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June 4, 2009

Commission on Crime and Delinquency  
Office of Victims' Services  
P.O. Box 1167  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1187

Dear Ms. Shiner,

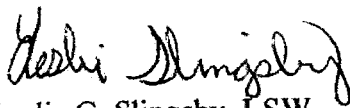
Our agency, the Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) is a comprehensive victim service agency serving Bucks County in Southeastern Pennsylvania. In fiscal year 2008, NOVA provided more than 22,000 direct service hours to approximately 3,250 victims and their family members. The proposed regulations to the Victims Compensation Assistance Program, which were published in the PA Bulletin, Vol. 39, No. 21, May 23, 2009, would be extremely beneficial to Bucks County crime victims, as well as crime victims across Pennsylvania. These proposed changes truly account for more realistic out-of-pocket crime related expenses, which victims often incur.

Specifically, the proposed change regarding the increase in the number of days a victim has to relocate will be important for many victims in order to allow them to plan and implement a safe relocation. Even though there is an immediate need for relocation due to a serious crime, many victims are not able to permanently relocate within 30 days.

In addition, the proposed increase to the allowable amount in compensation for emergency awards, as well as funeral expenses is very important. Many victims are living on an extremely fixed income, which often doesn't account for tragic, unexpected crime related expense. Often, victims have to pay an extraordinary amount of money out-of-pocket for these expenses, the proposed regulation changes will allow for a quicker reimbursement of up to \$5,000 for those individuals in extreme need.

Overall, these proposed changes will have a positive impact on the lives of individual crime victims while saving an estimated \$143,739 in government funding. It appears that these changes will create a more responsive approach to crime victims in Pennsylvania.

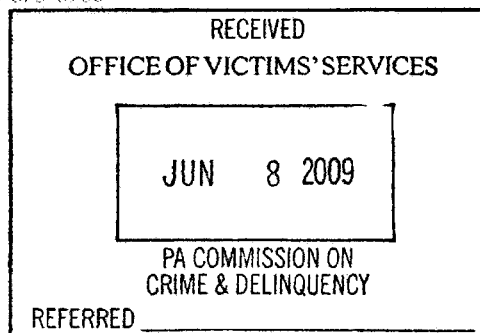
Sincerely,

  
Leslie G. Slingsby, LSW  
Director of Victim Services



*Advocacy, Prevention & Support for Victims of Crime in Bucks County*

Network of Victim Assistance is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The official registration and financial information for Network of Victim Assistance may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999 within Pennsylvania. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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cc: Walter M. Phillips, Jr., Esq.  
Chair, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

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Ms. B. J. Horn  
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