



Kansas Organization for Victim Assistance

Newsletter ~ Fall/Winter 2005

KOVA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote fair treatment for victims of crime.

KOVA Officers ~ 2005/06

Frank Henderson, Jr. President
Office of Attorney General Phill Kline

Debi Holcomb..... Vice President
Kansas Department of Corrections

Judy Brunboeber..... Secretary
Wichita Police Department

Marie Landry..... Treasurer
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

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Newsletter Editor ~ Leah Sawyer

A Message from the President . . .

Colleagues and Friends,

Thank you for your support of victims in Kansas! In fulfilling the mission of KOVA, we desire to create a community of concerned citizens, agencies and organizations, just like you, to encourage and support the development and continuation of victim services throughout our state.

We need your assistance as we strive to:

- facilitate the exchange of information and ideas relevant to victims of crime;
- further victim advocacy through a commitment to identify and address the needs of crime victims and provide support to victim service agencies;
- encourage the sharing and utilization of resources;
- improve the efficiency of the criminal justice system in responding to the needs of victims of crime;
- promote cooperation and concerted action on policies and programs which impact victims of crime.

Our goals for 2005- 2006 are as follows:

- Update the KOVA website to be more resourceful;
- Develop a bi-annual newsletter;
- Increase KOVA membership;
- Provide two scholarships to attend the Governor's and Attorney General's Annual Victims' Rights Conference;
- Sponsor a conference speaker;
- Support legislation that impacts victims of crime.

We are committed to the promotion of victims' rights in Kansas. I invite you to join us in this valiant effort. If you have renewed your annual membership, I thank you for your continued support. If you have not renewed your membership, or would like to join, please contact Leah Sawyer at 785-291-3729. Together we can make a significant impact to ensure that victims are not forgotten.

Frank S. Henderson, Jr.
President

2006 Governor's/Attorney General's Annual Crime Victims' Rights Conference

April 4 & 5, 2006
Capitol Plaza Hotel
Topeka, Kansas

KOVA Scholarships Available for Annual Crime Victims' Rights Conference

KOVA awards two scholarships to its members to attend the Governor's/Attorney General's Annual Crime Victims' Rights Conference. The 2006 conference will be held in Topeka on April 4th and 5th at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. The scholarship covers the cost of registration and a two-night stay at the conference hotel. Scholarship applications will be mailed out to all KOVA members in January. The applications will need to be returned no later than February 15th. Scholarship recipients will be notified following the February 21st KOVA meeting. If you would like more information on becoming a KOVA member and qualifying for this scholarship, please contact us.

*Submitted by Karen Smart
M.A.D.D., Kansas Chapter*

Season of Giving

Every year, domestic violence and sexual assault shelters provide services to thousands of victims in the State of Kansas. This year, when you are doing your holiday shopping, remember to pick up a few items to donate. Some of the items needed year-round include toothpaste, mouthwash, soap, shampoo, disposable razors and deodorant. Children are also housed in such shelters, so it's important to remember their needs also. Donations of diapers, wipes, cotton swabs, powdered formula and small stuffed animals are always useful. If your family or office is considering adopting a family for Christmas, why not call your local shelter and find out if they could help you identify a family in need? Remember, it takes all of our care and concern to eradicate family violence.

*Submitted by Alisha Adams
Shawnee County Victim/Witness Coordinator*



KDOC Division of Victim Services

The Kansas Department of Corrections Division of Victim Services has expanded over the past several years in our efforts to respond to the needs of crime victims/ survivors once an offender is sentenced to prison. Kansas law requires that we notify victims, whose address is known, of certain status changes of offenders. Among those notifications are all releases, notice of public comment sessions, applications for clemency and for functional incapacitation, expiration of sentence, deaths, escapes, work release, sexually violent predators, interstate compact, and possible media contact.

Our role in KDOC Victim Services is to assist victims/survivors by serving as a liaison and helping to guide them through the system, both while the offender is in prison and while on parole. The Victim/Offender Dialogue program is available for some survivors of severe violence. The Correctional Facility Tour program is now available for victims/survivors. At their request, we can assist victims/survivors with Public Comment Sessions before the Kansas Parole Board. We also have liaisons in the parole offices to assist with their needs once the offender is released. We operate a repository of apology letters written by offenders to the victim/survivor of their crimes, which victims/survivors can request if and when they are ready. All victim information is confidential and separate from offender files.

Our improvement and expansion has occurred with the assistance of the Victim Services Advisory Council, which includes crime victims/survivors and statewide victim service providers. We are dedicated to continuing to listen to crime victims/survivors and respond to their needs. If you have suggestions or feedback, please contact our office at victimservices@kdoc.dc.state.ks.us.

*Submitted by Debi Holcomb
Director of Victim Services, KDOC*

Latest Report on Rape Now Available

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) recently released its yearly data on rape in *A Report on Domestic Violence and Rape Statistics in Kansas, 2004*. This data is based on incidents of rape reported to law enforcement throughout the state.

It is important to recognize, however, that rape is arguably the most underreported violent crime. It is generally agreed upon that only 20 to 25% of rapes are ever reported, so these reported incidents don't fully account for the extent of the problem.

The number of rapes reported to law enforcement increased 1.8% from the year before. As in previous years, only approximately one in five of reported rapes resulted in an arrest.

In at least 70% of the reported rapes, the victim knew the offender. However, this percentage may be even higher because in 17% of the rapes, the relationship between offender and victim was classified as "unknown" at the time the police officer completed the report. Many victims report later that they knew the offender.

In nearly one-third of the incidents, an acquaintance of the victim was the rapist. In addition, the victim's current or former spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend was the offender in 14% of the incidents.

Nearly 70% of the rapes reported occurred at home.

Incidents of Rape Reported to Kansas Police in 2004:

Reported Incidents - 1,153

Incidents occurring at home - 68%

Incidents in which the offender knew the victim - at least 71%

Incidents which led to an arrest - 21.3%

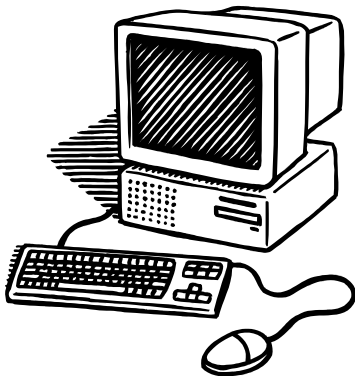
Source: KBI

- To view the KBI report, visit the Kansas Governor's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board website at www.ksgovernor.org/grants/gdvfrb.shtml

For further information about assisting victims of sexual assault, contact the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence at 785-232-9784 or online at www.kcsdv.org.

*Submitted by Marie Landry, Staff Attorney
KCSDV*

Coming soon . . .



The KOVA web page will soon be updated, with increased services available online. Among other things, new features will include:

- ◆ News
- ◆ Current information
- ◆ Links to member organizations
- ◆ Links to individual members' websites containing personal memoirs, stories, etc.
- ◆ State map with links to resources in each area or county

If you would like to have your agency or organization's website linked to our site, please email Leah Sawyer at leahs@kdoc.dc.state.ks.us

Franklin County Attorney's Office

The Franklin County Attorney's Office is pleased to announce that it, in conjunction with the Ottawa Police Department, the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, and Women's Transitional Care Services (WTCS), has been awarded a Domestic Violence grant in the amount of \$467,000. The grant was awarded by the Federal Government's Office on Violence Against Women and is a two-year renewable grant. The grant has enabled the County Attorney's Office to hire a Domestic Violence Coordinator, the Police Department and the Sheriff's Department to each hire a Domestic Violence Detective and WTCS to hire an additional staff member.

The Domestic Violence Coordinator in the County Attorney's Office assists victims in obtaining protective orders, receiving restitution, filling out victim impact statements and assists victims in the court process. The Coordinator also assists the prosecutor in all aspects of the domestic violence case, including gathering of reports, restitution figures, contacting victims and witnesses, preparing summons, subpoenas, journal entries, file preparation, general case management, various clerical work, legal research when necessary, training for law enforcement, tracking of all domestic violence related cases and compiling statistics on such cases. The Coordinator will work as a liaison between domestic violence victims, witnesses, local law enforcement, WTCS, and the County Attorney's Office. The Coordinator will also assist the Franklin County Attorney's Office in educating the community about domestic violence. Franklin County consistently maintains the fourth highest rate of domestic violence in the State of Kansas.

October was National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

*Submitted by Erin Garmin
Osage County Court Services*

Written by Heather Jones, Franklin County Attorney



Public Awareness Can Make a Difference

On Saturday, April 13, 2002, Paula's husband nearly killed her. Paula faded in and out of consciousness for two days.

On Monday morning, her boss called to find out why she was not at work. When Paula managed to answer the phone, she was incoherent. (Paula's husband had gone to work that morning as if nothing had happened.)

When Paula's boss took her to the hospital, the doctor said Paula needed to be in an ICU unit on a death watch. The doctor later testified during the divorce trial that the attack was, in his opinion, attempted murder.

Paula was deeply ashamed, embarrassed, and felt the attack was her fault. Through the encouragement of a Crisis Center and her co-workers, she finally filed a police report.

There were many intake reports on Paula's son initiated by Child Protective Services. It was reported on April 2003, that her son said, "My daddy bought me a gun. Guns are what we use to kill mommies with." At that time, her son was three.

Paula was violently attacked in April 2002, the perpetrator was NEVER charged with battery, let alone attempted murder, and she has been re-victimized over and over again.

Attorney General Phill Kline is actively working to stop domestic violence and build public awareness about the abuse and its effect on victims and their children.

In October 2004, the YWCA of Wichita and the Wichita Police Department developed the *Salons of Hope* program to help victims of domestic violence. Attorney General Kline has taken the Wichita initiative statewide. Prosecutors, law enforcement, and social service advocates are now working in collaboration to train cosmetologists.

The *Kansas Salons of Hope* program builds awareness of domestic abuse and provides cosmetologists with the training necessary to understand the far-reaching effects of domestic violence and how to recognize the warning signs. They learn how to make women feel comfortable about discussing abuse.

Cosmetologists are in a unique position to offer help. They are good listeners and their clients often confide in them. Many times abused women do not have anyone else who will listen. Cosmetologists can spot injuries that other people may not see. After the *Kansas Salons of Hope* training, the cosmetologists can listen and then offer the client a pocket card with resources and phone numbers.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a reminder that as advocates, we, along with Attorney General Phill Kline, must continue to make the public aware of the nation's silent epidemic – domestic violence. With more awareness, the community can help victims, like Paula, connect to social services located throughout the state.

*By Jeanette C. Stauffer, J.D. Statewide Victims' Rights Coordinator
KS Attorney General's Office*

Office of Attorney General Phill Kline Victims' Rights Division – Grants Administration

Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline is greatly concerned about the rights of all victims. As a state legislator, he wrote six new victims' rights laws and was well known by victims' advocates across the state as a person who not only had a sincere concern for victims but who also had the ability to effectuate needed changes in the area of victims' rights. Now, as Attorney General, that commitment is reflected in his strong resolve to prosecute criminal acts of child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence while upholding the rights of victims whom have suffered these traumas.

Earlier this year, Attorney General Kline restructured the Victims' Rights Division within his office to ensure that the voices of victims are better heard by the legislature, the law enforcement community, and throughout the judicial process. His unwavering support of victims in matters that effect them, as well as his desire for greater accountability of those who provide programs and services that support victims, was the driving force behind this much-needed -- and well-received -- reorganization.

Because most people are unfamiliar with the prosecutorial process, victim advocacy is an important area of focus for the Victims' Rights Division. In the Office of the Attorney General, a Victims' Advocate works closely with victims, their families, and prosecuting attorneys to provide compassionate concern and effective advocacy for victims throughout the judicial process.

In addition to victims' advocacy, there are four Crime Victims' Assistance Grant Funds administered through the Office of Attorney General Phill Kline: State Crime Victims Assistance Fund for Child Abuse and Neglect, State Crime Victims' Assistance Fund, State Protection From Abuse Fund, and The Child Exchange and Visitation Centers Fund. Each of the four grant funds was established by statute and provides limited grant funding to sustain programs across the state that provide support to victims in accordance with the purpose set forth for each grant fund.

Grant awards are issued for each fiscal year at the recommendation of the Grant Review Board which consists of individuals appointed by the Attorney General and whose responsibility it is to review applications for each of the grant funds. The Review Board is also responsible for making recommendations to the Attorney General concerning grant awards that will be administered during the next fiscal year.

The Office of the Attorney General is also an administrative partner with the many agencies and programs around the state that provide direct services and advocacy for victims and is a source of supportive funding to those agencies and programs. These important relationships ensure that the mission of the Victims' Rights Division is facilitated through the distribution of these necessary grant funds that support victims' rights education, advocacy services, and the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The monies also provide much-needed counseling and shelter for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence along with the facilitation of court mandated child exchange and visitation.

For more information about Grant Administration, contact Alisa Lange, Field Director/Grant Administrator at 785-291-3950 or langea@ksag.org. If your agency is interested in applying for a State Crime Victims' Assistance Fund Grant, please follow the directions provided below to visit our web site for more information.

GO TO: www.ksag.org
CLICK: AT "Quick Clicks" – click the drill down arrow at "*I want to*".
CLICK: *Victims' Rights Grant Applications* (located under Crime Victims' Rights).
SCROLL: Scroll down to view information on each of the Grant Funds.
CLICK: "Application Materials" to download a grant application and necessary budget summary forms. You will be able to print the application from the screen or "Save As" on your system's hard drive or CD.

To view FY 06 Grant Awards, click "Grant Awards FY 06" under each grant fund.

*Submitted by Alisa Lange, Field Director/Grants Administrator
Office of Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline, Victims' Rights Division*



Restorative Justice in Johnson County

Restorative Justice is a catchy phrase that is often thrown around in victim advocacy circles. But what does it mean and how do we practice it? Restorative justice involves victims, offenders and the community in the process of justice. Restorative justice recognizes that the needs of victims are sometimes unmet by the court system. Offenders are pushed to take responsibility for their actions.

One way we seek to practice restorative justice in Johnson County is by offering Juvenile Victim Impact Panels. We believe that juvenile offenders need to hear how victims are impacted by their actions. Additionally, serving on a panel can be a therapeutic and healing process for victims.

The Juvenile Victim Impact Panel is now offered bi-monthly to youth who are on the Immediate Intervention Program (similar to adult diversion). Depending on their placement level in Immediate Intervention, youth are either required to attend or they receive community service hours for their attendance. Youth are given the message that even though they may have made poor choices in their pasts, they have the opportunity to make better choices in the future. After attending the panel, one youth wrote, "I learned that my choices can impact not just me, but teachers, friends, family and everyone around me."

We could not do this work without the commitment and dedication of our victim speakers. They generously give of themselves each time they tell their stories to juvenile offenders and offer them much needed insight into how their actions can and do impact others. These survivors have chosen to take horrible, life-altering experiences and tell their stories to make a difference in the lives of those who hear them.

*Submitted by Shelly Hartman
Johnson County Victim Assistance Unit Coordinator*

Kansas M.A.D.D.



The mission of Mothers Against Drunk Driving is to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking. Nationwide, M.A.D.D. has more than 1,400 trained victim advocates on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They provide free literature, guidance through the criminal justice system, information on how to apply for crime victims' compensation funds and a list of referrals for professional counselors, civil attorneys and clergy who are skilled at working with crash victims. M.A.D.D. is the largest crime victim assistance organization in the world. Kansas M.A.D.D. held its Nineteenth Annual Candlelight Vigil on Saturday, December 3 at the AmeriSuites Hotel in Topeka at 2:00 p.m. It was a wonderful day of remembrance and hope with DUI victims from across the state. A candle was lit in honor of loved ones lost or injured.

*Submitted by Karen Smart
M.A.D.D., Kansas Chapter*



Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Website: _____

Employer: _____

Address: _____

Type of Membership: (please check one)

Individual () Dues \$10.00

Organization () Dues \$50.00

Student () Dues \$ 5.00

*Crime Victim () Dues \$ 5.00

*First year free membership

If you would like to join KOVA, complete the attached application, detach and mail with appropriate payment to:

KOVA
P.O. Box 2865
Topeka, KS 66601-2865

For more information, contact Leah Sawyer at 785-291-3729.

www.kova.us



Governor Announces Funding for Crime Victim Assistance Organizations

On October 20, 2005, Governor Kathleen Sebelius announced the recipients of over four million dollars in funding that will go to protect, assist, and respond to victims of crime.

“Violent crimes affect Kansans young and old, in rural and urban areas,” Governor Sebelius said. “It’s crucial we continue doing everything possible to protect Kansans, but for those who are victims, it’s our duty to help them recover. This funding will allow victims and their families to continue to receive needed services such as counseling, advocacy, shelter, transportation, safety planning and many other vital services and resources.”

A total of \$4,464,762 was awarded to 51 Kansas organizations from the Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance grant program. These organizations receive VOCA funds to provide direct services to crime victims such as responding to their emotional and physical needs; assisting victims of crime in stabilizing their lives after victimization; helping victims understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and providing victims with a measure of safety.

Kansas receives the funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime.

To view grant recipients and amounts, you may visit http://www.ksgovernor.org/grants/grants_vocapp.shtml.

*Submitted by Alisha Adams
Shawnee County Victim/Witness Coordinator*

2006 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

April 23 – 29

**“Victims Rights:
Strength in Unity”**

For more information, visit the Office for Victims of Crime website at
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/nvrvw/welcome.html

Kansas Organization for Victim Assistance



P.O. Box 2865
Topeka, KS 66601-2865