



The Michigan DVOCCATE

Victim Compensation: Good News for Victims

■ by Dan Eddy

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A Michigan

Crime Victim Services

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C rime victim compensation is good news for crime victims. Every state in the country operates a program that can cover the medical expenses,

counseling costs, lost wages, funeral bills, and a range of other losses for victims. It is a resource that every victim advocate and assistant, police officer and prosecutor, and anyone else who works regularly with victims can use to help them restore their lives.

But victims must find out about compensation before they can access its benefits. If a victim doesn't know about the program, she and her family may suffer needlessly, never getting the financial help that is available. Their efforts to regain the stability and dignity of their lives may be hampered and delayed—all because those who could have told them about compensation failed to provide this vital information.

At the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, we're acutely aware of the important role that people in victim services and the criminal justice system play in the success of compensation programs. All of the compensation agencies, like Michigan's, that belong to this association know that without the support of those who work

with victims, the compensation process never gets going. People in the field serve as the crucial link to help victims of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and many other violent crimes get the financial assistance they need.

Everyone's Responsibility

Telling victims about crime victim compensation is a special duty of every professional who works with victims. This one-to-one contact is by far the most effective way for victims to learn about compensation opportunities. Compensation programs have found that while various outreach efforts such as distributing brochures and broadcasting public service announcements can increase public awareness, most people don't retain information that they don't currently need. It's when someone becomes a victim, and is actually facing questions relating to the costs of crime, that he or she needs to hear about compensation.

*...victims
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Victim Compensation continued...

The overwhelming majority of victims who apply for compensation have found out about the program through a victim service professional or police officer. Compensation programs themselves, with small staffs, simply aren't designed to make initial contacts with individual victims. They depend on victim service workers and police to do this work. This is true in every state, even those with compensation staffs much larger than Michigan's.

A victim advocate doesn't have to be an expert about the details of compensation—it may be enough just to point a victim in the right direction. Though it certainly helps to know as much as possible about eligibility requirements and benefits, simply telling the victim that the program exists can make a huge difference. Helping the victim to fill out an application form is even better.

Workers in VOCA-funded victim assistance programs should know that they are mandated, as a condition of their program receiving federal money, to provide information and assistance in filing for crime victim compensation. Assistance programs need to be sure that this mandate is fully honored. Training about compensation should be an integral part of the program plan of every victim service organization, police department, and prosecutor's office.

Taking Action

What specifically can the victim-service professional do to make sure that victims get every chance possible to access financial help? Here are some ideas:

1. Ask the victim about financial losses. It's important to deal with more than the victim's emotional needs—remember that financial injury can be just as important to address. Does the victim

have medical bills not covered by insurance? Does the victim need help in paying for counseling? Did the victim miss time at work?

2. Tell the victim about compensation. Let her know that there is help. Provide a phone number. Don't assume that someone else has provided this information. Even if the victim has been told before, she may not have retained the information in the initial crisis stage after the victimization. Repeat the information again to be sure the victim understands.

3. Help the victim apply for benefits. Give the victim an application, and help fill it out. Assist the victim in gathering necessary documentation, such as bills and insurance records. Make sure it all gets in the mail.

4. Follow up with the program. Sometimes a victim's application is delayed because the program needs more information, and can't get the victim to respond. Volunteer to be a go-between. If a question arises in completing the application, call the compensation program to get advice. Once the application is submitted, follow up as necessary to see if you can provide any further help.

5. Follow up with the victim. Are there additional expenses that have come up since the application was submitted? Would it help to call a creditor to let them know that an application is in process? Does the victim need help in responding to a request for more information? Keep in touch with the victim throughout the process to see how you can help.

6. Be patient. Understand that the compensation program is processing

Compensation programs are grateful for the help victim professionals can provide.

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Victim Compensation continued...

hundreds of applications at any one time, and may not be able to concentrate fully and immediately on each individual claim it receives. And while many important expenses can be covered, there may be some financial needs that the program simply can't cover. Your assistance can shorten the process, and it can also help the victim with the difficult task of waiting for help as the application is reviewed.

Compensation programs are grateful for the help victim professionals can provide. They know that without their assistance, most victims of violence would never know that financial help is available. Please continue to help victims by telling them about this important resource for recovery. And don't hesitate to get in touch with the compensation program in your state to get more information and improve your ability to assist victims through the process. ▽

Dan Eddy is the Executive Director for the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards. The Association was founded in 1977 to promote the exchange of ideas and information between compensation programs across the nation, and to help them improve their service to crime victims. The Association's website, which includes a Program Directory of all state compensation agencies, is located at www.nacvcb.org, and the Association can be contacted at nacvcb@aol.com.

Michigan Crime Victim Compensation

■ by Janine Washburn

With advocates' help, we hope to increase the amount of assistance we provide to victims in Michigan! Michigan's Crime Victim Compensation program processes numerous claims annually; this year we expect to see over 1400 claims. Advocates should let victims know that we strive to award claims as quickly as possible. The typical response time is 14-16 weeks once a claim is received and every effort is made to fast-track sexual assaults (e.g. forensic exams).

Common Application Errors

Sometimes, processing claims takes longer due to common errors on the application. Below are the most common mistakes:

- Applications must be fully completed, signed, and dated.
- A dollar amount is necessary for the question on page 4, section 10, which requests household income. Guidelines require that we examine a claim to ensure that the crime resulted in financial hardship.
- Documentation or itemized bills must accompany the application. Examples include pay stubs, disability statements, or insurance benefit statements.
- Social security numbers are required to process the application.

Upon receiving an application that has an error or an omission, we promptly return the application with an "incomplete application" response letter highlighting the changes that must be made.

Common Misunderstandings

At times, completed applications are denied due to our compensation guidelines. We are able to provide compensation for medical bills, funeral expenses, loss of earnings, and counseling. However, Michigan Crime Victim Compensation does not cover living expenses, loss of, damage to, or theft of personal property.

Learn More About Compensation

We offer training to advocates, individually or in groups, which offers guidance on what victims may be compensated for, the amount of minimum and maximum funding available for claims, and why we need specific information in the application. Trainings can be held at your agency, last approximately one hour, and include a Victim Advocate Reference Guide for each participant. We strongly encourage this training for new employees and seasoned employees who wish to learn more about Michigan's Compensation program.

Should you have questions about our program or what claims may be covered, I invite you to consult our brochure or telephone us. ▽

- Janine Washburn, Program Specialist, at (517) 334-9182
- Christine Lau, Claims Analyst, at (517) 334-9181

Janine Washburn is a Program Specialist working on Crime Victim Compensation Claims and Restitution, Crime Victim Services Commission, Michigan Department of Community Health.

Restitution Payment for Time Spent in Shelter

■ by Mimi Gabriel

Sylvia's Place, Allegan County's domestic violence services agency, receives restitution from perpetrators of domestic abuse whose victims reside in our shelter. In 1999, state law was changed to allow victims of domestic violence to receive compensation for the emergency situation and/or injuries received during domestic violence events. During that year, Margaret Zuzich Bakker, an Assistant Prosecutor and member of our board, lobbied the judges in Allegan County for their approval for a program making restitution to Sylvia's Place a part of the fines and costs to the perpetrators at the time of sentencing. This restitution, as recommended by the prosecutor and approved by the judge in each case, was set up as an element of prosecution and sentencing apart from the compensation a victim receives. These funds supplement our general budget. Typically, these monies are used to assist our residents in acquiring things they need but can't afford. Some examples include helping clients with first month's rent and security deposits, assisting with car repair bills and gasoline, getting prescription medication, and help in paying for legal advice.

Collaborative Effort

This unique restitution program was accomplished through the working partnerships Sylvia's Place built over the years with law enforcement, the prosecutor's office and the courts. We have utilized these public collaborations to educate personnel from other agencies about domestic abuse, as well as to recruit them to become board members. However, these relationships have taken years to build, so it is clear that such partnerships are not easy to establish. But, gradually and through strong lines of communication, they are working.

The shelter restitution program in Allegan County hinges upon Sylvia's Place receiving domestic violence referrals from all law enforcement agencies in the county. Shelter staff notify our victim advocate of each new resident that enters the shelter and whether they have filed a police report. If a police report has been filed, the advocate in turn advises the prosecutor's victim witness coordinator that the client is in our shelter and submits documentation to the assistant prosecutor in charge of the case and the probation officer. Shelter restitution is calculated by determining how many nights the victim was in shelter and multiplying by \$20 a night

per woman and child. In other words, if a resident has two children, the restitution calculation would be based upon a \$60 nightly rate. In order for this restitution to be ordered, the assistant prosecutor must request it and the judge must grant it.

Program Challenges

The restitution program is certainly not automatic. Some of the challenges in this process are that police reports and court dockets are in the perpetrator's name, so any advocate certainly has to pay close attention to each case. Sometimes, the restitution amount can be bargained away during sentencing or the option may be overlooked by the probation officer. Thankfully, most probation officers in our county insist that the costs be paid before the perpetrator is released from a probation order. It is important to note that not all domestic abuse cases result in some restitution to Sylvia's Place. It is only ordered when a police report is made and the victim has stayed in our shelter. Needless to say, most victims do not go into shelter, nor do a majority of shelter residents file police reports. Further, the judge may decide not to impose this type of restitution if the case is pled or plea bargained. Of course, no restitution is imposed in the significant number of cases that are dismissed. And, finally, some judges will rule out this sort of restitution for any number of reasons based on their understanding of the case.

Collecting Restitution

Because of all these variables in domestic abuse cases, the disbursement of restitution funds is sporadic. It can sometimes take two years for the court to collect them. So, these restitution funds are never a line item in our budget. The good news is that despite the limited number of cases in which restitution paid for shelter is imposed, Sylvia's Place has collected \$11,728 since 1999—that's nearly \$3000 per year. These funds certainly help victims and help us keep our doors open. Most of all, perpetrators of domestic violence can be held accountable for their victims' time in shelter. ▀

Mimi Gabriel is the Executive Director of Sylvia's Place in Allegan. She can be contacted at mimig@sylviasplace.com. Sylvia's Place also maintains a website at www.sylviasplace.com.

Our Secret Garden: Extreme Volunteering at a Shelter

by Beth Reynolds-Nichols

The Dream

In 2001 the Master Gardeners of Tuscola County approached the local women's shelter with the idea of transforming the current yard, where only a sprinkling of grass grew, into a garden. They envisioned a place where women might enjoy the sights and sounds of nature, a simple retreat from the everyday stresses associated with shelter living.

Soon we had secured a small grant to fund the basic supplies needed. What we could not afford, we requested in business donations. When donations were not possible, we successfully negotiated for deep discounts on supplies. We began seeking out willing helpers to create the garden. Our timing was perfect—we teamed up with volunteers of Christmas in July, a one-day community-wide volunteering extravaganza. Our garden would have to be created in only one day.

The Results

Early one Saturday morning, 20 master gardeners gathered up approximately 75 largely untrained volunteers who were willing to transform a blank slate into a fenced garden area. Planted by the end of the day, the garden was a joy to behold. Recognizing that the garden would have to function in several different ways to cater to shelter residents and staff, we sectioned the garden into various stations of enjoyment.



Today the garden includes the following features:

- ✿ a quaint bed of flowers within an antique metal bed frame
- ✿ a conversation area for those who smoke (complete with sand in flowerpots)
- ✿ a Zen garden complete with raking area and Asian lanterns

- ✿ a winding dry river bed leading into a raised rock bed
- ✿ several relaxation areas with benches
- ✿ a mailbox filled with gardening tools
- ✿ a fence around the perimeter for safety considerations



The Lessons

Our story is only one example of how an agency might consider using non-traditional volunteer service to benefit clients. Bringing outside groups into the fold of your agency's activities not only benefits you in the short term (for example, getting the garden) but also yields long term results, as more people in your community feel ownership and support for your agency.

I would encourage all crime victim service agencies to consider how a garden might benefit their clients and staff—and then, get to work. Even those agencies surrounded by concrete might consider planters, water fountains, hanging gardens, or sculptures to enhance their space.

How to Create Your Own

Here is what you should consider:

How do you want to use your garden?

It is important to consider how you might use the space. Are you simply looking for a beautiful area? Or would you envision some utility for the garden, such as offering cut flowers for bouquets inside your agency or herbs for cooking? Do you need space for adults and children?



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Our Secret Garden continued...

What gardening group is willing to design the garden?

Consider calling your local garden club or MSU extension Master Gardeners' office. To find a local Master Gardener, investigate on the Internet at <http://www.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/>.

Who can provide the labor for the garden?

Once you have partnered with gardeners, seek out labor for assistance. Groups such as the girl/boy scouts, eagle scouts, teen clubs, church groups, Jaycee clubs, and 4-H might be useful starting points. Ensure all talent is welcome—you'll need cooks to feed the helpers!



How are you going to obtain the materials?

Most agencies lack sufficient monies to fund a substantial garden. Garden clubs may have useful suggestions on which businesses may donate products to use. Are there community members with skills in fence building or bench making?

Who will keep up the garden once the design is in place?

Create a 3-5 year sustainability plan for your project. Gardens grow, evolve, and require maintenance. Outlining who is responsible for general care after the garden is in place will assure the beauty will not be overtaken by weeds. ▽

Beth Reynolds-Nichols is an Advanced Master Gardener and maintains an interest in the garden created at the Tuscola County Women's Shelter. She welcomes inquiries about this ongoing project at 989-672-4018 or garybeth@avci.net.

Indian Women and VAWA

by Ruth Oja

VAWA's Five Prong Approach to Safety

In 1994, then President Clinton signed into law the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Domestic violence advocates heralded the new legislation as a passport to safety for victims of domestic violence who were fleeing in an attempt to obtain safety and freedom from further attacks by their perpetrators. VAWA was expected to provide an avenue for improved prosecution and prevention of violent crimes against women and children through a five pronged approach to safety:

- authorizing funding of a toll-free national domestic violence hotline;
- creating a series of federal crimes and imposing penalties for the interstate commission of domestic violence assaults;
- requiring each jurisdiction to recognize protection orders issued by other jurisdictions, otherwise known as giving Full Faith & Credit;
- allocating a substantial amount of federal monies to fight domestic violence; and
- providing states with incentives to treat domestic violence as a serious crime.

The Third Prong – Full Faith & Credit

The third prong of VAWA, the Full Faith & Credit provision, was a significant step forward—especially for Indian women. VAWA mandates that states, U.S. territories and Indian tribes enforce the protection orders issued by sister states, territories and tribes. Prior to VAWA, a victim who crossed state and/or tribal boundaries—for any reason— forfeited their own protection order in the process.

The Need for Safety

Domestic violence and victim advocates well understood the need for VAWA's provision of Full Faith & Credit. They knew that when violence escalated, many victims attempted to cross state lines or tribal boundaries to seek safety—yet their order of protection did not cross into the new jurisdiction.

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Indian Women and VAWA continued...

In Indian Country, a victim appealing to tribal court for orders of protection faced far more barriers than her sister under a state's jurisdiction. Indian women with a tribal protection order forfeited her protection to take care of daily living activities, such as shopping for groceries, paying a light bill or continuing her education at a local community college because most businesses, colleges and workplaces are not located within Tribal boundaries. Even most emergency rooms are not located within Tribal boundaries; to seek medical treatment or hospitalization for injuries, an Indian woman would have to forfeit her safety. For Indian women with protection orders, disaster was looming on the horizon each time she left the reservation.

Changes for Michigan

Though passed in 1994, VAWA was not self-executing; it carried with it no universal procedures for implementing the actual enforcement of foreign orders. With 12 Federally recognized Tribal nations located within the boundaries of the State of Michigan, implementation was a crucial issue for Indian women with protection orders issued from their tribal courts.

The foundation for changes in Michigan began in Albuquerque, New Mexico, during a 1997 conference entitled Full Faith & Credit—A Passport to Safety. A small coalition of ten represented Michigan, five state delegates and five representatives from two Tribal Nations. The subsequent four years saw a flurry of activity, with a tenfold increase in tribally based representatives, and the Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board taking a leadership role in crafting Michigan's guidelines for how the Full Faith & Credit would be enforced. Finally, change came to Michigan on December 27, 2001 when passage of a package of 24 bills dealing with domestic violence enacted Full Faith & Credit.

Today Michigan law provides that law enforcement officers, prosecutors and courts are required to enforce foreign protection orders in the same way they would enforce a Michigan-issued personal protection order. Officers are instructed to enforce a protection order so long as the victim carries a copy which contains: the names of the parties; the date of issuance; the terms/conditions against the restrained party; the name of the issuing court, the signature of/on behalf of a judicial officer; and no obvious indication

of invalidity. A foreign order need not be entered into LEIN or NCIC registry to be enforced. Further, law enforcement officers are given guidance regarding foreign orders that may not have been served and instruction to maintain the peace and take appropriate action when a copy of the order is not available and verification cannot be made.

By signing these amendments to the Revised Judicature Act into law, Michigan has issued "Passports of Safety" to women fleeing and crossing jurisdictional boundaries. In Indian Country, this legislation enhanced a victim's ability to seek safety—and much more. It supported Indian women seeking a simple, safe return to what was normal. In the future the message to victims who have obtained PPO's should be clear, "On Tribal lands and in the State of Michigan, your order of protection will be enforced anywhere. Don't leave home without it."

In Indian Country we owe a debt to the Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission and to the Office for Victims of Crime. More than they know, they had become our cornerstone in this process as we searched for safe solutions for Indian women. It was the continued funding of direct Tribal service programs that provided advocates with the information we needed. Indian women had for years shared their fears, their hopes and real life experiences with VOCA-funded Tribal advocates. Without VOCA's support, the concerns and real life experiences of Indian women would have never been raised because it would have remained a reservation problem and the opportunity for Full Faith & Credit of protection orders in Michigan may not have happened. ▽

Ruth Oja is a Victims Advocate for the Hannahville Indian Community.

"Foreign protection order is an order issued by a court of another state, an Indian Tribe, or a US Territory that prevents a person's violent or threatening acts against, harassment of, contact with, communication with, or physical proximity to another person..."

SB 729, 2001 PA 206

The full text of this enactment, including full text of Michigan Amendments, may be viewed at the Michigan Legislature's website: <http://www.michiganlegislature.org>.

Program Evaluation and Diversity

by Shari Murgittroyd

Words like *diversity*, *cultural sensitivity*, and *cultural competence* certainly aren't new to professionals serving victims of crime. It's encouraging that most victim service providers are familiar with the tenets of honoring diversity and are striving to recognize and respect difference among survivors. At this stage, most VOCA-funded agencies are cognizant of respecting diversity of clientele when implementing services. But what about *after* your services are rendered? When it's time to evaluate your services, are you treating all clients as if they were the same?

Recognizing Differences

At its most basic level, *diversity* refers to the differences among individuals. Consider how your clientele varies across the following:

- Ethnic and cultural identity
- Citizenship status
- Age
- Education and income levels
- Literacy
- Sexual orientation
- Health (physical and mental)
- Physical ability and disability

Think about how these variations may affect your evaluation plan. Attending to issues of diversity can pose challenges for even modest evaluation efforts. For example, consider how diversity across *language* and *literacy* may need to be considered when preparing to evaluate services:

- When administering written questionnaires, are you taking reading proficiency for granted? Writing questions in basic, straightforward language (preferably at an elementary level) will assure your survey is accessible to as many clients as possible.

- Suppose your client is unable to read. Do you have an evaluation plan in place that would allow you to gain valuable information from this client in a sensitive manner? Consider having an advocate read the questionnaire aloud or gleaning information from the client through an informal conversation between client and staff.
- Do you serve clients who have limited knowledge of English? If your agency commonly provides services to non-English speaking clients, then having surveys available in alternate languages or employing an on-site interpreter is a good idea.

Respecting Diversity

Keeping client variations in mind when administering evaluation methodology is crucial to gaining reliable and useful feedback on your services. Crime victim service professionals charged with leading evaluation efforts should seek input from staff, volunteers, and past clients to get a sense of the agency's diversity. Once you have insight to the variations among clients, create protocol to ensure you are capturing information from all groups who receive service, and that no group is being excluded from your evaluation. Finally, test your evaluation process out on diverse individuals to see if you are capturing useful information—or if your methods could be improved in some way.

A positive team approach will ensure an agency is positioned to anticipate differences among clients and that they strive to accommodate those differences—both in service provision and in program evaluation. These efforts send a powerful message to survivors of crime—that their diversity is recognized and valued by the agency as a whole. ▽

Shari Murgittroyd, MSW, is the Project Leader for the CVSC Technical Assistance Project at the Michigan Public Health Institute.

**When it's time to
evaluate your
services, are you
treating all clients
as if they were the
same?**

Technical Update



WWW: Walter's Words of Wisdom

■ by Walter Pelowski

[Walter Pelowski has generously agreed to offer his technological wisdom to VOCA grantees in *The Michigan Advocate* in this inaugural column and in future columns.]

Q. I am having problems with the CVSC Online Grant System. Is it something I'm doing wrong or is there a problem with the site?

A. Two words: User error. Just kidding. There is nothing more frustrating to me than hearing, *"I've been having this problem for weeks. I just assumed it was something I was doing wrong."* There are a many reasons you might experience a problem with a sophisticated web application like the CVSC Online Grant System. If you have technical difficulties with the site (not questions about the grant) please email or call the helpdesk. The helpdesk will respond during normal working hours and will try to assist you. We'll do our best to make sure you can effectively use this system.

Email: helpdesk@agatesoftware.com

Phone: 1-800-820-1890

Q. What is the best way to keep my machine up-to-date?

A. The most important piece of software on your machine is your operating system or "OS" for short. In today's day and age it is important, if not crucial, to keep your operating system up-to-date. Keeping your OS current will help:

- Maintain a secure system, free from Internet attacks
- Maintain a stable system that won't crash
- Ensure programs and other pieces of software operate as they are intended to operate.

Operating systems can be kept up-to-date in the following way.

For Windows Machines, Windows 98 and later

- Open a web browser and go to <http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com>
- Click "Scan for Updates"
- Click "Yes" to any Internet Explorer Prompts asking you whether or not you want to install their update software.
- Install everything listed under "Critical Updates and Service Packs" by clicking the "Add" button next to the update and then by clicking "Review and Install Updates" then "Install now." If prompted with an "Accept" button click it accordingly.

For Macintosh/Apple Machines, OS X and later

- Go to system preferences
- Go to software update
- Click "Check Now"

If your machine has not been patched in a while you may have to go through this process a couple of times. Some updates require rebooting after their installation. Continue this process until all updates have been installed.

Q. I'm computer illiterate. How did you learn so much about computers?

A. I usually hear the term "computer illiterate" either at the beginning or at the end of a support call. In fact, it's used so often that it's ceased to have any real meaning for me. I've had users of all skill levels tell me that

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Walter's Words of Wisdom continued...

they're "computer illiterate." Furthermore, each user can deliver that statement in widely different manners. Some people are embarrassed about their lack of computer skills while others are proud of their technological ineptitude and seem to wear it on their shoulder like a badge of courage. Whatever your attitude about computers, let me just say that if you so choose, you don't have to continue to feel overwhelmed by them. The best education for computer related knowledge is basic experience. I've had a formal computer education and an informal one and although college was great (watched some sweet football, basketball and hockey games, made lots of great friends, and enjoyed numerous ping-pong marathons) the knowledge I gained about computers in college was nothing compared to what I've learned in the workforce. The Internet itself can help you become vastly more proficient with computers and computer-related technology. If you happen to be working in a computer-related manner and don't know something that you feel you should, here is a very important word for you: Google. It's simply the best search engine available (<http://www.google.com>). (If you can't find it using Google, you're just not typing it correctly. ☺)

So the next time you hear somebody talking about RAM and you feel that dazed stupor start to come across your face, go to Google and type, "What is RAM." Or if a webpage is prompting you about allowing some "ActiveX Control," look up "ActiveX Control" in order to find out what it really is. The biggest hindrance to computer knowledge is fear of the computer itself. Despite what a lot of people may claim, most of the actions you perform with a computer will NOT somehow mess it up and render it inoperable—so don't be afraid to learn.

Oh, and as for me "knowing so much about computers," I guess it's all relative. To some of you I might be your run-of-the-mill computer guy and to others I might be a computer uber-geek. Every computer user has someone else they look to for computer help and although there are a lot of people that turn to me for computer advice, I too have my secret cadre of computer savants that I look to for instruction. So if you tend to feel like a dummy when asking a computer question, don't. The dummies are the people out there that don't bother asking. ▽

Walter Pelowski is the primary designer of the CVSC online grants system developed by Agate Software.

Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) On-Line Victim Resources

Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/welcome.html>

OVC Resource Center
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ovcres>
1-800-851-3420 (TTY 1-877-712-9279)

OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center
(OVC TTAC)
www.ovcttac.org

National Criminal Justice Reference Service
www.ncjrs.org

Putting Victims First

OVC shares your mission and has a wide range of resources to help you accomplish it. Visit the National Criminal Justice Reference Service online at www.ncjrs.org to register for services or call the OVC Resource Center at 1-800-851-3420 (TTY 1-877-712-9279) to find out more.

The Michigan Advocate is on the web!

We're excited to inform you that *The Michigan Advocate* has moved to an electronic version. All future publications will be exclusively on the web. You will receive an email notification after each edition is posted. If you are not currently on our distribution list and want to receive future publications, please send your email address to smurgitt@mphi.org. All Michigan VOCA grantees will automatically receive the electronic version and do not need to provide email addresses.

In the near future, a link for *The Michigan Advocate* newsletter will be posted on the CVSC SIGMAWEB site at:

<http://sigmaweb.mdch.state.mi.us/>

For copies of this newsletter and archived editions visit:

www.ccrhop.org/michiganadvocate.htm

FY 2003-2004 VOCA Victim Assistance Grant Workshop Schedule

11/3/2003, Monday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon 12:00 Noon – 4:00 p.m.	Michigan Library and Historical Center Lake Superior Room VOCA Grant Reporting Workshop (current contractors only)
11/7/2003, Friday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon 12:00 Noon – 4:00 p.m.	Michigan Library and Historical Center Lake Superior Room VOCA Grant Reporting Workshop (current contractors only)

FY 2004-2005 VOCA Victim Assistance Grant Funding Schedule

2/6/2004, Friday	Announcement of VOCA grant funding and availability of Application and Guideline Package. Registration begins for Grant Application Workshop.
2/9/2004, Monday 8:00 a.m.	VOCA Grant Application website activated http://sigmaweb.mdch.state.mi.us/
3/3/2004, Wednesday 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon 12:00 Noon – 4:00 p.m.	Michigan Library and Historical Center VOCA Grant Application Workshop VOCA Grant Reporting Workshop (current contractors only)
3/10/2004, Wednesday 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon 12:00 Noon – 4:00 p.m.	Michigan Library and Historical Center VOCA Grant Application Workshop VOCA Grant Reporting Workshop (current contractors only)
3/26/2004, Friday, 5:00 p.m.	Final Application Submission Deadline
8/27/2004, Friday	VOCA agreements mailed
10/1/2004 – 9/30/2005	VOCA agreement fiscal year

Upcoming Events

National Crime Victims' Rights Week Award Nominations

Deadline is October 31, 2003

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/2004/nominationform/welcome.html

National Crime Victims' Rights Week "Victims' Rights: America's Values"

April 18-24, 2004

For more information:

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html

Michigan Victim Assistance Academy *

June 13-18, 2004

Michigan State University

Detroit College of Law

Contact: (517) 432-6448 or

www.cj.msu.edu/~outreach/mvaa/

***VOCA grantees may utilize approved travel funds to attend training**