

SOVA OUTREACH ADVOCATE EXCHANGE

South Carolina Department of Administration
State Office of Victim Assistance

www.sova.sc.gov



SOVA Community Outreach

The State Office of Victim Assistance Outreach continues to provide site visits to Court Based Victim advocates, coordinates and conducts training events as well as set up and monitor SOVA dis-

plays at career and health fairs statewide.

In the Second Quarter, approximately 300 participants received information on crime victims' compensation at these events. The coordinator also con-

ducted a site visit with the Sixth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. The visit was very successful!

2016 South Carolina Advanced Victim Assistance Academy

The 2016 South Carolina Advanced Victim Assistance Academy was a huge success! Participants stated the success was largely due to how well SOVA worked as a team to put together a great training. After reviewing surveys submitted by participants, it was evident of the impact speakers made on participants.

The presenters for the 2016 SC Advanced Victim Assistance Academy were, Dr. Heather L. Pfeifer, Ph.D. and Lt. Eric Di

Lorenzo. Dr. Pfeifer is an Associate Professor in the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Baltimore and the Associate Director of the Roper Victim Assistance Academy. Dr. Pfeifer's presentation was on the Illuminations Program. Many of the participants described the training as understanding the true meaning of empathy. Dr. Pfeifer put a different spin on knowledge about trauma related to child sexual assault crimes. Also, Lt. Eric Di Lorenzo with the Myrtle Beach Police

Department, presented on active shooter and hostage situations. Lt. Di Lorenzo's training helped participants envision new scenarios and how to protect themselves.

SOVA would like to thank The South Carolina Law Enforcement Victim Advocate Association and the Assistant City Attorney's Office for Myrtle Beach Victim Advocates for their partnership.

Did you know?

National Blood Donor Month is recognized in January.

February is Heart Disease Awareness Month.

National Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month is recognized in March.

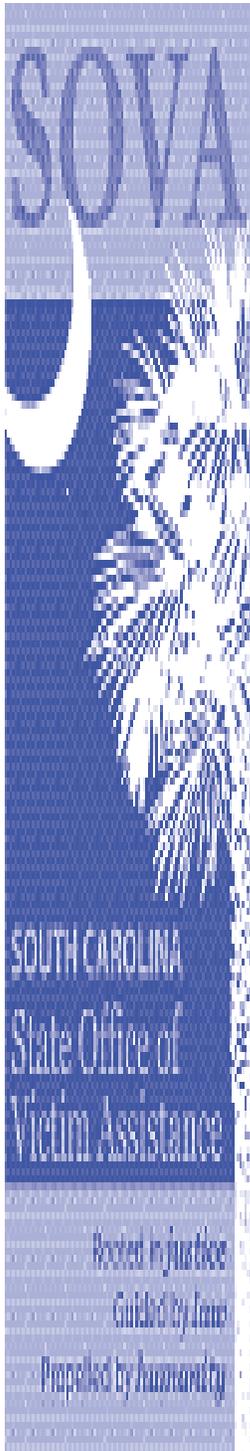
Richelle Copeland, SOVA's Senior Auditor, was married on 12/03/2016 and is now Richelle A. Melvin. Congratulations Richelle and Don!

Congratulations Latoya Newton, Restitution Coordinator! Latoya gave birth to a beautiful baby boy on November 30, 2016. RJ weighed 8 lbs. 11.4 oz. and is 19 1/2 in. long.

What's Inside:

[Crime Victims' Compensation Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ's\)](#) **2**

[SOVA Training and Field Visits](#) **2**



Difference between a **BOSS** and a **LEADER** :



Top 5 Fundamental Management Skills:

- Planning
- Organizing
- Coordinating
- Commanding
- Controlling

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Crime Victims' Compensation FAQ's

Whether you are a Law Enforcement Victim Advocate (LEVA), Court Based Victim Advocate or a service provider, you may have questions related to what SOVA will or will not consider for compensation. Below are several frequently asked questions (FAQ's) regarding The South Carolina Crime Victims' Compensation Fund.

Q - What is the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund?

A - The South Carolina Crime Victims' Compensation Fund is a financial assistance program designed to help victims with expenses directly resulting from a crime that are not covered by other payment sources. If you qualify for the program, it can pay certain costs for medical treatment or burial arrangements up to the maximum allowed by law.

Q - Is a crime victim automatically qualified for crime victims' compensation?

A - No. SOVA must have a valid crime victim compensation application on file that has been determined eligible by laws that govern the compensation fund. SOVA will work with law enforcement officers, advocates and the victim to help an eligible victim qualify under the law.

Q - What if a victim has medical insurance?

A - The State Office of Victim Assistance is payer of last resort. All other resources must be explored, private health insurance, Medicare and Medicaid, prior to SOVA considering payment on a claim.

Q - If a victim qualifies for crime victims' compensation, what services will SOVA consider paying for?

A - SOVA will assist with certain types of crime related costs up to a combined total of \$15,000. The types of services SOVA will consider paying for are:

medical, dental, mental health counseling, burial and lost wages. All expenses must be directly related to losses incurred from injury or death.

Q - What types of documentation are necessary to submit to SOVA for considering payment on a claim?

A - The types of documentation necessary for payment consideration are:

- Death Certificate
- Medical Claim Form
- Itemized Bill of charges from medical provider
- Explanation of Benefits (EOB)
- Copy of receipt from the pharmacy

Q - Are taxpayers funding the program?

A - No, in order to provide crime victims' compensation, SOVA receives a portion of funds from fines, fees and assessments.

SOVA Training and Field Visits

The State Office of Victim Assistance meets monthly with the Victims' Rights Week (VRW) Committee to discuss pertinent details surrounding VRW 2017.

Look for additional information concerning VRW 2017 in the next edition of the SOVA Outreach Advocate Exchange.

The SOVA Training Team

conducted a training on crime victims' compensation during a free training event hosted by the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office Victim Services Unit and the South Carolina Victim Service Coordinating Council on December 9, 2016 in Orangeburg.

Also, SOVA's Restitution staff conducted multiple field visits with city and

county police, victim advocates and Solicitor's Offices to discuss best practices of working together to ensure restitution is ordered to aid in the solvency of the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund.

Are you interested in scheduling a SOVA training? Please contact SOVA at 803-734-1704 to discuss your needs.