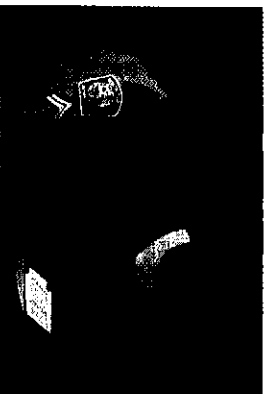


Victim Services Office

The South Carolina Highway Patrol Office of Victim Services is designed to provide honest, effective, compassionate, and professional services to the families of highway fatality victims as well as the seriously injured. In providing these services, it is always the goal of this office to ensure that the Victims' Rights are protected.



This program offers a variety of services to victims when applicable, including:

- Emotional support: crisis counseling and intervention
 - Assistance in applying for Victims' Compensation Aid
 - Information about the case and the criminal justice system
 - Referrals to agencies for counseling and other services
 - Court escorts
- Upon approval, you can apply to be compensated for the following expenses:
- Medical bills
 - Prescriptions



Frequently Asked Questions

If I need to find out about the status of my case, inquire about a court date, or receive referral information, who do I contact?

Contact your Victim Services Office at (803) 896-0719. The Victim Advocate will be able to provide you with this information.

How will I know if the suspect in my case is released from the local Detention Center?

The Detention Center must notify the victim upon release of the suspect. If you need further information, contact the Detention Center in your local area and/or the area of the collision.

After the bond hearing, what happens next?

If the case has a General Sessions charge, you will be contacted by the Victim Advocate for the Solicitor's Office. If it is a Magistrate-level charge, the Magistrate Court will notify you as well as the Victim Advocate from the Highway Patrol Victim Services Office.

Remember...

There is no "right" or "wrong" way to grieve.

Do not make major business or personal decisions during this process.

Allow yourself to cry.

Do not punish yourself for what has happened.

Be gentle with yourself and others.

Let others help you.

Celebrate your memories.

It is okay to feel angry, or sad, and to let those feelings out in a non-destructive manner.

Applaud each small step of progression you make.

Make time to rest and relax; grieving is both mentally and physically exhausting.

**If you are having any thoughts of harming yourself, call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
1-800-273-TALK**



Important Numbers

SC Highway Patrol Headquarters

(803) 896-7920

Victim Services Office

(803) 896-0719

State Office of Victims Assistance (SOVA)

1-800-220-5370

South Carolina Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN)

1-888-852-1900

Families of Highway Fatalities

(803) 896-8171

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

(803) 748-7333

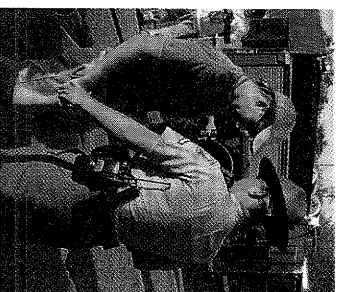
SC Crime Victims' Ombudsman

1-888-238-0697



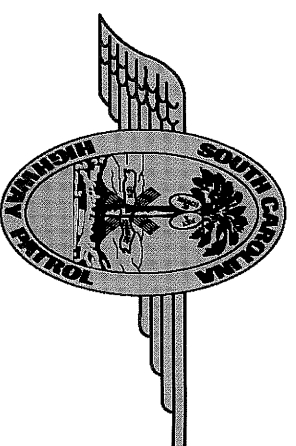
Victims' Rights

- Victims have a right to be treated with dignity and compassion.
- Victims have a right to protection from intimidation from harm.
- Victims have a right to be informed concerning the criminal justice process.
- Victims have a right to reparations.
- Victims have a right to due process in criminal court proceedings.
- Victims have a right to be heard at proceedings affecting bond, bail, release, pleas, or sentencing.
- Victims and witnesses have a right to have reasonable access to documents relating to the crime after the trial.
- Victims have a right to reasonable, prompt, and final conclusion to their case.

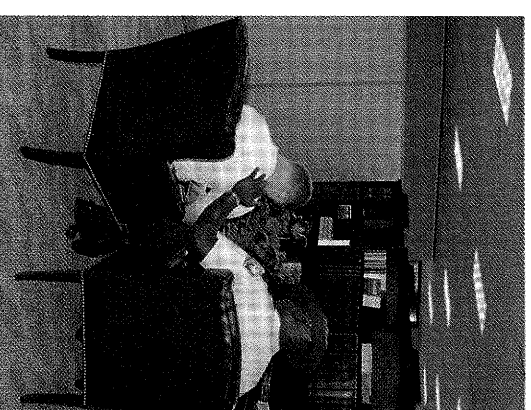


South Carolina Highway Patrol
Victim Services Office
(803) 896-0719

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Victim Services



South Carolina Department
of Public Safety

Highway Patrol Division