

VICTIMS' RIGHTS BRIEF

For Arizona's Justice System Administrators, Practitioners and Advocates



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The **Victims' Rights Brief** is published by the Arizona Attorney General, Office of Victim Services. The goal in generating the Brief is to promote justice and healing for crime victims by sharing information and fostering sensitivity within the justice system.

To learn more about victims' rights visit us at:

www.azag.gov/victim-services.

If you have an idea for an article, contact **Colette Chapman** at (602) 542-8848.

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world...

—ANNE FRANK (1929-1945)

Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne Recognizes Distinguished Service

April 6-12, 2014, was National Crime Victims' Rights Week sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime. This year's theme—30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice — honors the extraordinary progress that has been made on behalf of millions of victims since the passage of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) by Congress in 1984.

In celebration of the National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne presented the 2014 Distinguished Service Awards in recognition of individuals that display exemplary service to crime victims throughout Arizona.

The 2014 recipients of this prestigious award were: Ms. Flora Jessop, Advocacy/Direct Services; Ms. Betty Munyon, Service Coordination; Roger and Carol Fornoff, Innovative Practices; Mr. Larry Grubbs, Public Policy; and Ms. Connie Chapman, Leadership.



2014 Distinguished Service Award Recipients

ADVOCACY/DIRECT SERVICES:

FLORA JESSOP, ADVOCATE FOR VICTIMS OF THE FLDS COMMUNITY

After years of abuse, including being impregnated by her own father and forced to marry her first cousin, Flora Jessop has become an influential activist in helping women and children caught in the web of polygamy in the FLDS community in Colorado City and elsewhere. After successfully leaving the community, but knowing that this kind of abuse was continuing for the women in the community, Flora turned compassion into action. Flora was determined to make the State of Arizona aware of the miscarriages of justice in Colorado City: a place where the police officers were not only members of the FLDS church, but many also had felony convictions. Most recently, Flora succeeded in rescuing her sister Ruby and Ruby's six children from the Colorado City FLDS community after working tirelessly toward their rescue for 12 years. Her efforts to bringing change to the polygamous FLDS community in Colorado City resulted in Attorney General Horne replacing the Colorado City police officers with a Mohave County Sheriff's Deputy, who was not only impartial and unbiased but, most importantly, able to follow the law. Flora has demonstrated her passion for advocacy by bringing awareness to the public about the polygamous community and the unlawful abuse against women and children occurring there.



Photo Credit: Mark Butler, AZ Gov. Office

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2014 Distinguished Service Award Recipients (Continued)

SERVICE COORDINATION

BETTY MUNYON, VICTIM ADVOCATE, MOHAVE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Betty Munyon is a Victims' Rights Advocate and Crisis Responder at the Mohave County Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Program. Betty has dedicated more than 13 years of her life assisting victims of crime through the criminal justice system as well as supporting them through outreach programs within different communities of Mohave County. Betty's values and beliefs offer guidance to victims and their families and extend beyond her employment and service in the Victim/Witness Program. Betty's length and level of involvement is also shown by the undertaking and improvements she has made to both the Mohave County Crisis Response Team and the Court Advocacy Program. Betty's commitment to maintaining a multidisciplinary approach to serving victims in a crisis has been demonstrated by establishing a crisis response team trained to respond and focus on the emotional and practical needs of victims, while law enforcement and fire personnel attend to law enforcement, medical emergency, and fire suppression needs. Her determination and actions provide exemplary and beneficial support to her team and the victims they serve. Even at the age of 78, Betty brings boundless energy to not just her job, but to her passion to assist victims above and beyond the normal call of duty.



INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

ROGER AND CAROL FORNOFF, MEMBERS, PARENTS OF MURDERED CHILDREN, INC.

Roger and Carol have long been legal pioneers for crime victims, both nationally and in Arizona, after the murder of their daughter, Christy Ann, in May of 1984. Christy Ann was collecting newspaper route money when she was abducted and murdered by an apartment complex janitor, Donald Beaty. Turning this unimaginable tragedy into action, Roger and Carol testified before Congress regarding the unnecessary delays in criminal appeals, and were instrumental in helping to pass the Arizona Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the Arizona Constitution, which ensured that crime victims in Arizona were recognized at every stage of criminal proceedings and given a voice. Yet Roger and Carol also recognized the emotional turmoil felt by crime victims after the conviction and sentence were complete, and sought to help where the justice system went silent. The Fornoff's turned their cabin in Pine, Arizona, into a retreat center. The Courage to Grieve is a retreat for survivors who have lost a child or loved one to murder. Roger and Carol welcome survivors with open arms and home-cooked meals, and work together with survivors to help them find some semblance of peace and safety, as they carry out the difficult work of grief and to rebuild their lives. With the support of Parents of Murdered Children, the Fornoff's have held more than 20 retreats at their cabin in the past 14 years. Their innovative practice in helping victims with grief through these retreats, something the justice system is unable to do, is a shining example of their kindness and their support for others experiencing such trauma.



PUBLIC POLICY

LARRY GRUBBS, PROGRAM MANAGER - CRIME VICTIM SERVICES, ARIZONA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Larry Grubbs has been at the forefront of public policy reform for victims' compensation in Arizona and has been recognized nationally for his expertise on improving compensation services to crime victims. Larry currently serves as Program Manager of Crime Victim Services at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC), and has devoted himself to improving public policy through his work, while working side by side with the state's Victim Services coordinators. Identifying gaps in services and additional areas of need for crime victims, Larry facilitated important statewide dialogue and discussion to improve the Victim Compensation rule revision making process, which arises every few years. After finalizing the program rules, a seven month process, he worked with the ACJC legislative liaison to secure funding for the program to meet anticipated increase in costs associated with the expanded benefits approved in the rule change. The revisions and updates to the Crime Victim Compensation and Crime Victim Assistance program rules were a significant policy reform that had a direct and positive impact on victims of crime and service agencies in Arizona. In addition, Larry developed a computer based training program aimed to further professionalize Crime Compensation Board Members and encourage uniformity throughout the state in dealing with crime victims. Through his guidance and dedication, the reform and training program have resulted in improving many deserving victims' eligibility for Victim Compensation, which assists victims with out-of-pocket crime related expenses on their road to recovery.



LEADERSHIP

CONNIE CHAPMAN, DIRECTOR, ARIZONA VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE ACADEMY

With more than 20 years of experience, Connie Chapman has a long, reputable career in serving victims of crime in the nonprofit sector and government. Connie's commitment to victim services began in the City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office where she established their victims' rights program and secured millions of dollars in grant funding to build the city's program, which remains in place today. As a member and active participant of the Arizona Coalition for Victim Services (ACVS) Connie was invaluable in spearheading and effectively implementing standardized statewide training for victim advocates: the Arizona Victims' Assistance Academy (AVAA), a project of ACVS. Connie's leadership and commitment to standardized professional training and professional victim advocacy took ACVS to another level of excellence. Despite the financial challenges of keeping AVAA going, Connie remained committed to providing quality training and even developed an advanced AVAA to meet the ongoing needs of veteran advocates. Since 2004, more than 500 individuals have graduated the Academy. After Connie's retirement from the City of Phoenix, she took over as Director of the AVAA, and has been able to maintain its level of excellence. This is a sterling example of leadership and commitment that is a benefit to victim services, victim advocates and most importantly, crime victims.

