100 tribes nationwide ([www.victimlaw.org](http://www.victimlaw.org)).

In addition, the 2013 re-authorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) includes a provision that allows tribes to try some non-Indian defendants in domestic abuse cases. The U.S. Department of Justice has selected three tribes to exercise this authority first – the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon, and the Tulalip Tribes in Washington – before the program expands to other federally-recognized tribes nationwide in March 2015.

## VICTIMS' RIGHTS AND RELATED SERVICES

It is essential that you become familiar with the basic victims' rights provided for in the federal Crime Victims' Rights Act, tribal codes and states' laws. These rights and helpful tips to promote enforcement are below.

### *Safety/Reasonable Protection*

Many victims fail to report crimes because of safety concerns. For those who do report, the fear of retaliation or re-victimization is a very real concern that must be identified and addressed by law enforcement and justice professionals (including tribal probation) and victim advocates.

#### **FEDERAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS BROCHURE**

<https://www.notify.usdoj.gov/USAOVictimRights.pdf>

#### **FEDERAL INVESTIGATIVE VICTIMS' RIGHTS BROCHURE**

<https://www.notify.usdoj.gov/InvestigativeVictimRights.pdf>



**RESOURCES**  
to review for victim's rights

Some victims experience actual fear because they have been directly threatened by the offender, while other victims experience perceived fear due simply to the trauma of victimization. They may not always verbalize their concerns, so it's important to ask direct questions that can identify safety issues, such as:

- Do you have any concerns about your personal safety?
- Do you have any concerns about the safety of your children and family (including issues related to supervised visitation and/or custody)?
- Has the offender or any of his/her cohorts threatened you in any way?

If the victim answers “yes” to any of the above questions, you can facilitate immediate referrals to community- or system-based victim assistance professionals who can help the victim develop a safety plan, which usually entails:

- Contact information for the agency/professional supervising the offender in the community
- Instructions to call “911” in cases of emergency
- Safety strategies while at home and work; for children and families; on transportation and in public; online; and what to do if unwanted contact from the offender occurs
  - ▶ The following websites provide examples of safety plans
    - The National Center on Sexual and Domestic Violence provides safety plan examples in many languages [http://www.ncdsv.org/publications\\_safetyplans.html](http://www.ncdsv.org/publications_safetyplans.html)
    - Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN) <http://www.rainn.org/get-information/sexual-assault-prevention/safety-plan>
    - Stalking Safety Planning, National Center for Victims of Crime <http://www.victimsofcrime.org/our-programs/stalking-resource-center/help-for-victims/stalking-safety-planning>

**BEYOND OBSERVATION: CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADVANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PRACTICE IN SUPERVISED VISITATION, FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUND, 2008**

<http://www.niwrc.org/community/download/publications/supervised-visitiation-and-safe-exchange/beyond-observation1.pdf>

**SAMPLE CONDITIONS OF RELEASE CAN BE ACCESSED AT THIS LINK:**

[http://www.justicesolutions.org/art\\_pub.htm#conditions](http://www.justicesolutions.org/art_pub.htm#conditions)

# RESOURCES

to review for safety/resonable protection

Any safety concerns can also be addressed within an offender's conditions of release and supervision (with such conditions provided to the victim for information and safety purposes), for example:

- “No contact” or other protective orders
- Restrictions on visits with children, including requirements for supervised visitation and location of visits
- Limitations on movement and location
- Participation in treatment programs (such as batterers intervention or sex offender treatment)
- Participation in supervised intensive caseloads (such as domestic violence, sexual assault or drunk driving)
- Mandatory cooperation with child or adult protective services

### *Confidentiality*

Victim privacy and confidentiality are important tenets of victim safety. There are two types of confidentiality of which tribal probation officers should be aware: 1) the confidentiality of victim information from the offender and/or defense counsel; and 2) the confidentiality of victim advocate communications with victims whom they serve. Victim knowledge of confidentiality protections (or the lack thereof) can help them make informed decisions about their cases, and the scope of information they are willing to disclose.

Crime victims will want to know if specific information and communications are confidential or accessible by the offender and his/her counsel, including:

- Personal communications with you
- Input provided through victim impact statements or pre-sentence investigation reports
- Communications with allied professional agencies, such as child or adult protective services or victim assistance organizations



**VICTIM ADVOCATE CONFIDENTIALITY IN  
INDIAN COUNTRY, NATIONAL INDIAN COUNTRY  
CLEARINGHOUSE ON SEXUAL ASSAULT**

[www.niccsa.org/confidentiality](http://www.niccsa.org/confidentiality)

**CONFIDENTIALITY BROCHURE, SACRED CIRCLE**

[http://www.niwrc.org/community/download/publications/  
Safety\\_Planning&Confidentiality-Brochure.pdf](http://www.niwrc.org/community/download/publications/Safety_Planning&Confidentiality-Brochure.pdf)

**RESOURCES**  
to review for victim's rights

The confidentiality of these communications will vary depending on the agency and jurisdiction you work in and the accompanying policies and procedures. It is important to become knowledgeable about information confidentiality so that when the questions arise you are prepared to provide the victim with accurate information. You should also be knowledgeable about court and justice processes that compel victims to provide information, such as any court order, i.e., a subpoena accompanied by either a court order or “satisfactory assurances,” or a discovery request within a court order. Most victim assistance organizations within Indian Country have clear confidentiality policies that guide their actions, and require specific consent from victims to share their personal information with any authorities (including tribal probation officers).

You should become familiar with such policies and consent processes in order to be able to make formal, lawful requests for information relevant to the victims of offenders on your caseload, and to avoid inadvertently disclosing confidential victim information, such as the victims contact information, any request the victim has made for services, and/or information about medical or mental health services they seek or access.

### *Notification and Information*

Victim notification and information are important rights that increase victims’ capacity to make informed decisions about their lives, their cases and their future. It is helpful to identify the types of notification that are provided by tribal, federal, state and local law enforcement and justice agencies, which can include case status; custody status; escape; and release from or return to custody.

Generally, there are four potential sources of notification and information for victims that vary across jurisdictions:

1. Tribal notification that may include a telephone or letter from the tribal jail or justice system.
2. The U.S. Department of Justice Victim Notification System (VNS) provides victims of federal crimes with confidential information and notification about case and custody status (<https://www.notify.usdoj.gov/index.jsp>). Victims register with VNS through their FBI or USA office, which provides them with a victim identification number; they then select a personal identification number (PIN) to access the system, which provides notification by letter or email. VNS also hosts a Call Center for clients who need help accessing the service (1-866-DOJ-4YOU).
3. Statewide automated victim information and notification (SAVIN) programs, available in most states, which provide a range of notification services such as case and custody status ([www.savinonline.org](http://www.savinonline.org)). Victims can self-register confidentially to receive notifications via telephone, text, email and/or letter.
4. State and local jurisdictions without automated systems may make personal calls to victims or send them a letter with information about case and custody status. Check with the jurisdictions you most often work with to find out more about their victim notification procedures.

*According to the National Indian Country Clearinghouse on Sexual Assault, “the ‘golden rule’ on confidentiality for victim advocates is (that) a client’s information is not to be shared outside of the victim advocate’s agency unless the client gives the agency express permission to do so.”*

<http://niccsa.org/confidentiality.html>

### *Participation*

Victims' right to participation includes attendance at all court-related hearings, including probation and parole hearings (and any revocation hearings). TPOs can determine if victims want to attend and participate in any hearings related to their case, and work with victim assistance professionals to provide orientation to and personal accompaniment at such proceedings. If your jurisdiction does not have a dedicated victim services person or victim advocate, you may reach out to the agency that provides social services or behavioral health for assistance or utilize elders or spiritual leaders in your community to provide support.

### *Victim Input*

Victim input may take the form of a victim impact statement (VIS) delivered at the time of sentencing in court or at a parole proceeding; or may be included in a probation pre-sentence investigation report. "Victims" may be the person against whom the crime was committed; the parent(s) or guardians(s) of minor victims; and/or the surviving family members of homicide victims. Depending upon a tribe's or jurisdiction's practices, victims may be able to provide input in person (allocution), in writing, and/or by a personal meeting with a court, probation or parole professional.

In general, victim input seeks to address ten issues that illustrate how the crime affected the victim, and his/her wishes relevant to offender sentencing, release and accountability. The following victim input issues can be adapted to be relevant by the victim's age, culture and community:

- Please describe the offense, and how it affected you and your family.
- What was the emotional impact of this crime on you and your family?
- What was the physical impact of this crime on you and your family? (NOTE: This question should be utilized for personal crimes).
- What was the financial impact of this crime on you and your family? (NOTE: Provide information about documenting losses for restitution and other financial/legal obligations)
- Do you have any concerns about your safety and security? If "yes", please describe your concerns.
- Would you like any protective measures taken by the court/paroling authority to promote your safety and security?
- What do you want to happen now?
- Would you like an opportunity to participate in victim/offender programming (such as mediation/dialogue or victim impact panels) that can help hold the offender accountable for his/her actions? (NOTE: Only utilize this question if such programs are in place, and ensure that the victim has written resources that fully describe such programs)
- If community service is recommended as part of the disposition/sentence/parole supervision, do you have a favorite charity or cause you'd like to recommend as a placement? (Or "would you like to make a recommendation for community service from our agency's list of possible placements?")
- Is there any other information you would like to share with the court/paroling authority regarding the offense, and how it affected you and your family?

You can use this framework in victim interviews for pre-sentence investigation reports, or work with victim advocates to make sure this information is provided to victims to help them complete their VIS.

### *Restitution and Other Legal/Financial Obligations*

The financial impact of crime can be devastating to victims and their families, especially if the convicted offender is the primary source of income for the victim and his/her family. Restitution and payment of child support are important tenets to hold offenders accountable for their criminal actions. Yet too often, courts order restitution and/or payment of child support as part of sentencing and little is done to encourage the offender to fulfill these obligations, leaving victims in severe financial situations or even destitute.

There are several things you can do to help facilitate the enforcement of restitution and other legal/financial obligations (LFOs):

- Help victims to document their pecuniary losses resulting from the crime, and include this important information in any pre-sentence investigation report.
- Keep the victim apprised of the court's efforts to secure the fulfillment of LFOs from offenders.
- Work with the court(s) to increase your understanding of how the payment of LFOs is managed, and to streamline the process to expedite payments to victims
- Do not use "ability to pay" as an excuse for non-payment of LFOs! Few victims have the "ability to pay" the often significant costs associated with the crime.
- Work with clients on your caseload to:
  - ▶ Make sure they understand that their LFOs ordered by the court are an opportunity to show accountability for their criminal actions, and that restitution is a victim's right, not a recommendation.
  - ▶ Establish a reasonable payment plan (as well as a process that quickly gets LFO monies to the victim)
  - ▶ Improve their opportunities to fulfill LFOs by identifying resources for employment assistance; job training, budgeting classes, and assessment of current expenditures that could be used to pay LFOs (for example, satellite television, cigarettes, etc.) (text box below)

#### **DOCUMENTING RESTITUTION LOSSES (JUSTICE SOLUTIONS)**

[http://justicesolutions.org/art\\_pub.htm#restitution](http://justicesolutions.org/art_pub.htm#restitution)

#### **RESTITUTION AND OTHER LEGAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

<http://www.appa-net.org/eWeb/docs/APPA/pubs/PVRPPP-FACTSHEET-4.pdf>

# RESOURCES

to review for restitution and other legal/financial obligations

### *Victim Compensation*

Victim compensation programs reimburse victims for crime-related expenses – such as medical costs, mental health counseling, funeral and burial costs, and lost wages or support – that are not covered by collateral sources (e.g. insurance payments, Medicaid, restitution payments, etc.). Victims of violent crime may suffer financial stress that can be as devastating as their physical injuries and emotional trauma. Recovering from violence or abuse is difficult enough without having to worry about how to pay for the costs of medical care and counseling, or about how to replace lost income due to disability or death. Every state has a crime victim compensation program that can provide substantial financial assistance to crime victims and their families. While no amount of money can erase the trauma and grief victims suffer, this aid can be crucial in the recovery process.

You can contact your state’s victim compensation program and/or visit its website so you can become familiar with compensation requirements, the application process and the range of financial assistance so you can advise victims of violent crime about their options.

## **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH VICTIMS**

The impact of crime on victims (see above) can detrimentally affect basic communications due to victim trauma, an inability to concentrate, or simply fear. You can safely assume that most victims do not understand the role of TPOs in promoting tribal justice and community safety, and any knowledge they have may include assumptions that you are only an advocate for convicted offenders, i.e. the person who harmed them.



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CRIME VICTIMS  
COMPENSATION BOARDS (LINKS TO STATE  
COMPENSATION PROGRAMS)**

[www.nacvcb.org](http://www.nacvcb.org)

**RESOURCES**  
to review for victim’s compensation

Effective communications with victims require that you:

- Explain your role within the tribal justice system, including your responsibilities for effective supervision of offenders and coordinating with allied professionals to identify and meet victims' needs.
- Provide basic information about victims' rights that fall within the realm of community supervision (see above), and your role in helping them implement their rights.
- Be very clear about the specific purpose of any communications or meetings you have with victims in advance so that they can be well prepared.
- Always make sure that victims have the telephone number for emergency communications if they feel their personal safety is threatened or compromised.

Some good things you can say to or ask victims are:

- "I'm sorry you were hurt by crime".
- "What happened is not your fault".
- "I am here to help you, or identify other resources to help you".
- "The information you provide me is helpful to your case and my capacity to supervise the offender".
- "Do you have any concerns about your safety or security, or that of your children and family?"
- "What do you want to happen now?"
- "Would you like a referral for victim assistance?"
- "I'm glad we have the opportunity to discuss your case, and appreciate your input".

It's equally important to avoid saying things to victims that can be hurtful or harmful to them such as:

- "I understand what you are going through".
- "I know how you feel".
- Anything that:
  - Negates the harm that the victim endured
  - Negates the need for offender accountability
  - Appears to judge or second-guess the victim
  - Any promises or guarantees (that may not always be possible to fulfill)

## COLLABORATION FOR VICTIMS' RIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION AND VICTIM ASSISTANCE SERVICES

There are many governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations that provide services and support to tribal victims of crime at the federal, tribal, state and local levels. These organizations may not be aware of the critical role of TPOs in providing information and referrals to crime victims, and promoting individual and community safety through effective supervision strategies. It's helpful to not only identify these service providers, but to reach out to them to ensure that victims you may come into contact with are aware of supportive services. You can provide victim service providers with:

- Your name and contact information
- A brief overview of your work supervising offenders in the community
- A request to work together to identify and meet victims' needs within your community

A good place to start identifying victim advocates with whom to partner is the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime Online Directory of Victim Services (<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/findvictimservices/>). It features over 10,000 victim assistance programs nationwide, searchable by state; agency name; type of victimization; type of service; and/or type of agency (including Native American tribes' and organizations' services both on and off the reservation).

### *Federal Victim Services*

The FBI Office for Victim Assistance (OVA) ensures that victims of federal crimes investigated by the FBI are afforded the opportunity to receive notification of investigation status and receive victim services. OVA employs 31 victim specialists dedicated to Indian Country, serving 38 Indian nations. In addition to providing information about victims' rights and the criminal/tribal justice processes, these victim specialists also provide on-scene crisis intervention, accompany FBI agents to interviews, arrange forensic examinations, and accompany victims to court proceedings. Victim specialists establish working relationships with tribal councils to coordinate services and assure cultural understanding.



#### **FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION OFFICE FOR VICTIM SERVICES**

[http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/victim\\_assistance/victims](http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/victim_assistance/victims)

#### **OFFICES OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS, "VICTIMS' RIGHTS AND SERVICES" (SEARCH- ABLE DATABASE)**

[http://www.justice.gov/usao/briefing\\_room/vw/](http://www.justice.gov/usao/briefing_room/vw/)

# RESOURCES

to review for federal victim services

Each of the 93 U.S. Attorneys has victim/witness staff members who work to ensure the fair and respectful treatment of victims of federal crimes. They provide information, notification, and assistance with receiving reasonable protection, as well as the enforcement of restitution orders.

### *Tribal Victim Services*

Tribal services for crime victims vary widely across Indian Country, and are often located within tribal organizations that serve women and children, promote child and family welfare, and/or sponsor tribal community-based programming that focuses on safety and accountability. Twenty tribes sponsor coalitions that address violence against women and children and provide victim assistance services (<http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/statedomestic.htm>).

### *State and Local Victim Services*

While victim assistance services are available in every state, services in rural/remote/frontier regions of the country are not as readily available. It's helpful to know the different types of victim assistance programs and how to access information about local programs:

- State domestic violence coalitions, which include organizations that assist victims of interpersonal violence and their children (<http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/statedomestic.htm>)
- Sexual assault coalitions, which include rape crisis centers and organizations that help victims of sexual violence
- More than 750 Children's Advocacy Centers nationwide that promote a multidisciplinary approach to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases (<http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/index.php?s=36>)
- Over 600 Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) chapters that provide support and services to victims of drunk, drugged and impaired driving in every state (<http://www.madd.org/local-offices/>)

#### **MENDING THE SACRED HOOP**

<http://mshoop.org/>

#### **TRACKING AND MONITORING: BUILDING A COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES**

<http://mshoop.org/resources/manuals/tracking-monitoring-building-a-coordinated-community-response-in-native-communities/>

# RESOURCES

to review for tribal victim services

- Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) chapters in 26 states that offer ongoing support and advocacy to families and friends of homicide victims (<http://www.pomc.com/chapters.html>)
- Local prosecutor-based victim/witness programs that advocate for victims throughout the criminal and juvenile justice systems

You can contact a tribal victim advocate or the prosecutor-based victim advocate in the largest county next to your reservation who can help you identify system- and community-based victim services. They may even have a referral resource list they can share with you.

## SERVICES FOR CRIME VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

Crime victim services across the federal, tribal, state and local spectrums will vary. Tribal probation officers can use the 20 general victim assistance services listed below as a “starting point” to collaborate with allied victim assistance professionals, and determine which victim services are available from agencies and organizations within a specific tribe or surrounding jurisdictions:

- Crime scene response
- Crisis intervention
- Basic needs assessment
- Emergency financial assistance
- Safety planning
- Advocacy or intervention with employers
- Development or enhancement of the victim’s social support system
- Assistance in addressing physical health issues
- Assistance in addressing mental health issues
- Mental health counseling
- Victim support groups
- Legal advocacy and assistance
- Referrals for social services
- Inform victims of their constitutional and statutory rights under law and help them enforce these rights
- Provide information about and assistance with crime victim compensation (for victims of violent crime)
- Provide orientation to the criminal, tribal and/or juvenile justice system
- Facilitate victim participation in justice proceedings and provide accompaniment to any justice systems hearings, upon request
- Provide information about and assistance in accessing any civil remedies relevant to a specific victim or case
- Sponsor and/or participate in victim/offender programming, such as “Impact of Crime on Victims” classes and Victim/Offender Dialogue
- Partner with allied justice professionals in offender programming that promotes accountability and future crime prevention, i.e., batterers’ intervention programs, sex offender treatment programs, etc.

There are also over 20 national toll-free information, assistance and referral numbers that victims can call for assistance.

## National Information and Referral Resources for Crime Victim/Survivor Assistance

AGENCY	TOLL-FREE NUMBER AND TTY/TDD	HOURS OF OPERATION	WEBSITE URL
American Domestic Violence Crisis Line (Americans victimized abroad)	(Intl. Toll-free) 866-USWOMEN	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.866uswomen.org">www.866uswomen.org</a>
Battered Women’s Justice Project	800-903-0111	Monday – Friday 10:30 am – 6:30 pm EST	<a href="http://www.bwjp.org">www.bwjp.org</a>
Childhelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline	800-4-A-CHILD TDD 800-2-A-CHILD	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.childhelp.org">www.childhelp.org</a>
Department of Defense SAFE Help-line	877-995-5247	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.safehelpline.org/">www.safehelpline.org/</a>
Identity Theft Hotline, Federal Trade Commission	877-ID-THEFT TTY 866-653-4261	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/">www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/</a>
Mothers Against Drunk Driving	877-MADD-HELP	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.madd.org">www.madd.org</a>
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children	800-843-5678 TDD 800-826-7653	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.missingkids.com">www.missingkids.com</a>
National Center for Victims of Crime	N/A	N/A	<a href="http://www.ncvc.org">www.ncvc.org</a>
National Children’s Alliance	800-239-9950	Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST	<a href="http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/">www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/</a>
National Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-7233 TTY 800-787-3224	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.thehotline.org">www.thehotline.org</a>
National Human Trafficking Hotline	<b>888-373-7888</b>	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.polarisproject.org/">www.polarisproject.org/</a>
National Organization for Victim Assistance	800-879-6682	Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST	<a href="http://www.trynova.org">www.trynova.org</a>
National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.	888-818-POMC	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm EST	<a href="http://www.pomc.com">www.pomc.com</a>
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence	800-537-2238 TTY 800-553-2508	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm EST	<a href="http://www.nrcdv.org">www.nrcdv.org</a>
National Sexual Violence Resource Center	877-739-3895 TTY 717-909-0715	Monday, Thursday, Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 am – 8:00 pm EST	<a href="http://www.nsvrc.org">www.nsvrc.org</a>
National Teen Dating Abuse Help-line	866-331-9474	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.loveisrespect.org">www.loveisrespect.org</a>
Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network	800-656-4673	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.rainn.org">www.rainn.org</a>
Resource Center on DV: Child Protection and Custody	800-527-3223	Monday – Friday 11:00 am – 8:00 pm EST	<a href="http://www.nnedv.org/resources/nationalorgs/59-national-organizations/5-rcdvcpc.html">www.nnedv.org/resources/nationalorgs/59-national-organizations/5-rcdvcpc.html</a>
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	Treatment Ref. Line: 800-662-4357 Suicide Prevention: 800-273-8255 Veterans’ Crisis Line: 800-273-8255	24/7/365	<a href="http://www.samhsa.gov/">www.samhsa.gov/</a>

### *Victim/Offender and Restorative Justice Programs*

Many victim/offender and restorative justice programs have strong roots in tribal culture. Their goal is to offer help and healing for victims, offenders and communities affected by crime. They must be victim-driven (the victim must always be willing to participate without coercion), victim-centered, and safe for all participants.

In Indian Country, such programs are often integrated into traditional tribal justice processes and sometimes offered as diversion programs. It's helpful to identify any existing programs in your jurisdiction so that you can incorporate them in probation case planning and management:

- Community impact panels (circle sentencing, family group conferencing, and accountability boards) that engage victims, offenders, their families and community members in discussing what happened, and what needs to happen to ensure that the victim and community are safe and satisfied, and that offenders are held accountable for their actions
- Victim/offender dialogue that uses a trained facilitator to discuss the crime, its impact on the victim, and his/her wishes for offender accountability and case outcomes
- "Impact of Crime on Victims" classes or panels for offenders that help them understand how their crimes affected their victims, their own families, their communities and themselves

## **CONCLUSION**

As a tribal probation officer, you are in a unique position to serve as a conduit of services to both victim and offender. In situations, such as domestic violence, the victim and offender will continue to be connected whether it be through legal or civil connections (such as marriage, children, ownership of property, etc.) or through personal decisions to work out their situations. These situations may prove challenging and it is essential that safety and wellness remain a high priority. Knowing the different ways in which crime affects victims, what their rights are, and what resources are out there for them to access services will put you in a position to put them on a path to healing, wellness, and safety.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

NCJRS Special Feature, Justice in Indian Country – Victims Publications and Products, Related Resources and Grant Funding

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/justiceinindiancountry/vsindiancountry.html>

Bureau of Justice Assistance Tribal Training and Technical Assistance 2013 Provider Directory

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/publications/bureau-of-justice-assistance-tribal-training-technical-assistance-2013-provider-directory/>

Promising Victim-Related Practices Fact Sheet Series

[http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/Dynamicpage.aspx?webcode=IV\\_ProjectDetail&wps\\_key=54ff59b5-b17b-40b1-bbbe-f228b62aef0e](http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/Dynamicpage.aspx?webcode=IV_ProjectDetail&wps_key=54ff59b5-b17b-40b1-bbbe-f228b62aef0e)

The Role of Community Corrections in Victim Services

Collaboration and Partnerships for Victim Services in Community Corrections

Family Violence

Restitution and Other Legal Financial Obligations

Seeking Victim Input

Victim Information and Notification

Victim/Offender Programs

Workplace Violence

Promising Victim-Related Practices in Probation and Parole

[http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/Dynamicpage.aspx?webcode=IV\\_ProjectDetail&wps\\_key=b0bb6eaf-bf6a-473f-8133-bb8df4598a73](http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/Dynamicpage.aspx?webcode=IV_ProjectDetail&wps_key=b0bb6eaf-bf6a-473f-8133-bb8df4598a73)

## **REFERENCES**

Office on Violence Against Women (2006). “Violence Against Native Women: A Guide for Practitioners Action.”

