

Serving Survivors of Homicide Victims During Cold Case Investigations

A Survey to Identify Existing Cold Case Units

National Sheriffs' Association
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The National Sheriffs' Association, Justice Solutions, and the National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children have partnered to develop a protocol on how law enforcement agencies can best serve survivors of homicide victims during cold case investigations. Associated materials for victim service programs and families of homicide victims will also be developed. This Project is funded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

As a first step in developing the protocol for law enforcement, a survey of agencies is being administered to collect information on existing cold case units. If your agency does not have a formal cold case unit, please still answer all the questions below by simply substituting the word "unit" in the survey question with the word "staff". The information you provide will greatly aid this project in developing the protocol for law enforcement agencies on how best to serve survivors of homicide victims during cold case investigations as well as the associated materials for victim services programs and families of homicide victims. (This survey is also being sent to non-law enforcement victim service programs to request that these programs encourage and support their law enforcement agency in completing the survey.)

Your participation is vital to the development of this protocol, and is greatly appreciated!

Please share information with us about your cold case unit by answering the 12 questions below. The survey will take only about 15 minutes. Include your contact information in case follow-up is needed on your answers. Thank you.

1. Within what department of your agency is the cold case unit located?
2. When was the unit established?
3. How does the unit define "cold" case?

10. Have policies and procedures been developed for investigating cold cases?

11. How do these policies and procedures address serving survivors of homicide victims during investigations?

12. Describe the challenges unit staff face in working with survivors during investigations.

After completing this form and the contact information, please click the "SUBMIT FORM" button below. An email will automatically open with the form attached. Click "SEND" on the email to submit form.

Person to contact for additional information:

PREFIX	FIRST NAME	MI	LAST NAME	SUFFIX
AGENCY		TITLE		
STREET ADDRESS				
CITY				
STATE/PROVINCE		ZIP		
PHONE				
EMAIL ADDRESS				

Finally, please share your policies and procedures by emailing them to: Diane Alexander at dalexander@justicesolutions.org. If you have any questions, contact Diane at dalexander@justicesolutions.org or (202) 628-9329 ext. 117.

Thank you for your participation in this survey!

Privacy Statement

By completing this survey, you acknowledge that your participation is voluntary. Furthermore, by providing the Project with copies of any of your agency's policies and procedures, you are granting permission – unless otherwise stated – for use of your materials in the protocol and associated materials developed under this Project. The Project Staff will keep any information confidential if requested by the survey respondent via password protection and locked files. Otherwise, survey responses may be shared among Project Staff and with Working Group members to inform development of the protocol and associated materials. Any materials referenced in the final protocol and associated materials will be credited to the original source.