

# VICTIMS' RIGHTS BRIEF

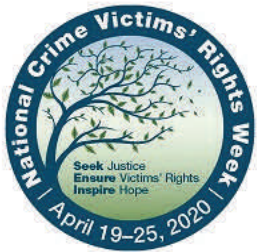
For Arizona's Justice System Administrators, Practitioners and Advocates



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We deeply regret that we cannot celebrate our annual National Crime Victims' Rights Week event with all of our friends and colleagues this year. We continue to recognize and value everyone who works to Seek Justice, Ensure Victims' Rights and Inspire Hope - so that victims have a voice each and every day.

## COVID-19 Update

The AGO OVS is concerned and saddened by the current global health emergency caused by the COVID19 pandemic. While we are working remotely, we remain available to you as you continue to serve crime victims during this trying time.

### Outreach Education Presentations

All presentations in the months of March, April and May are postponed. We anticipate re-scheduling all postponed presentations in the months of June, July and August which will not affect any VOCA requirements.

### Victims' Rights

We realize there are several changes being made in the courts, jails and elsewhere to adhere to social distancing. If you become aware of any Victims' Rights issues or challenges that arise as a result of these changes, please let us know. We are available to help work through the current challenges to find solutions. We will be tracking issues as they are presented to this office.

## Victims' Rights Education: An Update from your State Victims' Rights Outreach Coordinators

### National impact:

The Office of Victim Services Outreach and Education Program consists of two full time Outreach Coordinators who travel statewide and conduct presentations on victims' rights laws and provision of services to criminal justice practitioners and their community partners. In addition to the dozens of presentations provided statewide, the Outreach Education Coordinators have been busy highlighting Arizona's victims' rights and their innovative education methods on a national level. Last year, the Outreach and Education Program presented at the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) conference held in Phoenix and at the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) training institute in Denver. For both conferences, the presentation "A Victim's Journey", was presented to highlight the innovation in victims' rights training being used in Arizona. This interactive activity and unique tool used for last year's Advanced Victims' Rights Presentation was proudly showcased and resulted in many attendees reaching out to the Outreach and Education Program for further guidance on how their prospective states could replicate this activity to use in their victims' rights training programs. Overall, OVS been excited about the responses and the increased level of learning!

### Here are just a few examples of what participants have said:

- "The activity was very engaging and helpful."
- "The board game was very clever. Shows how the process is not linear."
- "Better understanding of the legal process and what victims may be experiencing."

The Outreach and Education team has been accepted to present at several local and national conferences in the coming year, continuing to showcase Arizona's model victims' rights and the innovations in victims' rights education.



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## *FFY2019 Review*

In FFY 2019, the Outreach and Education team facilitated 84 presentations to over 2,000 attendees from various governmental and non-profit based agencies.

The Basic Victims' Rights presentation was the most presented and requested. The Basic Victims' Rights presentation encompasses the history of victims' rights in Arizona in addition to the mandated duties of the various criminal justice system entities in Arizona. The presentation is introduced under the metaphor of a "victim's journey" throughout the criminal justice system from pre-conviction through post-conviction. This includes all statutory responsibilities, restitution and victim compensation information. Basic Victims' Rights is suggested for employees new to victims' rights OR for anyone who needs a refresher.

The following quotes reflect the impact of the presentation by those who attended:

"The interactive components were especially helpful and intriguing (e.g. the quizzes and paper quiz). It helped solidify the information."

"Overall training was very interesting. A lot of tools provided to use on my daily work day."



The Advanced Victims' Rights presentation is offered every year and provides a legislative update, a review of relevant case law and highlights important, timely topics related to victims' rights. The curriculum changes every fiscal year to remain relevant and beneficial to service providers and is intended for experienced victim services providers, such as those who have completed the Basic session and anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding of victims' rights. This year the Advanced topic is "Beyond the Courtroom Doors: Criminal Appeals and Victims' Rights." The goal of the session is to further explain what happens in the post-conviction stage of the criminal justice process. This part of the system is confusing and a surprise to victims and service providers alike. This presentation breaks down the victims' rights and experiences throughout the appellate process by following an adult felony case through an appeal. We hope that service providers can more accurately prepare victims for this process after attending this presentation.

*The following are quotes from some presentation attendees:*



"Actual court case was interesting, a different point of view."

"It was very informative and actually spelled things out a little clearer as the appeal process can be confusing."

"Enjoyed having the case example and videos. Put it into perspective in a clear picture."

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## **F**requently Asked Questions

### **Will presentations be available as a webinar?**

At this time, we are not set up to produce most of our presentations via webinar, however, we are working on those presentations that could potentially be successful in a webinar format for law enforcement agencies, probation departments and issues related to restitution. Please continue to monitor our website and be on the lookout for emails announcing the availability of these webinars.

### **Can I put my name on a waitlist for presentations?**

We do not keep waiting lists for presentations. We email a reminder notice to registered participants a week before the presentation. You can email the Outreach and Education team at [OVSTraining@azag.gov](mailto:OVSTraining@azag.gov) in the afternoon a week before the presentation if you would like to inquire if there have been any cancellations so that you may attend.

### **I lost my certificate. Do you have a copy of it?**

We advise any participant that has taken the Basic or Advanced presentation to save a copy of their certificate once they take the post-test on their own to ensure they have a copy for future reference. To request a copy of your certificate, please email [OVSTraining@azag.gov](mailto:OVSTraining@azag.gov) with the date and location of the presentation. Note: The Outreach and Education Program will verify your attendance to specific training, therefore, be sure to sign in at all attended presentations.

### **I can never find a scheduled presentation in my part of the State. When will you schedule a presentation in my city/county?**

The Outreach and Education team understands the barriers some face to attend scheduled presentations that may not be within your city/county. However, presentations are scheduled in all 15 counties at various times throughout the year. Please note, if the minimum requirement of 15 registrants is not met, the presentation will be cancelled. To successfully meet the required 15 registrants, we ask local providers to encourage attendance through advertising with partners to ensure this criterion is met.

The Education and Outreach Program works hard to meet the need of presentations throughout Arizona and has been providing the Basic and Advanced Victims' Rights Presentations at least once a month in Maricopa County to ensure those who need presentations have the opportunity to receive them.

### **Below you will find the current presentations that are offered by the Outreach and Education Team:**

- **Basic Victims' Rights (5 hours)**
- **Advanced Victims' Rights - Beyond the Courtroom Doors: Criminal Appeals and Victims' Rights (3 hours)**
- **Law Enforcement Victims' Rights Training (1.5 hours)**
- **Probation Victims' Rights (1 hour)**
- **Keepin' it Legit: Why Victims' Rights Compliance Matters (1.5 hours)**
- **Capital Crime Cases and the Impact on Victims (1.5 hours)**
- **Victims Have Rights? (1.5 hours)**
- **Making Cents out of Restitution (1.5 hours)**
- **A Victim's Journey: Criminal Justice Simulation Activity (3 hours)**

To host a training, submit your request using the following link: <https://www.azag.gov/criminal/victim-services/training/request>