

ADVOCATE

A Publication of the Support, Advocacy, & Resource Center

Spring 2015

POINT OF VIEW

This story was written by a family who recently went through the process of drafting Victim Impact Statements for their Sexual Offender's Sentencing Hearing.

My family and I found that writing a victim impact statement was such a healing part of our process. When we go through traumatic events in life, it's important not to keep our feelings bottled up inside. The victim impact statements are a great way to let those pent up thoughts, feelings, emotions and stress out. It's a time for you to be heard by the person or persons who have hurt you the most. It's a chance for you to say what you may not ever get the chance to say again, and for the perpetrator to hear your words. In our situation, it was really important for my kids, my husband and I to each write our own statement, because we each dealt with different aspects of the events that took place in our lives.

then let that sit. I did this process until I felt like I said everything I needed to say and I was 100% happy with the way it sounded. It took me weeks to get to the final draft but, each time it got a little easier, and each time I really think it helped lessen the emotional triggers a bit more.

I talked about so many different aspects of our situation in my statement. It was important for me to address the excruciating emotions that were involved in watching my kids hurt so deeply and being helpless in fixing their pain. The sleepless nights and whirlwind of emotions my husband and I dealt with privately; and the massive invasion of privacy and how vulnerable and exposed we felt. How our sense of safety and security was just ripped away from us and there was nothing we could do about it.

There are so many pieces of these horrible situations that you just don't have to think about when you've never experienced anything traumatic.

My family and I each had our own view point, emotions and ways of dealing with it, but in the end, our individual statements let our thoughts and feelings be known. My husband and kids statements were similar, but not near as long as mine was. It was extremely healing in the fact that it gave us closure we wouldn't have received otherwise. To sit in a court room and know that the person who hurt you has no choice but to listen to what you have to say about their actions, gives you a small sense of power back. Gaining even the smallest bit of power at a time in your life when you feel like you have none is essential. I highly recommend anyone who has been traumatized to write a victim impact statement. Let your voice be heard. How you feel and what you have to say is just as important as any other part of the court process.

-Anonymous

"To sit in a court room and know that the person who hurt you has no choice but to listen to what you have to say about their actions, gives you a small sense of power back."

With my statement, I started by just typing out everything that came to mind no matter what the content or wording. Getting it all out was the important thing. Then, I went back through and organized my thoughts, made complete sentences and fixed it all to make it readable. I let that sit for a few days, and then I went back and re-read it, making changes as I felt necessary. I added things I had forgotten to mention, I deleted things that I felt weren't necessary to talk about and

For me, it was really important to paint a picture for the judge and perpetrator of exactly how I felt and what emotion I was forced to deal with during each step of the process. I also wanted to make sure my thoughts, emotions and feelings about the perpetrator were crystal clear. I wanted them to not only hear my words, but to have no choice but to feel my horrendous pain. I needed them to feel what my family and I went through, even if it was just through my "story".

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IMPACT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual Violence has life long impacts on victims and their families. Each individual has their own unique reaction to their victimization. While we can give some common reactions to trauma we will never be able to sum up everyone's experiences into one.

Emotional Reactions:

The trauma caused by sexual assault often results in emotional stress that may be long lasting. Each person reacts differently to stress. There is no right or wrong way to act. It may be helpful to know some of the most common responses sexual assault victims/survivors experience.

Some examples are:

- Guilt, Shame Self-Blame
- Embarrassment
- Fear and Anger
- Distrust
- Vulnerability
- Isolation
- Lack of Control
- Numbness
- Shock and Disbelief
- Denial

Psychological reactions could be longer term reactions for the victim/survivor. It is common for an individual to go through a series of initial reactions immediately following an assault and then once time passes those reactions might transform into some of the following:

- Nightmares
- Flashbacks
- Depression
- Difficulty Concentrating
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Anxiety
- Eating Disorders
- Substance Abuse
- Phobias
- Low Self Esteem
- Additional Mental Health Disorders

Physical Reactions:

During a sexual assault, a victim/survivor may feel powerless or terrified of being seriously injured or killed. Fears about personal safety are a very common response to a sexual assault. Some victims/survivors experience a physical injury during a sexual assault which could take time to heal and the pain from the injury is a constant reminder of the assault. There can also be changes in eating and sleeping patterns, self harm, pregnancy or fear of pregnancy, and/or sexually transmitted diseases or infections.

Other Impacts of Sexual Assault:

Victims/survivors often avoid other people or situations that is a reminder of the assault. They might have trouble concentrating or making decisions. Current or future relationships might be impacted by sexual assault. Daily routines, job performance, and living situations are often impacted by the reactions of sexual assault in an attempt to regain a sense of control and safety.

Many victims/survivors know the person who assaulted them. A victim/survivor may feel vulnerable long after the assault, even if the offender is charged and prosecuted. Because of myths about sexual assault, many victims/survivors feel shame, self-blame, and guilt. Many victims/survivors also feel devalued or humiliated. Sometimes these feelings are a reaction to being forced by the offender to take part in the crime. These feelings may also be reinforced by the reactions of others, who may criticize a victim's/survivor's behavior. The offender is always responsible for the sexual assault. It is never the victim's/survivor's fault.

Impacts on Children

Children who are sexually abused may have the same feelings and emotional pain as adults. It's hard to predict how a child will react. Some children may seem very upset, while other children show very little reaction. Children may experience sudden or unexplained changes in behavior, such as:

- Bed or pant wetting
- Problems in school
- Sexual play with friends or toys
- Low self-esteem
- Inability to sleep
- Withdrawal from people
- Change in bathroom habits
- Fussiness
- Increased quietness
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Risk taking or destructive behavior
- Obsessively good behavior
- Anger or aggression
- Loss of appetite
- Nightmares
- Development of new fears (for example, fear of going to bed, fear of dark, fear of being alone).

Information Derived From: www.ct.gov/ova
[http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/
Publications_NSVRC_Factsheet_Impact-of-sexual-violence_0.pdf](http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/Publications_NSVRC_Factsheet_Impact-of-sexual-violence_0.pdf)

HEALING & RECOVERY

Healing from a sexual assault is a process that is different for each victim/survivor. It may help to talk to a sexual assault advocate who has experience in helping victims/survivors.

A sexual assault advocate can offer a safe and private place to talk about feelings, concerns about the assault, and offer information and support. A sexual assault advocate will not judge or make decisions for the victim. Advocates can also help refer to a counselor that can specialize in working with trauma victims which can be a helpful step in the process of healing. Not all victims/survivors will be ready for counseling at a specific time because everyone is different.



Just as sexual assault can impact every aspect of an individual's life, healing has to encompass every aspect of life. Self care is an important part of healing from trauma for all impacted and is about taking steps to feel healthy and comfortable. Considering emotional and physical health can make positive impacts on the healing process.

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS (VIS)

A helpful step in the healing process is the closure of the investigation and prosecution. Not all victims/survivors have this type of closure; however, if they do it can help restore a sense of control to all those impacted by the crime. The purpose of a VIS is to give victims the chance to be part of the criminal justice system. It is the victims, or those speaking on behalf of the victims, opportunity to have a voice.

Victim Impact Statements can make a difference for not only the victim and other's impacted by the crime, but they can also impact the sentence. Judges have a standard range that they follow based on the crime. There are recommendations made from the Prosecutor and the Defense Attorney to what sentence should be but ultimately the judge makes that decision. Hearing from victims and the impact the crime had on their lives could influence a judge to go against the recommendations and give the full sentence or top of the range.

Imagine being able to stand in a court room and tell not only the judge, the prosecutor, and defense attorney but also the offender about how the crime they committed has impacted your life. This experience helps empower victims and propel them towards healing and becoming a survivor. The statements that are written are also added to the permanent court file and will be reviewed at any point in which the offender is up for review with the Department of Corrections.

See page 9 for further instruction and helpful tips to writing a victim impact statement.



Source: <https://rainn.org/get-information/effects-of-sexual-assault>



April 2015: SARC Community Events

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. During the month of April, we plan a variety of community events to demonstrate our agency's commitment to ending sexual violence. The Crime Victim Service Center is also busy planning an event to recognize the National Crime Victim's Rights Week, April 19th-25th, 2015. SARC encourages all the readers of the *Advocate* to get involved with their community events during the month of April. We need to send a strong message that sexual violence is not tolerated and we are prepared to make a change. We invite you to pair up with a local advocacy center to engage in their events or plan your own. SARC invites community members from Benton and Franklin Counties to participate in the events below.

Strides of Strength-April 18th, 2015

Strides of Strength is a walk designed to empower victims and survivors of crime and to give our community the opportunity to publicly demonstrate their commitment to preventing crime. With each step we provide strength and support to crime victims. This year the Support, Advocacy & Resource Center/Crime Victim Service Center is hoping to gain even more community group involvement. SARC/CVSC will be holding group registration, so please get a group together and get involved in this great event!

Community members who attend will also have the chance to win prizes!

The prizes are as follows:

***Largest group will win \$200 cash**

***Second largest group will win \$100 cash**

*All other groups or individuals attending will be able to enter in a raffle to win \$50 cash (Each group member will get a ticket entered so those with larger groups

will have a higher chance of winning. Each participant must register to be eligible to win.)

Please call (509) 374-5391 for more information. Registration for the event will start at 10:30 AM and the Strides of Strength walk will begin at 11:00 AM. This exciting event will be held at The Lord of Life Church at 640 North Columbia Center Boulevard, Kennewick, WA 99336.



Clothesline Project:

The clothesline Project is an awareness campaign in which crime survivors decorate T-shirts with an artistic display of how victimization impacted their lives. The t-shirts are hung on a clothesline for the community to see the impact of crime on survivors. The clotheslines are displayed around the community at the local libraries in Benton and Franklin Counties.

Come and check out the local libraries from March 30th to April 3rd to see for yourself!

Pancake Breakfast

Please attend the 10th annual Pancake Breakfast!

Proceeds raised from the Pancake Breakfast will benefit Safe Harbor Support Center and the Kids Haven Program at the Support, Advocacy & Resource

Center. The Pancake

Breakfast will take place on Saturday, June 6th, 2015 at Jefferson Park on George Washington Way in Richland, WA. The event will run from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Donations are welcomed.



Little People Project:

Each wooden figurine of a child in the Little People Project represents one of the approximately 500 children who were involved in a law enforcement investigation of abuse in the last year in Benton and Franklin Counties. They are placed throughout the community to raise awareness about child physical and sexual abuse. The Little People will be placed at the Columbia Center Mall and Washington State University Tri-Cities during **the week of April 8th-12th**. You can **sponsor a Little Person** by purchasing a “little heart” for \$10. The “little heart” will have the sponsor’s name as well as an inscription saying, “Helping Little Hearts Heal”. Each sponsor is also listed by name or organization on a sign that goes on display. The Little People Project is a great visual reminder of how often child abuse occurs within our community.

If you would like to sponsor a Little Person, please contact Lindsay or Denise at (509) 374-5391. We appreciate your support and participation.



Kids Haven Benefit Auction April 2015

We are inviting you to participate in our twelfth annual online auction to benefit children. All proceeds raised through this event will be used for counseling and advocacy services for children who have been physically or sexually abused. Kids Haven is a joint program of our local city and county governments and the Support, Advocacy & Resource Center.

Our benefit auction will be held online from April 10 to May 2, 2015.

Please visit www.biddingforgood.com/SARC

to view all of our great auction items. Help us raise funds this year to keep this valuable program going!

How You Can Help

***Become a Sponsor**

***Donate an item or service to the auction**

***See something you like? Bid on it!!**

Please call or email Mitzi or JoDee for questions: (509) 374-5391

or jgarretson@frontier.com / mveng@frontier.com



End-of-Auction “Cinco de Mayo” Celebration Dinner



Please join us for a festive evening of food, silent auction, on-line auction, games, and fun to benefit the Kids Haven Program at the Support, Advocacy & Resource Center. We will celebrate the last day of online bidding on May 2nd, 2015 from 6:00-9:00 PM at the Richland Community Center (500 Howard Amon Park Dr., Richland, WA). **Tickets are \$50 each; they include a fabulous authentic Mexican dinner, a hosted social hour, a silent auction and an exciting live auction.** For more information or to purchase your tickets please call (509) 374-5391 or email jgarretson@frontier.com. We hope to see you there!



Crime Victim Service Center

The Vigilant Corner

Spring
2015

Crime Types

- Assault
- Child Physical Abuse
- DUI/DWI Crashes
- Elder Abuse
- Fraud
- Hate Crimes
- Human Trafficking
- Identity Theft
- Kidnapping/Missing persons
- Property Crimes
- Robbery
- Survivors of Homicide or victims of Attempted Homicide
- Vehicular Assault

All crimes other than sexual assault or domestic violence.

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In this section of the vigilant, readers will have an understanding of the impact crime has on others. Whether it's physical abuse, attempted homicide, losing a loved one in a homicide, your home getting broken into, or any other crime; individuals and families are greatly affected by crime. With crime comes trauma and that is why it is important for victims, their families and friends to know that they are not alone, and that there are services available within their community for self-care and healing.

Thank you for reading!
Norma Torres-Chavez, Crime Victim Advocate

Victim Story

"It was March 2012, I was at a grocery store when a man ran into me. He looked so angry after bumping into him, but I didn't think much of it after apologizing. Then it happened. I paid for my items and headed out. He followed me while angry and pointed a gun at me, and pulled the trigger.

Since then my life has had a dramatic change. I have forgotten many of my memories, I have chronic headaches, caused by the bullet that hit my head, and when those headaches hit me they are insufferable. I had hit the greatest point of stress in my life; I am now unable to speak the way I used to because of the bullet that caused damage in my vocal cords. So when I speak I have to focus on forcing my throat even more because it hurts to speak, and by the end of the day my voice is worn out.

Emotionally, I felt hopeless and depressed because no one could understand me. Not even my own family. I went through tremendous pain and suffering, and missed too much time off of work.

Before all this happened to me, I was an extremely happy individual who enjoyed going out and I loved singing. After being shot by a stranger all because of his anger, I have dealt with so much fear of going out because I was afraid I would encounter another person just like him. My body hasn't been the same. I don't feel the same strength I used to have, which makes it difficult to work. I was experiencing so much sadness, stress and pain, but it's even worse having to live with fear, pain, depression, and not being able to speak clearly.

Thanks to counseling, I am beginning to feel better about myself and life itself. Yes there are days when I think about the dramatic change this crime brought on my life but I am happy to say that my counselor has been very helpful. I have decided to continue seeing my counselor because I know there is hope even when it seems there is now way out of the hurt. I know that little by little I will become the way I used to, even though it won't be from one day to the next, as long as I continue trying and live each day as positive as possible, I will reach my goals."

-Tri-Cities Resident

Impact of Crime on Victims

Trauma Response

Victims of crime may experience trauma whether it be physical trauma, emotional trauma, or both. *The National Center for Victims of Crime* describes trauma as physical damage to the body, emotional wounds or shock caused by the violence against victims. Every person is different, therefore, individuals may experience trauma for hours, days, weeks, months, or years.

- **Physical Trauma:** Serious injury or shock to the body, as from a major accident. Victims may have cuts, bruises, fractured arms or legs, or internal injuries. They may have intense stress reactions: their breathing, blood pressure, and heart rate may increase, and their muscles may tighten. They may feel exhausted but unable to sleep, and they may have headaches, increased or decreased appetites, or digestive problems.
- **Emotional Trauma:** Emotional trauma may take many different forms such as emotional wounds or shocks that may have long-lasting effects.
 - **Shock or Numbness:** Victims may feel “frozen” and cut off from their own emotions.
 - **Denial, Disbelief, and Anger:** Victims may experience “denial,” an unconscious defense against painful or unbearable memories and feelings about the crime. They may experience disbelief, telling themselves; “this just could not have happened to me!” or they may feel intense anger and a desire to get even with the offender.
- **Acute Stress Disorder:** Trouble sleeping, flashbacks(repeated, intense, vivid mental images of past traumatic experiences), extreme tension or anxiety, outbursts of anger, memory problems, trouble concentrating, and other symptoms of distress for days or weeks. A person may be diagnosed as having acute stress disorder (ASD) if these or other mental disorders continue for a minimum of two days to up to four weeks within a month of the trauma. If these symptoms persist after a month, the diagnosis becomes posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Information derived from: National Center for Victims of Crime.
<http://victimsofcrime.org/help-for-crime-victims/get-help-bulletins-for-crime-victims/how-crime-victims-react-to-trauma>

Mental Health Impact

- The mental health impact extends beyond the victim. Among immediate family members of homicide victims, 23.3% developed PTSD at some point in their lives.
- Homicide survivors also experience elevated levels of depression and anxiety compared to the general population.
- Children who have been abducted develop psychological symptoms that tend to increase rather than decrease over time. Twenty years after the abuse, women victims of child maltreatment were significantly more likely than non-victims to evidence aggressive behaviors, PTSD, substance abuse, poorer academic and intellectual outcomes, and personality disorders.
- 94.4% of 391 women meeting criteria for panic disorder were found to have a history of victimization.
- Crime victims show much higher rates of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) than people who have not been victimized by crime.
- Research shows that 25% of crime victims experienced lifetime PTSD and 9.7% had current PTSD, compared to rates of 9.4% lifetime PTSD and 3.4% current PTSD for non-crime victims.



Source retrieved from: The National Center for Victims of Crime: Mental Health Consequences of Crime.
<https://www.victimsofcrime.org>

CRIME CAN CAUSE A RIPPLE AFFECT!

This ripple affect can cause an impact on not only the primary victim of the crime, the victim's loved ones, the community and the society as a whole.

Secondary Impact

Crime can affect parents, friends, partners, children, spouses, and/or co-workers of the survivor. As someone who is impacted secondarily they would be identified as a secondary victim. Secondary victims go through a process similar to the primary victim. They will try to make sense of what happened and have reactions such as; feeling helpless and fearful, guilt, self-blame, and anger. Their own reactions could impact the survivor in a negative way and that is why it is helpful for others who are impacted by crime to seek out their own support, such as a counselor or advocate. Working with a professional could not only give the secondary victim an outlet for their own reactions and feelings, but it can also help them identify helpful ways to support the primary victim in their healing process. Secondary victims and witnesses to crime are welcome to receive all the same services a primary victim would qualify for after the crime.

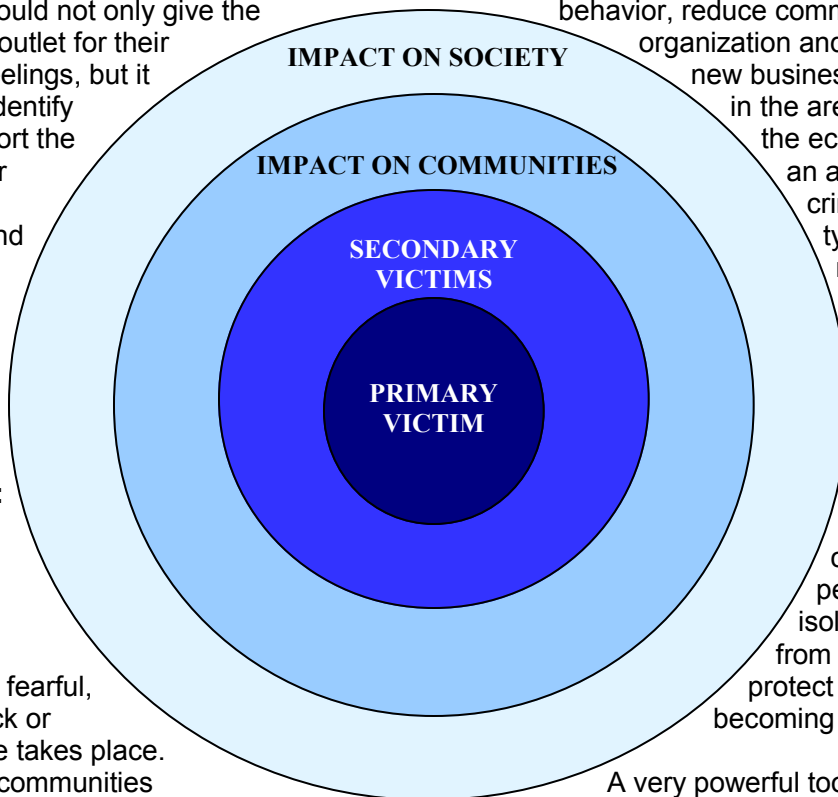
Community Impact:

Schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, campuses, and cultural or religious communities may be fearful, angry, and/or in shock or disbelief after a crime takes place. Crime also can cost communities significant amounts of resources. Resources used on crime include: medical costs, criminal justices system costs, mental health costs, and the potential lost tax contributions to the community. Tax contributions could reduce by removing the offender from the community and/or the reduced productivity of the primary and secondary victims. Other impacts within the community can reduce home and property values, school ratings, socioeconomic status, and job opportunities. It is estimated that crime costs the United States over \$500,000 million dollars annually.

Crime can change the sociological and economic status in our local communities which can impact the future success of our local environments.

Societal Impact:

Society and crime are closely linked—for better and for worse. Society is strongly impacted by crime, both due to the cost of crime as well as the decline in the quality of life that citizens suffer due to crime. The fear resulting from crimes being committed is as damaging as the act of crime itself. It is emotionally taxing for the people who live in fear in high-crime communities. The fear of crime can negatively affect behavior, reduce community organization and trust and deter new businesses from opening in the area. This adds to the economic issues of an area with high crime rates. This type of fear and reaction to crime can create generations of people who either become criminals because that is what they see and learn. Or it can create people who isolate themselves from others in order to protect themselves from becoming a victim.



A very powerful tool in the prevention of crime and the healing of a victim are the reactions from secondary victims, communities and society. Sending a message that criminal behavior and victimization is not tolerated in a community can be very powerful in making a change. These changes or shifts are called Social Change. A social change can begin with small groups of influential people which can then impact the community as a whole. The social change model is similar to the impact of crime; however, it is focused on changing behavior and attitudes instead of looking at the impact.

Continued from Page #3

Victim Impact Statements

Creating Your Victim Impact Statement

As a crime victim, do you ever feel like you don't have a voice or a say in the criminal justice system? You do! Your tool to making your voice heard is the Victim Impact Statement.

What is a Victim Impact Statement?

Crime affects everyone in a different way. Additionally, many people have varying desires for punishment for the defendant. A Victim Impact Statement (VIS) is your chance to tell the judge in your case how the crime has affected you and what you think should happen to the defendant.

How do I Make a Victim Impact Statement?

The most common way to make a Victim Impact Statement is to write a letter to the judge. You do not need to know the judge's name. You can simply address your letter "Honorable Judge." Your letter should be typed if possible but it can be handwritten if it is easy to read. If you choose not to read your letter out loud in the courtroom, copies of the letter will be given to the judge, prosecutor, defense attorney and the offender to read.

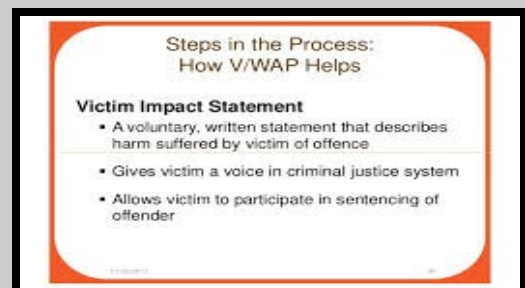
Another common method is to be present at sentencing and to make a verbal statement addressing the judge. In this case, you simply need to be present at sentencing. When the case is called, the judge will ask whether there is someone who wants to speak on behalf of the victim. This is when you will speak. You will not be placed under oath, but naturally you are expected to tell the truth. Normally you will stand near the table where the prosecutor is sitting. An advocate can attend the sentencing hearing with you and stand next to you when you speak.

There are other options as well. Some people choose to bring pictures of a victim who is not able to be present for one reason or another. You can also set up a telephone conference during the sentencing. It's important to work closely with your advocate and the Prosecutor to decide on a way to deliver the statement in the best way for you.

What Should I Say?

There are many things to consider when making a Victim Impact Statement. Here are a few questions you might want to ask yourself:

1. How has your life changed since the crime occurred?
2. How has the crime affected you emotionally or psychologically?
3. How has the crime affected you financially?
4. Is this crime a culmination of other crimes or violence committed by the same person?
5. What fears or hopes do you have?
6. What do you want to happen to the defendant (jail or prison time, treatment, etc.)?
7. In your experience, do you think this defendant can be rehabilitated?
8. How do you think it will affect you, your family, or the community when the defendant is released?



For more information visit: www.spokanecounty.org

Quote for this newsletter:

You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view -- until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.

-Harper Lee-To Kill a Mockingbird

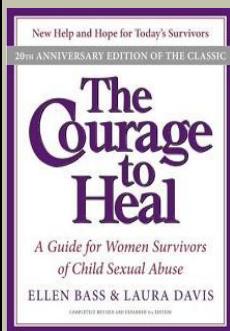
The Vigilant Corner

The Vigilant Corner

If you would like to know more about the topic addressed in this issue of The Vigilant, please don't hesitate to contact the Crime Victim Service Center (509)374-0130.



Recommended Books

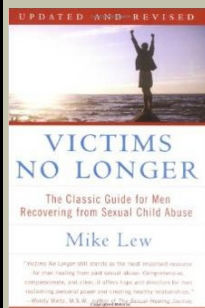


The Courage to Heal

By: Ellen Bass and Laura Davis

This is an inspiring, comprehensive guide that offers hope to sexually abused women.

The authors provide a map of the healing process, thoroughly explain the effects of abuse and suggest techniques for working through healing in a realistic but encouraging way.

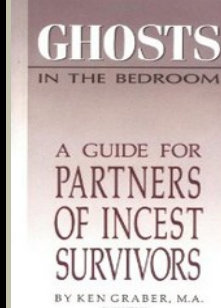


Victims No Longer

By: Mike Lew

The first book written specifically for men, Victims No Longer examines the changing cultural attitudes toward male survivors of incest and other sexual-

trauma...this invaluable resource continues to offer compassionate and practical advice, supported by personal anecdotes and statements of male survivors. Victims No Longer educates survivors and professionals about the recovery process speaking to the pain, needs, fears, and hopes of the adult male survivor.



Ghosts in the Bedroom

By: Ken Graber

This book provides comfort and guidance for partners in the process of recovery.

The author draws from personal experience to show how partners can accept responsibility for their own issues, support the recovery of the sexual abuse survivor and work toward resolving relationship problems together.

REMINDER: All SARC/CVSC library books and videos are free to checkout.

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS:

What is the Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP)?

- Crime victim compensation is a government program to reimburse victims of violent crimes- such as assault, homicide, rape, and, in some states, burglary - as well as their families for many of their out-of-pocket expenses.
- Crime victim compensation programs will generally pay for: medical and dental expenses, counseling costs, funeral or burial expenses, and lost wages or support.
- For information about your state program, visit the [National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards](#).

Before applying for benefits you will need to know:

- Police report is required: crime must be reported to law enforcement within 12 months of the incident.
- Signature is required once the application is completely filled out.
- Payer of last resort: CVCP provides benefits when all other financials sources provide no coverage.
- Limited funding: CVCP will provide benefits only when the state has available funds for this program.

Crime Victim Service Center

The Crime Victim Service Center (CVSC) is designed to offer services to crime victims and their non-offending family members, friends, secondary victims, and witnesses to crime. CVSC provides services to victims of crime including: assault, homicide, burglary, robbery, kidnapping, elder abuse, child abuse, identity theft, trafficking, and gang violence. CVSC is a program of the Support, Advocacy & Resource Center of Benton/Franklin Counties in Collaboration with the YWCA of Lewiston/Clarkston and the Walla Walla Police Department. The Support, Advocacy & Resource Center (SARC) is a non-profit United Way Community Partner.

SARC has served Benton and Franklin Counties since 1977. SARC's mission is to provide crisis services, support, and advocacy to victims of all non-domestic violence crimes, non-offending family members, and others who are impacted by crime. We strive to create and maintain a community without violence through prevention-based education. The YWCA of Lewiston/Clarkston is a private, non-profit social service organization that operates a comprehensive crisis intervention program serving residents of Asotin, Garfield, and Columbia Counties. The YWCA is committed to providing direct services for victims, educating the public and advocating for social change to improve the quality of life in our communities.

The Walla Walla County Crime Victim Service Center is located within the Walla Walla Police Department. You do not need to file a police report to contact one of the victim advocates. The Walla Walla CVSC handles all crimes except sexual assault and domestic violence.

24-Hour Crisis
Line
Benton,
Franklin,
Columbia,
Garfield and
Asotin
Counties

1-888-9-VICTIM

WE'RE ON THE WEB
CRIMEVICTIMSERVICECENTER.ORG

The Crime Victim Service Center (CVSC) is here to help you. CVSC is available 24-hours a day to assist anyone who has questions or concerns about crime and the confusion that comes along with being a victim of a crime. CVSC services are free of charge and are confidential. Please contact CVSC at (509) 374-0130 for information or to access the following services.

Services

Legal and Medical Advocacy

Our agency staff respond to hospital calls to provide medical advocacy to victims of crime. We also provide legal advocacy at police interviews and court proceedings. Moral support and information is given to victims, family, friends, and witnesses to crime.

Crisis Intervention

Our staff provides short-term crisis intervention to clients. Advocates provide information, support, and validation for the client's feelings. We often recommend that clients seek additional therapy to assist in the healing process.

Library Resources

Some CVSC Programs have a wide collection of books on the topic of crime and issues surrounding crime victimization. These resources are available for CVSC clients and the general public.

Crisis Line

CVSC advocates are available 24-hours a day to answer questions, or simply provide support if you just need someone to listen. This line also serves as a point of contact for clients who may need immediate emergency assistance.

Referral Services

Our staff is able to assist clients in finding resources and information related to their victimization.

Therapy Referrals

Referrals are available for counseling. We have information regarding payment options; sliding fee scales, Provider One ("medical coupon"), and Crime Victims Compensation; a program through Washington State Labor & Industries.

RCW 7.69.030

Right of victims, survivors, and witnesses

(9) "To have a crime victim advocate from a crime victim/witness program present at any prosecutorial or defense interviews with the victim, and at any judicial proceedings related to criminal acts committed against the victim..."



SARC Program Reports



Crisis Program

Sexual Assault & Crime Victim Service Center (CVSC)

One of our Sexual Assault Advocates, Brandi Ralston, worked with two client families that had significant resolutions to their legal cases during the second quarter. The first case was an online exploitation case in which the offender lived in New Jersey and met a teen girl online. During their communication online he manipulated the teen into sending inappropriate pictures to him which he reposted on pornographic websites. In addition to the pornography, he also traveled to Washington to meet the teen and sexually assaulted her. He was convicted of his rape charge back in September 2014 and he received 14 months in prison. In November, he was sentenced in Federal Court to 180 months in prison for distribution of child pornography.

The second family has been working with Brandi since November of last year after there was a disclosure of sexual abuse from a daughter and step daughter against their father/step father. The abuse had gone on several years prior to the girls disclosing and was very severe. This case was a joint case between Benton County and Yakima County. During the investigation issues arose with parts of the investigation which caused difficulties with prosecution. Anita Petra was the prosecutor and did amazing things for the case and the family. After a long battle with the defense in this case the offender pled guilty to several charges of child rape and molestation. On November 20th he was sentenced to 318 months to life in prison. The family shared victim impact statements with the court and was very relieved to have the conclusion to their case. The girls, who participated in Camp SARC last year, are excited to come back to Camp for a second year this June.

We are continually supported throughout the holiday season by our community and this season our clients received just as much, if not more, community generosity.

Thanksgiving:

The season began with the overwhelming generosity from Bill McCurley Auto Dealerships who donated 35 boxes of food for families to make their Thanksgiving Dinner. Each box contained a turkey, ham, and the rest of the staples families would need to complete their Thanksgiving. The boxes were delivered by McCurley's staff and then distributed to clients.

Christmas (Formal Thank You's and Names are Listed on Page 14):

Sponsorships: Families were sponsored for Christmas this year by families in the community who want to help people in need.

Donations: In addition to private sponsorships, our clients also benefitted from donations this holiday season. Toys were donated by the following: Radio Tri-Cities, Desert Thunder Motorcycle Club, United Way, McCurley Dealerships also donated an additional 10 boxes of food for families to make Christmas Dinner. One 4th Grade Class at Calvary Christian School put together two baskets with books, movies, games, candy and popcorn to give to families for Christmas.

Cops and Kids: Lastly, 25 of our clients were fortunate to also participate in the annual Cops and Kids event at the Kennewick Wal-Mart. This event gives the families we work with an opportunity to have help with over the holidays and allows kids to have positive interactions with law enforcement.

Christmas Party: After the Cops and Kids Event, Columbia Center Rotary Club hosted a Christmas Party for the children at the Carousel of Dreams. Children were given unlimited rides on the carousel and provided lunch. The kids who participated had a wonderful day of generosity from

Sexual Assault Statistics

Crime Types	Mid-Fiscal Year 2014-2015
Adult Survivor	14
Date Rape	4
Acquaintance Rape	27
Stranger Rape	10
Marital Rape	3
Family Molestation	37
Acquaintance Molestation	30
Sexual Harassment	3
Stranger Molestation	1
Family Rape	15
Other	22
New Clients	165

General Crimes Statistics

Crime Types	Mid-Fiscal Year 2014-2015
Child Abuse	17
Harassment	18
Robbery	1
Assault	14
Kidnapping	3
Vehicular Assault	1
Property Crimes	6
Fraud	1
Trafficking	1
Homicide	3
Elder Abuse	2
Other	5
Total New Clients	68

For more information regarding these reports please contact Renee Blackman, rblackman@myfrontiermail.com

Kid's Haven Program

Child Sexual Assault Exams continue to be conducted at Kadlec Regional Medical Center. A Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) is comprised of the nurses and the doctor from the pediatric floor, lead emergency room doctor and charge nurse, hospital mental health, law enforcement, prosecutors and SARC. The MDT continues to meet regularly to ensure the process of scheduling and completing exams runs smoothly. It is very productive to effectively collaborate to ensure the process that will not only work for the system but more importantly to reduce the traumatic impact for children.

Interviews for the first six months of the fiscal year are almost the same in volume compared to last year. The differences to highlight are the number of physical abuse interviews because they increased 50% this year. In the next category witnesses to violence interviews have decreased by 46%.

Mid-Fiscal Year	Total Interviews	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Witness	Other
2014-2015	138	117	14	7	0
2013-2014	139	116	7	13	3



Prevention Program

The Prevention Program has made significant efforts over the past years to get involved in established school activities; such as career fairs, college nights, etc. Each year the results have been insignificant and all of a sudden this year we were able to participate in almost all of the High School's college fairs. This was a chance to connect to more teens and to teachers. Some of the teachers we connected to during these events later scheduled programs for their class rooms. It was a great opportunity to connect to the schools and raise awareness about the services SARC/CVSC offer.

Some of the new events/places we have been involved are:

- Kennewick High School College Fair
- Southridge High School College Fair
- Richland High School College Fair
- First Baptist Church
- Hanford High School College Fair
- Tapteal Elementary

McGee Elementary invited the Prevention Program to present to all of the Technology Teachers for the Pasco School District regarding SARC services and the available Technology Safety Program. After the presentation the Tech teachers were really excited about the program and discussing the possibilities of incorporating the program into their technology curriculum.

Total Sessions Offered for Each Program

Mid-Fiscal Year Comparison	Boundary & Body Safety	Safe Bodies, Healthy Minds	Personal Body Safety	Technology Safety	Harassment & Bullying Prevention	Creating Healthy Relationships	United Way Rallies	SARC Services	Other	Total Presentations
2014-2015	8	52	26	86	237	71	0	23	3	507
2013-2014	12	83	30	75	215	24	7	35	6	487

Registering Kids for the 2015 Camp SARC!

Camp SARC is a special week for child victims of abuse. For one special week during the year SARC stands for Strengthening and Revitalizing Children. Children who go to Camp SARC participate in all the same fun that other camps offer; however, at Camp SARC kids are able to learn special ways to respond to their trauma. All of the content the children learn are based on four themes: Healthy Confidence, Healthy Connections, Healthy Expressions and Healthy Me. Each theme is designed to impact several aspects of the child's life and help them heal in a positive way. If you know a child aged 6-12 that would benefit from participating in Camp SARC please contact the SARC office at (509) 374-5391. Camp this year will be June 22nd-26th, 2015.

Sex Offender Information

This Notice is For Information Only

This information is provided in accordance with RCW 4.24.550. The Police Departments have no legal authority to direct where a sex offender may live. Unless court ordered restrictions exist, the offender is constitutionally free to live wherever they choose. Citizen abuse of this information to threaten, intimidate or harass registered sex offenders will not be tolerated. Such abuse could end our ability to do community notifications.

Level III Sex Offender: Benton County, WA



NAME: Justin Levi Lorin Linville
ADDRESS: 200 block of S. Elm St., Kennewick
SEX: Male
DOB: 2-18-83
HAIR: Brown
EYES: Blue
HEIGHT: 5'8"
WEIGHT: 165 lbs.
CONVICTION DATA:
Communication with a minor for immoral purposes 1998 & 2002 .
Child Molestation 1st degree

Level II Sex Offender: Benton County, WA



NAME: Michael K. Flaucher
ADDRESS: 600 Block of N. Kent Pl. , Kennewick
SEX: Male
DOB: 7-22-92
HAIR: Grey
EYES: Blue
HEIGHT: 5'9"
WEIGHT: 170 lbs.
CONVICTION DATA:
1st Degree Burglary with Sexual Motivation
-Benton Co 1993



The Cops and Kids is a special event in which children are given a Wal-Mart gift card and paired up with a police officer. The card is used to purchase Christmas presents for the child's family members while allowing the children to spend some quality time with a police officer. This year the program offered

29 children from our agency the opportunity to participate in this great event.

Special thanks to all who donated to this wonderful program:

-Fraternal Order of Police
Tri-City Lodge # 7

-Kennewick Wal-Mart

-Columbia Center Rotary Club
for their generous Christmas
Party at the Carousel of Dreams

-Sergeant Mark Weber &
The Kennewick Police
Department

-Burger King

Thank You!!

Thank You!

SARC Clients were blessed to have many community members reach out to help families in need for Christmas this year. We would like to extend special thanks to those who were able to sponsor or donate to a family. This kindness has provided items to the families to make their holiday season a little brighter.

Parish of the Holy Sprit
The Erickson Family
The Douglas Family
The Sanchez Family

MSA-Refrigerated
Equipment Services
The Littrell Family
Radio Tri-Cities
The Rochleau Family

McCurley Auto
Dealerships
Desert Thunder
The Mendenhall
Family

Envirocon Nuclear
Services
Tiffany & Udrel
Ramirez

A Special Thanks to...



THANK
YOU

Sharon Grant, First Presbyterian Church of Kennewick, Pete & Gloria Rude, Xron Associates, Inc., Chip & Marsha Larson, Tri-City Quilter's Guild, Kay Jewelers, The Brantingham Family, Cari McGee, O.D. Slagle, Robin & Pat Sullivan, Sewing Sisters, Richland Church of Christ, Patti Johns, Michael & Patricia Tuohy, Philip McGuinness, Duane Moe, Kolleen Ledgerwood, Donna Yasek, Joan Kessner, Sheri Harshberger, Michelle Hare, Amoret Bunn, Elise Leahy, Mary Kessner, Evelyn Weiss, Anthony Nagel, Athena Clark & Family, Hillview Ward, Lucky Bridge-Casino, Eddie Bauer, Steve Ulrich Assessment & Treatment Assoc., Inc., Kathy Meline, Skyler, Project Linus, Brian Jenner, Mikayla Sivers, Badger Mountain Elementary, Kristin Jarman, Pete & Gloria Rude, Donna Yasek, Joan Kessner, Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery, Willowbrook Ward Young Women's Group, The Employees of ARES Corporation

SARC NEWS

Upcoming Events



March 30-April 3	Clothesline Project Displayed
April 1st-May 2	Kids Haven Online Auction
April 20	Board Meeting
April 6-12th	Little People Project Displayed
April 19	Strides of Strength Walk
April 22	Denise's Birthday
May 2	Cinco De Mayo Celebration
May 18	Board Meeting
May 25	Office Closed/Holiday
June 6	Pancake Breakfast
June 22-26th	SARC Summer Camp

SARC & CVSC

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Cindy Rochleau

Vice President

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Craig Littrell

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Sharon Adkins

Monica Cisneros

SARC & CVSC Staff

JoDee Garretson

Executive Director

jgarretson@frontier.com

Mitzi Veng

Office Administrator

mveng@frontier.com

Renee Blackman

Program Director

rblackman@myfrontiermail.com

Rosanna Herrera

Sexual Assault Advocate

rherrera@myfrontiermail.com

Brandi Ralston

Sexual Assault Advocate

bralston@frontier.com

Norma Chavez

General Crimes Advocate

n.torres@frontier.com

Denise Martin

Prevention Specialist

dmartin@frontier.com

Lindsay Gladstone

Prevention Specialist

lgladstone@frontier.com

supportadvocacyresourcecenter.org

SARC Office:
830 N Columbia
Center Blvd.
Suite H,
Kennewick, WA
99336

24-hour Hotline
(509) 374-5391



Support, Advocacy & Resource Center
830 North Columbia Center Blvd., Suite H
Kennewick, WA 99336

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Striving for a "Community without Victims"



about the program

The Support, Advocacy & Resource Center serves Benton and Franklin Counties with sexual assault crisis and education services. We provide free and confidential assistance for victims of sexual assault, child sexual abuse, dating violence and adult survivors of child sexual abuse.

SARC also provides prevention education for our schools, day cares and community groups on sexual abuse and safety issues. Our services are available to all people regardless of age, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or physical and mental ability.

The Washington State Office of Crime Victims Advocacy accredits SARC as a Community Sexual Assault Program. SARC is a member of the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs and

the United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties.

Services are provided through grants from the state and federal government, local and regional foundations, and through donations from our generous community.

The opinions expressed in the "Point of View" section of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of staff, board of directors, volunteers and sponsors of SARC.

The SARC Advocate is designed to educate, inform and promote community awareness regarding sexual assault issues. Reader feedback and submissions are always welcome. Mail to: 830 North Columbia Center Blvd., Suite H, Kennewick, WA 99336 or contact us via e-mail.

Editors:

Denise Martin
dmartin@frontier.com

Norma Torres
n.torres@frontier.com

Lindsay Gladstone
l.gladstone@frontier.com

Renee Blackman
Rblackman@myfrontiermail.com

Visit us on the web at
www.supportadvocacyresourcecenter.org
www.crimevictimservicecenter.org

24-Hour Crisis line (509) 374-5391 Business Phone (509) 374-5391

Fax Number (509) 374-8743 Mailing Address: 830 North Columbia Center Blvd. Ste. H, Kennewick, WA 99336