



Governor's Office of

CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION

State Board of Victim Services Maryland Victim Services Program

Report for:

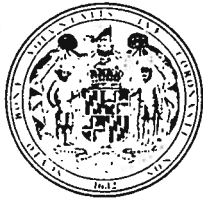
October 1, 1994 through June 30, 1996

The Honorable Parris N. Glendening
Governor, State of Maryland

The Honorable Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
Lt. Governor, State of Maryland

State Board of Victim Services
Roberta Roper
Chair





Governor's Office of
**CRIME CONTROL
& PREVENTION**

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Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
Lt. Governor

Terry Walsh Roberts
Executive Director

August 1, 1996

The Honorable Parris N. Glendening
Governor, State of Maryland
State House
Annapolis MD 21401

The Honorable Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
Lt. Governor, State of Maryland
State House
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Governor Glendening and Lt. Governor Townsend:

As required by State Government Article, Section 9-1701 through 9-1708 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the State Board of Victim Services, which is coordinated by the Office of Crime Control & Prevention, respectfully submits the 1995/1996 Annual Report of Victim Services in the State of Maryland. Pursuant to the legislative mandate, the Report includes recommendations for the improvement of crime victim services in Maryland, as well as information on the administration of the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund.

The Annual Report documents the activities of the State Board of Victim Services from October 1, 1994 through June 30, 1996. This is the third Annual Report submitted, as mandated, to the Governor, the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services. The first two reports covered a twelve (12) month calendar year. With this report, we are switching to an Annual Report which reflects the State's fiscal year. The next Annual Report for the State Board of Victim Services will be submitted to you on July 30, 1997, and it will document the Board's activities from July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997.

We are proud of the work of the State Board and the staff of the Office of Crime Control & Prevention. We welcome the opportunity to continue to support you in your persistent and focused efforts to address the needs and issues facing crime victims in our State.

Sincerely,

Terry Walsh Roberts
Executive Director

Roberta Roper
Chair, State Board of Victim Services

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MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VICTIMS SERVICES

I. History, Purpose, and Mission

In 1988 the Maryland General Assembly recognized the unique and distinctive needs of crime victims, and that State and local law, as well as programs and procedures must be continually updated to meet them. To address this issue it created the State Board of Victim Services, the position of Victim Services Coordinator, and the Maryland Victim Services Program for the purpose of monitoring, assessing, coordinating, and making recommendations concerning State and local efforts to assist victims of crime.

The purpose of the State Board of Victim Services is to develop a comprehensive and coordinated system of victim assistance. Its mission is to ensure that all crime victims in the State of Maryland receive justice and are treated with dignity and compassion through comprehensive victim services. One of its primary mechanisms for meeting this mission is to oversee and distribute the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund. Membership on the Board consists of representatives from the various components within the criminal justice system, professional victim service providers, and Maryland citizens.

The position of Victim Services Coordinator was created in the legislation that created the Board to serve as staff to the Board, to make recommendations concerning State and local victim compensation programs, and to provide technical assistance to local victim assistance programs. In addition, the role of the Coordinator is to ensure that the rights of victims are observed by monitoring compliance with all State laws and providing assistance to crime victims.

The Board was originally created under the authority of the Office of the Attorney General who served as Chair of the Board. During the 1992 session of the Maryland General Assembly, legislation was enacted which transferred the Victim Services Program from the Office of the Attorney General to the Governor's Office of Justice Administration. Roberta Roper was appointed at that time as Chairperson of the Board. On September 11, 1995 the Governor's Office of Justice Administration was merged with the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Commission and the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention was created. The State Board of Victim Services is now under the authority of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

II. Overview of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention was created in 1995 by the merger of the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission and the Governor's Office of Justice Administration, under Executive Order 01.01.1995.18.

The Office of Crime Control & Prevention administers several State and federal grant programs, including: the federal Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program; the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act; the Governor's portion of the federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act; the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program Grant Funds (commonly known as the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Grants); the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund; the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA); and the federal Police Corps Act and Law Enforcement Scholarships and Recruitment Act.

The Office is the primary staff to the Cabinet Council on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, chaired by Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend. It assists in the development of legislation, policies, plans, programs and budgets concerning juvenile delinquency and substance abuse, the improvement of the administration of justice, and other public safety issues.

It prepares an annual State Crime Control and Prevention Plan that establishes goals, priorities and standards for targeting State resources toward effective programs. It also provides technical assistance and support to local jurisdictions as may be needed and requested; and serves as a clearinghouse for information, research, analysis, and other materials necessary for formulating crime control and prevention policy and heightening public awareness of public safety issues.

The Lt. Governor appoints the Executive Director, who also serves on the State Board of Victim Services. Terry Walsh Roberts is the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention.

III. State Board of Victim Services Meetings and Membership October 1, 1994 Through June 30, 1996

The State Board of Victim Services met seventeen (17) times during the period from October 1, 1994, to June 30, 1996. The Board met on the following dates: October 5, 1994; November 2, 1994; December 7, 1994; January 4, 1995; February 1, 1995; March 1, 1995; April 5, 1995; May 3, 1995; June 7, 1995; September 6, 1995; November 8, 1995; December 6, 1995; February 7, 1996; April 10, 1996; May 1, 1996; and June 12, 1996. The Board's Annual Retreat was held on October 11, 1995 at the Wye River Institute.

Pursuant to the State Government Article, sec. 9-1703, membership of the State Board of Victim Services as of June 30, 1996 is composed of the following:

Roberta Roper	Chair
Barbara Bond	Office of the Attorney General
Col. William Harrison	MD Association of Chiefs of Police
The Honorable Ray Kight	State Sheriffs' Association
The Honorable Marna McLendon	State's Attorney
Annie Powell	Service Provider
Connie Pullen	Public Member
Lynn Putman	Public Member
Terry Walsh Roberts	Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Esther Scaljon	Department of Public Safety
Susan Seling	Department of Human Resources
Toni Torsch	Department of Juvenile Justice
Deborah A. Unitus	Judiciary
The Honorable Frank R. Weathersbee	State's Attorney
Virginia Wolf	Public Member
Benjamin R. Wolman, Esq., Chair	Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Roni Young, Esq.	Service Provider

Support to the Board is provided by the Office of Crime Control & Prevention, particularly by Mary Pat Brygger, Victim Services Coordinator; Sally Huffines, Fiscal & Grants Administrator; and Donna Fleck, Executive Secretary.

Board Vacancies

During the 1996 session of the Maryland legislature, the General Assembly added five (5) new positions to the State Board; three public positions and two service provider positions. A Nominations Committee of the Board was formed and made recommendations regarding new appointments which have been forwarded to the Governor's Appointments Office.

Victim Services Coordinator Change

In October, 1994, Angela Gover resigned as Victim Services Program Coordinator. The position remained open until April, 1995 when Mary Pat Brygger was appointed as the new Coordinator.

IV. The Maryland Victims of Crime Fund

A. The Purpose of the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund Grant Program

The Maryland Victims of Crime Fund (MVOC Fund or the Fund) was created by the Maryland General Assembly during the 1991 Legislative Session. The legislation created a source of revenue for programs across the state serving victims of crime. The primary purpose of the Fund is to ensure implementation of the Declaration of Crime Victims Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution and the Guidelines for Treatment of and Assistance to Crime Victims and Witnesses and other laws adopted to benefit victims and witnesses of crime (Article 47, Sec. 848).

The Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 26A, Section 17(a) gives the Judiciary in both the District and Circuit Courts authority to impose fines on convicted offenders. The 1995 Maryland General Assembly passed a bill increasing the fine Courts could impose from \$20 in Circuit Court to \$30 and from \$10 in District Court to \$20. These additional fees took effect on October 1, 1995. A table detailing all MVOC collections is at the end of this Report.

The Maryland Victims of Crime Fund awards grants to organizations that provide advocacy and support services to victims of crime for the purpose of developing and enhancing existing programs that serve victims of crime in Maryland. (This is to be differentiated from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) which provides moneys directly to victims of personal injury crimes, or surviving family members in the case of a homicide, once a claim has been filed and approved.) The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention is responsible for the administration of grants from the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund.

B. The Maryland Victims of Crime Fund Grant Process

Fiscal Year 1996

In April of 1995, the Governor's Office of Justice Administration published a "Notice of Availability of Funds" in the Maryland Register and sent notices to programs listed in the Victims Services Directory announcing the availability of "\$175,000 in new grant funds to develop and enhance victim assistance programs in Maryland."

A Grant Review Committee was created by the Board composed of Board members and volunteer victim service professionals appointed by the Board. The Committee reviewed 45 proposals and selected eight (8) programs to recommend to the Board for funding. In addition, fifteen (15) programs were recommended to receive continued second or third year funding. After review by the Executive Director, the Board approved the Grant Review Committee's recommendations.

C. Grants Awarded from the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund

Prior to FY 1996, the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund awarded grants totaling

\$485,229 in three cycles: Grant Cycle #1, March 15, 1993 through September 30, 1994; Grant Cycle #2, July 1, 1994 through June 30, 1995; and Grant Cycle #3, October 1, 1994 through June 30, 1995.

The geographic areas served by these grants included Baltimore City and the counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Talbot, and Wicomico. For a review of previous awards, see the 1994 Annual Report of the State Board of Victim Services.

MVOC Grants Awarded in Fiscal Year 1996:

In FY 1996, the **Maryland Victims of Crime Fund** awarded grants totaling \$373,515; \$186,520 in second or third year continuations of prior grants and \$186,995 in new awards.

FY 1996 New Grant Awards are as follows:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>
Family Crisis Resource Center (Allegany)	Victim Outreach Video Project	\$ 14,878
Allegany County State's Attorney's Office	Victim/Witness Coordinator	\$ 27,000
Calvert County Health Department	Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner	\$ 29,358
Mid-Shore Council on Domestic Violence (Caroline, and Queen Anne's)	Legal Assistance for Domestic Victims of Violence	\$ 27,300
Carroll County State's Attorney's Office	Victim/ Witness Coordinator	\$ 10,800
Harford County State's Attorney's Office	Family Violence Prosecution Unit	\$ 24,320
Howard County State's Attorney's Office	Victim/Witness Program Expansion	\$ 18,285
Worcester County State's Attorney's Office	Victim/Witness Coordinator	\$ 24,254
Stephanie Roper Foundation	Compliance with Article 47	\$ 3,000
Mahoney Consulting Services	MVOC Consultant	\$ 3,300
Maryland Crime Prevention Association	Victim/Witness Conference	\$ 4,500
	<i>Subtotal for New Awards:</i>	<u>\$186,995</u>

FY 1996 Second Year Continuation Grant Awards are as follows:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>
ACTS Ministry, Inc. (Baltimore)	Domestic Abuse Transitional Housing	\$ 5,478
Center for Children, Inc. (Charles & St. Mary's)	Children's Court Liaison Project	\$ 22,365
Department of Juvenile Justice (Baltimore City)	Victim Assistance Expansion	\$ 19,846
Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Center (Garrett)	Victim Advocate	\$ 6,305
Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office (Baltimore)	Domestic Violence Unit	\$ 14,056
Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence, Inc. (Dorchester, Kent, & Talbot)	Legal Assistance for Domestic Violence Victims	\$ 8,442
Office of the State's Attorney for Kent County	Victim/Witness Coordinator	\$ 21,537
Wicomico County State's Attorney's Office	Victim/Witness Coordinator	\$ 17,250
	<i>Subtotal for 2nd Year:</i>	<u>\$115,279</u>

FY 1996 Third Year Continuation Grant Awards are as follows:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>
Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Baltimore City	Child Sexual Abuse Case Coordinator	\$ 10,000
Center for Abused Persons, Inc. (Charles and St. Mary's Counties)	Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner	\$ 16,551
Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Center (Garrett)	Community Outreach Program	\$ 3,907
For All Seasons, Inc. (Kent, Queen Anne's, Dorchester, Talbot)	Enhanced Victim/Witness Program for the Mid-Shore	\$ 15,000
Hospice of the Chesapeake (Anne Arundel)	Homicide Survivors' Support	\$ 8,518
Prince George's County Police Department	Victim/Witness Assistance Project	\$ 17,265
	<i>Subtotal for 3rd Year:</i>	<u>\$ 71,241</u>
	<i>FY 1996 Total:</i>	<u>\$373,515</u>

MVOC Grants awarded in Fiscal Year 1997:

In April of 1996, following the creation of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, a "Notice of Availability of Funds" was published in the Maryland Register under the new Office. Notices were sent to over 300 programs listed in the Victims Services Directory announcing the availability of "\$350,000 in new grant funds to develop and enhance victim assistance programs in Maryland," with priority consideration for victim service programs in State's Attorney's Offices and major law enforcement agencies.

A new Grant Review Committee was created by the Board, composed of Board members and volunteer victim service professionals appointed by the Board. The Committee reviewed thirty-two (32) proposals and selected fourteen (14) applications to recommend to the Executive Director of the Office of Crime Control & Prevention for new funding. In addition, fifteen (15) programs currently receiving MVOC funding were recommended to receive continued second or third year funding. The Executive Director approved the recommendations of the Grant Review Committee and the Board voted to accept those recommendations. Funding of these programs begins July 1, 1996.

So far in FY 1997, the **Maryland Victims of Crime Fund** awarded grants totaling \$560,697; \$199,631 in second or third year continuations of prior grants and \$361,066 in new awards. A Notice of Fund Availability for additional MVOC grant awards in FY 1997 will be published in September or October of 1996.

FY 1997 New Grant Awards are as follows:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>
Hospice of the Chesapeake (Anne Arundel)	Homicide Survivors' Support	\$ 20,195
Garrett County State's Attorney's Office	Victim/Witness Assistance Unit	\$ 30,000
Heartly House (Frederick)	Prosecution Victim Advocacy	\$ 28,441
Prince George's County Police Department	Victim Outreach Program	\$ 25,000
Salisbury Police Department (Wicomico)	Victim/Witness Assistance Service	\$ 14,932
Northwest Citizens Patrol (Baltimore City)	Project Recourse	\$ 14,250
Baltimore Child Abuse Center (Baltimore City)	Victim Outreach Specialist	\$ 32,190
Baltimore County Police Department	Victim Services Project	\$ 29,900
Calvert County Health Department	Victim Advocacy Court Liaison	\$ 23,900
For All Seasons, Inc. (Kent, Queen Anne's, Dorchester, Talbot)	Victims of Violence Program	\$ 38,932
Harford County Sheriff's Office	Victim Services Manager	\$ 26,000

Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence (Kent, Queen Anne's, Dorchester, Talbot)	Legal Assistance Program	\$ 21,596
Montgomery County Police Department	Victim/Witness Assistance Coordinator	\$ 40,730
St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office	Domestic Violence Intervention Unit	\$ 15,000
Subtotal		<u>\$ 361,066</u>

FY 1997 Second Year Continuation Grants are as follows:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>
Family Crisis Resource Center (Allegany)	Victim Outreach Project	\$ 11,159
Allegany County State's Attorney's Office	Victim/Witness Coordinator	\$ 20,250
Calvert County Health Department	Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner	\$ 22,019
Mid-Shore Council on Domestic Violence (Caroline and Queen Anne's)	Legal Assistance for Domestic Victims of Violence	\$ 20,475
Carroll County State's Attorney's Office	Victim/Witness Coordinator	\$ 8,100
Harford County State's Attorney's Office	Family Violence Prosecution Unit	\$ 18,240
Howard County State's Attorney's Office	Victim/Witness Program Expansion	\$ 13,714
Worcester County State's Attorney's Office	Victim/Witness Coordinator	\$ 18,191
Subtotal		<u>\$132,148</u>

FY 1997 Third Year Continuation Grants are as follows:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>
ACTS Ministry, Inc. (Baltimore)	Domestic Abuse Transitional Housing	\$ 3,652
Center for Children, Inc. (Charles & St. Mary's)	Children's Court Liaison Project	\$ 14,910
Department of Juvenile Justice (Baltimore City)	Victim Assistance Expansion	\$ 13,231
Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Center (Garrett)	Victim Advocate	\$ 4,204
Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence, Inc. (Dorchester, Kent, & Talbot)	Legal Assistance for Domestic Violence Victims	\$ 5,628
Office of the State's Attorney for Kent County	Victim/Witness Coordinator	\$ 14,358
Wicomico County State's Attorney's Office	Victim/Witness Coordinator	\$ 11,500
Subtotal:		<u>\$ 67,483</u>
FY 1997 Total:		<u>\$ 560,697</u>

V. Other Activities of the State Board of Victim Services

A. Sixth and Seventh Annual Statewide Victims of Crime Memorial Service

The Sixth Annual Crime Victims Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 23, 1995, at the Frederick County Community College, sponsored by the Maryland State Board of Victim Services and the Frederick County State's Attorney. The Memorial Service initiated the 1995 National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Maryland, April 23 -29, 1995.

The Service began with music and a color guard. The Governor's proclamation was read by his representative, Steve Bocian, and presented to the sponsors. Following music and readings, the names of more than 1100 victims were read aloud to the 600 survivors and supporters in attendance.

Changes in the 1996 Victims of Crime Memorial Service:

Due to the large number of those in attendance and the need to make the service more accessible to survivors, family and friends, the Victims Memorial Service Planning Committee has made recommendations to the State Board at its May 3, 1996 meeting. The recommendations include:

(1) To hold three identical memorial services simultaneously in three different regions of the state: Eastern Region, the Western Region, and the Central Region, with a capacity of 500 people at each location. A banner will be set up at each location.

(A Core Committee should be formed to plan the overall theme and structure for the services and prepare the materials that will be used at all three sites. A central bank account should be opened for the State Victim Memorial Service, and each of the three sites be reimbursed for expenses from this central fund.)

(2) The Victim Memorial Registration form should be revised and sent out earlier next year.

(3) The Victims Service Coordinator should coordinate Victim Week events. Information on events occurring across the state should be collected and a press release issued.

The Board voted to accept the recommendations and a Core Committee was formed. The Core Committee members included: Col. William Harrison (Chair), Barbara Bond, Annie Powell, Shelby Lowry, Lee Pearson, Steve Hess, and Betty Asplund, along with representatives from each region.

The Seventh Annual Victims of Crime Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 21, 1996. As recommended in 1995, the Memorial was observed at three state sites with parallel services in each of the three regions. The service for the Eastern region was

held at the Avalon Theater in Easton and co-sponsored by the Talbot County State's Attorney, Chris Jensen and Scott Patterson, the State's Attorney of Caroline County. An estimated 200 homicide survivors, supporters and victim service providers attended. The Central region held its service at the Suitland High School. The Prince George's County State's Attorney, Jack Johnson, co-sponsored the event. Over 600 were in attendance. In the Western region, the service was held at the Hagerstown Seventh Day Adventist Church in Hagerstown and was co-sponsored by the Washington County State's Attorney, Ken Long. More than 150 attended that service. The new structure for the annual Victims Memorial Service was deemed a success in the analysis that followed. The Memorial Service opened the 1996 National Victims Rights Week commemorations held in Maryland. A calendar of the week's events held across the state was produced and distributed by the Victim Services Program Coordinator, and the Governor's office distributed a press release announcing the week's events.

B. 1995 Statewide Victim Services Conference

The 1995 State Victim Services Conference was co-sponsored by the US Attorney's Office and the State Board of Victim Services. The Conference was held in Frederick on November 7, 1995. There were approximately 150 attendees from victim services programs, law enforcement agencies, and State's Attorneys' Offices.

The focus of the Conference was on expanding the skills of victim advocates in program management and in specialized victim service areas. Several Board members and the Victim Services Coordinator were presenters, along with victim advocates from across the state. The keynote address was given by Anne Seymour, a nationally known victim advocate.

Contributions to the Conference were as follows: United States Attorney's Office, \$2,000; State's Attorneys' Offices, \$1,000; State Board of Victim Services, \$4,500. The Maryland Crime Prevention Association performed the duties of treasurer.

C. State Standards for Victim Services

The State Board of Victim Services determined a need for standardizing a level of service to victims of crime throughout the state. New programs are being developed across the state with little formal information other than the guidelines established in law. The guidelines have few specifics to assist those wishing to develop or expand programs.

A Standards Committee of the Board was formed to develop statewide standards for victim/witness services in public agencies including; law enforcement, State's Attorneys' Offices, Juvenile Justice agencies, Corrections, and Parole & Probation. Models of standards from other states were reviewed for content and format, and the best parts of several state models were selected for inclusion in the Maryland Standards. A draft of the standards for services to victims at the prosecution stage was developed and used as a basis for developing standards for the other public agencies.

The draft of standards for all five public agency victim service programs was completed as of June 30, 1996. They are very comprehensive, including a summary list of all the standards for each agency followed by a full page explanation of each standard and suggestions for implementing them. The Standards are currently under review by the Board for final revisions. They will be completed, printed and distributed to victim service agencies across the State by October 1996.

D. 1996 Victim Advocates Awards Luncheon

The State Board of Victim Services co-sponsored the 1996 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards this year at the request of the Maryland Victim Assistance Network (Maryland VAN). Maryland VAN was disbanded in 1995, with the exception of their Luncheon Awards Committee, which presented a request that the State Board co-sponsor the 1996 Awards Luncheon and assume responsibility for the awards in the following years. The joint committee distributed a package of materials for soliciting nominees including: Letter from the Awards Committee to Victim Rights Supporters, 1996 Award Criteria, and a nomination form. Approximately 340 agencies and programs received this package.

"Victim Justice: A New Day Dawns" was the theme for the 1996 observance of the National Crime Victims' Rights Week and this luncheon. It was held at Snyder's Willow Grove Restaurant in Baltimore on April 25, 1996. Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend was the keynote speaker. Thirty-five (35) Victim Assistance Awards were given to victim advocates and victim service volunteers who demonstrated outstanding care and advocacy for victims and their rights. This year, the Henry Gliem Memorial Award, honoring Henry Gliem, was presented to two people, Jean Webb, the Victim/Witness Coordinator for the Talbot County State's Attorney's Office and Rita Furst, Co-Founder of the Maryland Coalition of Crime.

VI. Legislation

Victims' Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution

The Victims' Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution passed on November 8, 1994 in a general election ballot. It was approved by Maryland voters by an overwhelming 92.5% majority.

The Amendment states:

(A) A victim of crime shall be treated by agents of the state with dignity, respect, and sensitivity during all phases of the criminal justice process.

(B) In a case originating by indictment or information filed in a circuit court, a victim of crime shall have the right to be informed of the rights established in this article and upon request and if practicable to be notified of, to attend, and to be heard at a criminal proceeding, as these rights are implemented and the terms "crime", "criminal justice proceeding" and "victim" are specified by law.

(C) Nothing in this article permits any civil cause of action for monetary damages for violation of any of its provisions or authorizes a victim of crime to take any action to stay a criminal justice proceeding.

It is the task of the State Board of Victim Services to ensure that legislation and agency policy is introduced to implement the constitutional amendment.

Victims' Rights Legislation Passed in the 1995 Session

Court Costs - Victims of Crime - (HB624/SB709)

This bill increased court costs, both in District Court and Circuit Court, including a \$3 fine for non-jailable traffic offenses, to provide additional revenues to meet the needs of victims of crime. The additional revenue is to be divided between the Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICB) and the Maryland Victim of Crime Fund (MVOC) with \$1.9 million to go to the CICB and \$250,000 to go to the MVOC.

Crime Victims Rights Task Force

In June of 1995, the Governor and the Maryland Legislature established the Crime Victims' Rights Task Force under the Co-Chairmanship of Delegate Vallario and Senator Stone. The purpose of the Task Force is to examine current Maryland law related to victims (as consolidated under Article 27 in the Annotated Code of Maryland) and make substantive changes to bring the State into compliance with the constitutional amendment. The Task Force has concentrated on the issue of ensuring victim notification throughout the criminal justice process during the 1996 legislative session. Mary Pat Brygger, Roberta Roper, and Frank Weathersbee represent the State Board of Victim Services on the Task Force.

1996 Legislative Session - Victims Bills

The Victim Notification bill of the Victims' Rights Task Force passed the General Assembly during the 1996 legislative session. Passage of this bill brings Maryland to the forefront of the nation in its implementation of constitutional amendments on victims rights and victim notification procedures. A summary of this bill and the summary and content of other important legislation supporting victims' rights and services follows.

- ***Victim Notification*** HB975 / SB699: Victims' Rights Task Force bill laying out mandates and process for victim notification procedures. ***Amendment:*** Increases Victim Services Board by 5 members.
- ***Nonsubstantive Reorganization of the Code*** HB576 / SB456: Article 27 Committee's bill recodifying and rephrasing all victim related sections of Article 27, cross referencing to aid courts.
- ***Assault Law Revision*** (HB749 / SB618): Article 27 Committee's bill to create first and second degree assault, make some serious assaults a felony, altering some penalties and making other changes to improve charging and court handling, and making other technical changes.
- ***Criminal Injuries Compensation*** (HB530 / SB646): CICB bill to make procedural improvements in handling claims, make permanent the 1995 court cost increase of \$3 for non-jailable traffic offenses. ***Amendment:*** Removed compensation cap reduction, added good cause waiver for reporting crime to police.
- ***Victim Protection and Relocation*** (HB1209/ SB741): Reauthorizes Victim Protection and Relocation Fund at \$511,000. It will be a roll-over fund administered as part of the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund to be distributed to the States Attorney's Association. Left over monies stay in the fund.
- ***Oral Address at Parole*** (HB847 / SB254): Establishes a Victim's right to be present at parole hearings and to address the Parole Board about their case.
- ***Sentencing Reform*** (HB299 / SB222): Establishes a sentencing Reform Commission with a victim representative on the Commission, and a "truth in sentencing" provision.
- ***Police Aid*** (HB898 / SB578): Establishes a greatly increased court fee of \$25 for the Police Aid Fund. Out of these funds, \$500,000 will go to CICB and \$125,000 will go to the Victim/Witness Protection and Relocation Fund.

VII. Recommendations for the Improvement of the Treatment and Services Available to Maryland Victims of Crime

A. Follow Up on the 1994 State Board Recommendations:

At its 1994 annual retreat, the State Board of Victim Services developed a set of recommendations for improving the treatment and services to victims of crime in Maryland.

It is important to note that the position of Victim Services Coordinator was not filled from October, 1994 until April, 1995 when Mary Pat Brygger was appointed as the new Coordinator. At that same time, the Governor's Office of Justice Administration was assigned the administration of the new federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) program. On an interim basis, Ms. Brygger coordinated Maryland's VAWA grant funds as well. In addition, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention was created in July 1995 and the merger of the former Governor's Office of Justice Administration into the new Office was completed in September 1995. Consequently, many of the activities that the Board had planned were redefined during the period covered by this Report.

The recommendations, plan of action, and actions taken to implement were as follows:

- 1. Implement procedures to assure that the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund is receiving maximum level of funding.**

Action Plan: Inform the Judiciary about the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund grants awarded in each jurisdictions. Develop a briefing packet for distribution to all judges in counties currently receiving grants. Also, inform the Judiciary that assessments for the Fund should be tracked by court jurisdiction.

Responsible Entities: The Governor's Office, the State's Attorneys' Association's Board representatives, the Judicial Board representative, and a professional victim service provider Board representative.

Action Taken: After further indications that MVOC Fund collections were not all being appropriately assigned to the Fund, the Office and the Board decided to resolve that issue first. A consultant was hired to track the flow of monies from the point of collection in the local court through assignment to the Fund, and to identify any problems with appropriate assignment of offender fines and court costs to the Fund. A report identified solutions and was completed in March, 1996.

The report found the primary problem point to be the information system within the Division of Parole and Probation which assigns court costs and fines collected from those offenders incarcerated or placed on probation who do not pay the court at the time of sentencing. Their

information system did not have the capability to break each offender fee into the multiple funds for which it was designated. Parole and Probation will soon be updating its information system and will build the fee assignment contingencies into the new system. The interim solution was a percentage assignment of the court costs to the MVOC Fund.

2. Develop a technical assistance program to help counties determine their victim services needs.

Action Plan: Research will be conducted on services available from State's Attorneys' Offices which will provide the basis of each jurisdiction's needs assessment. With this information as well as contact with members of the community, a course of action will be created to address the unique situations of the respective community. The goal is to assist those counties with a comprehensive plan to meet gaps in service.

Responsible Entities: On-going committee membership of members from the Board, representatives from the Governor's Office, and volunteer committee members.

Action Taken: A needs assessment looking at services available through State's Attorneys' Offices was completed by a research intern during FY 1995. It showed that, in addition to six counties remaining without victim assistance of any kind in State's Attorneys' Offices, there was a great need for increased services in all jurisdictions. The Board continued its priority funding for services in State's Attorneys' Offices and law enforcement agencies. Three new counties were provided with Victim/Witness Service Coordinators: Allegany, Queen Anne's and Wicomico Counties.

3. Develop an educational tool for members of the Judiciary, Legislature, and general public about crime victim issues and the State Board of Victim Services.

Action Plan: Create a video to promote those activities which assist crime victims throughout the State. A brochure has been created to educate crime victims on their rights, the availability of funds from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, and a synopsis of the criminal justice system. The brochure will be reproduced and distributed to all State's Attorneys' Offices and law enforcement agencies.

Responsible Entities: The Governor's Office of Justice Administration and representatives from the State Board of Victim Services.

Action Taken: It was decided that a promotional video was not needed for this purpose. Instead, a presentation outline and package of materials was designed for informing judges about the needs of victims and the role of the MVOC Fund in supporting services in each of their

communities. Plans for presentations at regional judicial meetings are being made for later this year. A brochure was written and designed to inform victims of their rights and of court procedures. However, the Board decided to hold publication until legislation passed to implement the new constitutional amendment in order to ensure up-to-date information on victims' rights and notification procedures could be included.

4. Maintain co-sponsorship of the annual Statewide Victims of Crime Memorial Service and the Governor's Victim Service Awards.

Action Plan: With the Maryland Victim Assistance Network and local State's Attorneys' Offices, establish annual committees comprised of members from the State Board and ad-hoc committee members to work on these events.

Responsible Entities: Members from the State Board of Victim Services, Maryland Victim Assistance Network, and ad-hoc committee members.

Action Taken: The Board will continue to co-sponsor both events.

5. Improve methods to keep the Board informed of recent issues and trends in victim services and promote public awareness.

Action Plan: Establish a clearinghouse to track national and state trends in the victims field and other funding sources.

Action Taken: The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention established an Internet link to access information on public and private funding available for victim services and to gather information updates and monitor trends in victim services.

6. Formalize policy and procedures relative to the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund.

Action Plan: Review policy and procedure regarding administration of the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund for submission as Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR).

Responsible Entities: Representatives of the Governor's Office of Justice Administration, the State Board of Victim Services, and the Office of the Attorney General.

Action Taken: Maryland Victim of Crime Fund procedures were developed by the State Board and the Governor's Office of Justice Administration. They were reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General. It was determined by the Attorney General's Office that it was not necessary to have the Fund's allocation procedures submitted as regulations with COMAR. The procedures were used during the FY 1995 and FY 1996 grant award cycles. They are currently under review and revision by the Office of Crime Control & Prevention. Copies of the MVOC Grant Procedures are

available to the general public through the Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

7. **The recommendations of the Task Force on Polygraphing Rape and Sexual Assault Victims should be reviewed and enacted by law enforcement agencies and State's Attorneys' Offices throughout Maryland.**

Action Plan: Dissemination of the Task Force Report to the Maryland Association of Chiefs' of Police, the Maryland Sheriff's Association, and the Maryland Police Training Commission for their voluntary adherence to those recommendations.

Responsible Entities: Representative from the Governor's Office of Justice Administration and members of the State Board of Victim Services and other advocates.

Action Taken: The Task Force Report was disseminated to these three organizations and to all of the police chiefs and sheriffs in Maryland.

8. **To avail the State Board of Victim Services to the Governor as a resource regarding technical assistance on issues of crime victims, services available and needed, and general informational needs.**

Action Plan: Semi-annual updates will be sent to the Governor informing him of the status of crime victims in the State. Additionally, the Board will be available to meet with the Governor his request.

Responsible Entities: Members of the State Board of Victim Services.

Action Taken: The Board submitted its 1994 Annual Report to the Governor. In addition, following the passage of the Victims' Rights Constitutional Amendment, the Board forwarded recommendations to the Governor, as well as to the Legislature, for steps to ensure its implementation. This resulted in the creation of the Victims' Rights Task Force of the General Assembly described earlier in this Report.

B. Current Recommendations of the State Board:

At the October 1995 annual retreat, the State Board of Victim Services developed a set of recommendations for the improvement of treatment and services for crime victims that would serve both as recommendations to the Governor and as a blueprint for its activities. These recommendations build upon the Board's work in prior years. They will be reviewed and revised at the Board's annual retreat scheduled for October 1996.

The recommendations are as follows:

- Facilitate Board development to enhance its operational capacity and ability.
- Develop program standards for public victim advocacy programs, training standards for advocates, and a State standards manual, including model policies, procedures and forms.
- Develop statewide training and technical assistance resource services and facilitate the exchange of resources among victim service programs.
- Assist the State's Attorneys' Association in the implementation of the Victim Relocation Fund.
- Make recommendations to the Governor and Lt. Governor on appropriate legislative issues for the 1997 Maryland Legislative Session to continue to ensure the implementation of the constitutional amendment on crime victims' rights.
- Review Maryland Victims of Crime Fund collections and expenditures to date, and make appropriate recommendations for any improvements.
- Research victim service administration and victim compensation programs in other states. Advise the Governor and Lt. Governor of any recommendations for improving the coordination of Maryland's state victim programs.
- Oversee management of MVOC Fund grants. Ensure that all MVOC grant recipients are reviewed for fiscal and programmatic compliance; receive regular site visits; and are provided technical assistance for newly developing programs.
- Develop, print and distribute the Statewide Victims' Rights brochures.
- Plan a public awareness campaign about the importance of the victim's role and victim support throughout the criminal justice process - to begin in FY1997.
- Review continuation of the annual Victim Advocate Awards and improvements in the organization and implementation of the annual Victim Memorial Service.

VIII. Collections into the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund

The following lists provide an accounting of the collections into the MVOC Fund for fiscal years 1994 and 1995. Collections at both the Circuit Court and the District Court levels for each of Maryland's twenty-four (24) jurisdictions are presented. Collection information for fiscal year 1996 will be available in September of 1996.

The total collected from both Circuit Court and District Court for FY 1994 was \$501,805 and for FY 1995 the total collected was \$502,911.

Maryland Victim of Crime Fund Collections FY94 and FY95

Circuit Court

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>FY94</i>	<i>FY95</i>	<i>Increase (+) or Decrease (-) from FY94 to FY95</i>
Allegany	1,642.50	1,723.97	+81.47
Anne Arundel	9,657.24	11,654.57	+1,997.33
Baltimore	15,017.00	17,161.81	+2,144.81
Calvert	2,594.58	3,463.78	+869.20
Caroline	737.50	725.00	-12.50
Carroll	3,970.00	5,777.00	+1,807.00
Cecil	2,212.81	6,705.69	+4,492.88
Charles	3,810.00	4,280.00	+470.00
Dorchester	940.00	1,057.50	+117.50
Frederick	5,339.70	9,936.50	+4,596.80
Garrett	220.00	475.00	+255.00
Harford	5,282.18	6,954.39	+1,672.21
Howard	5,859.94	5,233.84	-626.10
Kent	966.00	940.00	-26.00
Montgomery	7,227.61	6,902.87	-324.74
Prince George's	10,403.00	13,385.40	+2,962.40
Queen Anne's	267.50	220.00	-47.50
St. Mary's	2,405.00	2,530.00	+125.00
Somerset	1,925.00	1,990.00	+65.00
Talbot	640.00	1,220.00	+580.00
Washington	8,211.50	14,672.01	+6,460.51
Wicomico	2,275.00	2,982.50	+707.50
Worcester	3,259.50	5,467.50	+2,208.00
Baltimore City	23,229.90	21,606.71	-1,623.09
<i>Sub-Total</i>			
<i>Circuit Court</i>	118,093.36	147,066.04	+28,972.68

District Court

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>FY94</i>	<i>FY95</i>	<i>Increase (+) or Decrease (-) from FY94 to FY95</i>
Allegany	17,145.08	14,296.72	-2,848.36
Anne Arundel	47,450.01	47,430.00	-20.01
Baltimore	47,096.70	37,370.05	-9,726.65
Calvert	9,036.66	9,166.67	+130.01
Caroline	2,430.00	3,180.00	+750.00
Carroll	6,610.00	6,190.00	-420.00
Cecil	9,195.01	9,131.70	-63.31
Charles	12,068.58	13,897.18	+1,828.60
Dorchester	5,438.33	4,875.00	-563.33
Frederick	16,700.00	16,535.00	-165.00
Garrett	6,246.67	4,381.67	-1,865.00
Harford	20,185.02	15,931.68	-4,253.34
Howard	21,095.05	18,735.04	-2,360.01
Kent	2,930.00	2,180.00	-750.00
Montgomery	39,936.91	41,957.74	+2,020.83
Prince George's	28,749.67	24,623.19	-4,126.48
Queen Anne's	2,755.00	3,011.66	+256.66
St. Mary's	4,171.67	7,731.67	+3,560.00
Somerset	2,320.00	2,530.00	+210.00
Talbot	6,463.33	7,405.02	+941.69
Washington	10,510.00	9,571.67	-938.33
Wicomico	8,408.34	8,524.88	+116.54
Worcester	13,665.00	11,675.02	-1,989.98
Baltimore City	43,104.87	35,513.47	-7,591.40
<i>Sub-Total</i>			
<i>District Court</i>	383,711.90	355,845.03	-27,866.87