

# Outreach News

## WV CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND

### Legislative Changes to the Crime Victims Fund

By Becky Ofiesh and Trish Miles



During the 2009 Legislative Session, the West Virginia Legislature made big improvements to what the

Crime Victims Compensation Fund can pay out for victims. For claimants who are injured or killed on or

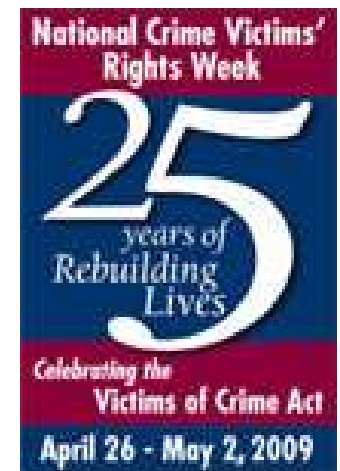
after July 1, 2009, the changes include:

1. The definition of “criminally injurious conduct” has been expanded to include criminally injurious conduct committed outside of the United States against a resident of West Virginia.
2. Relocation costs were increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000.
3. Reasonable travel expenses for the transportation of a victim to or from a medical facility were officially added to the statute.
4. The maximum award in injury claims was increased from \$25,000 to \$35,000.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 304-347-4850 or 1-877-562-6878.

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### Civil Lawsuits for Victims National Center for Victims of Crime

The goal of filing a civil lawsuit is to hold the defendant accountable to the victim. The victim will have more control in a civil suit than in a criminal case, and civil cases cannot only compensate the victim for the monetary damages suffered, but can also provide

compensation for emotional damage. According to The National Crime Victim Bar Association, some of the other benefits in filing a civil suit include crime prevention, justice, and accountability. If this is something that you are interested

in learning more about, or if you would like to request booklets to hand out to victims, please call the National Center for Victims of Crime at 1-800-FYI-CALL/1-800-394-2255.

## www.VictimLaw.info

The National Center for Victims of Crime has developed an online, user-friendly database that features more than 16,000...

- ~ Victims' rights statutes
- ~ Tribal laws
- ~ Constitutional amendments
- ~ Court rules
- ~ Administrative code provisions
- ~ Attorney general opinions
- ~ Case summaries of related court decisions

In addition, this site offers "The Justice System Explained", "About Victims' Rights", "Links to Resources", and a "Legal Glossary" with just the click of a button! For more information and to see if this is a helpful resource for your office, please visit [www.VictimLaw.info](http://www.VictimLaw.info).



## Sexual Assault Awareness Month

<http://www.fris.org.Sections/06-Statistics>

### West Virginia Statistics

- Most (66.5%) sex offenses were reported to have occurred at a residence or home.
- Personal weapons, such as the offender's hands or fists were used during sex offenses, more than other weapons.
- 65% of victims were juveniles under the age of 18.
- The most frequently reported age was 14.
- The majority of the offenders were males (94%) and adult (84.2%).
- (Based on sexual assaults reported to law enforcement in 2000 - WV State Police Incident Based Reporting System.)

*"88.5% of victims were related to or otherwise known to the offender."*

- For more information please contact the WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services Inc. at 304-366-9500 or The National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE.

## Bulletin Board

- April 22—Turning Away From Hate—Wednesday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. on the campus of Wheeling Jesuit University (Troy Theatre—Swint Hall)
- April 23—Turning Away From Hate—Thursday, April 23 at 2:00 p.m. on the campus of West Liberty State College (College Hall)
- May 19— Investigating Crimes Against the Elderly. This will be offered on the campus of WVU from 8:00-5:00 p.m. for \$40.00.
- WV State Victim Assistance Academy will be held July 26-31, 2009. Scholarships are available. For more information call Larry Nelson at 304-766-3280.
- August 11—WV Drug Endangered Children Conference at the Charleston Marriott.



## 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week



Celebrating the  
Victims of Crime Act

### *EVENTS IN WEST VIRGINIA*

*April 24 \* Kick Off Ceremony and Reception \* Robert C. Byrd US Courthouse, 300 Virginia Street, East, Fifth Floor, Charleston, WV \* 11:00 am–1:00 pm*

*April 25 \* Victims' Memorial Walk \* Sylvester Community Building, Sylvester, WV \* 10:00 am*

*April 27 \* Operation Reach Out Victim Awareness Fair and Blood Drive \* YWCA 1100 Chapline Street, Wheeling, WV \* 9:00 am–2:00 pm*

*April 27 \* Raising of new Victims' Memorial Flag \* Veteran's Bypass, Madison, WV \* 12:30 pm*

*April 28 \* Operation Reach Out Community Fair \* WV State Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV \* 10:00 am–2:00 pm*

*April 28 - April 30 \* Resource Fair \* Charleston Town Center Mall \* Charleston, WV 10:00 am – 5:00 pm*

*April 28 \* Red Cross Crime Victims Blood Drive \* Madison Methodist Church, State Street, Madison, WV \* 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm*

*May 2 \* Operation Reach Out Community Fair \* Wood County Courthouse, Parkersburg, WV \* 10:00 am–2:00 pm*

*May 2 \* Cabell County Victim Awareness Fair \* Cabell County Courthouse, Huntington, WV \* 12:00 pm–4:00 pm*

# WV CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND

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## National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Celebrating the  
Victims of Crime Act  
April 26 - May 2, 2009

Information and Referrals about Victims' Rights, Services, and Criminal & Juvenile Justice Resources

Battered Women's Justice Project	<a href="http://www.bwjp.org/menu.htm">www.bwjp.org/menu.htm</a>	800-903-0111
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Country Child Abuse Hotline	<a href="http://www.doi.gov/bia">www.doi.gov/bia</a>	800-638-5155
Childhelp USA National Hotline	<a href="http://www.childhelp.org">www.childhelp.org</a>	800-4-A-CHILD
Child Welfare Information Gateway	<a href="http://www.childwelfare.gov">www.childwelfare.gov</a>	800-394-3366
Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft Hotline	<a href="http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft">www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft</a>	877-ID-THEFT
Mothers Against Drunk Driving	<a href="http://www.maadd.org">www.maadd.org</a>	800-GET-MADD
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children	<a href="http://www.missingkids.com">www.missingkids.com</a>	800-THE LOST, TDD 800-826-7653
National Center for Victims of Crime, National Crime Victim Helpline	<a href="http://www.nccv.org">www.nccv.org</a>	800-FPI-CALL, TTY 800-211-7996
National Children's Alliance	<a href="http://www.ncca-online.org">www.ncca-online.org</a>	800-239-9950
National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information	<a href="http://ncadi.samhsa.gov">http://ncadi.samhsa.gov</a>	800-729-6686, Espanol 877-67-8432, TDD 800-487-4889
National Crime Prevention Council	<a href="http://www.nrcpc.org">www.nrcpc.org</a>	800-NCPC-911
National Criminal Justice Reference Service/Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center	<a href="http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ovares/welcome.html">www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ovares/welcome.html</a>	800-851-3420 TTY 877-712-9270
National Domestic Violence Hotline	<a href="http://www.ndvh.org">www.ndvh.org</a>	800-799-SAFE, TTY 800-787-3224
National Fraud Information Hotline	<a href="http://www.fraud.org">www.fraud.org</a>	800-876-7060
National Organization for Victim Assistance	<a href="http://www.trynava.org">www.trynava.org</a>	800-TRY-NOVA
National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.	<a href="http://www.pomc.com">www.pomc.com</a>	888-818-POINC
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence	<a href="http://www.nrcdv.org">www.nrcdv.org</a>	800-537-2238, TTY 800-553-2508
National Sexual Violence Resource Center	<a href="http://www.nsivc.org">www.nsivc.org</a>	877-739-3895, TTY 717-909-0715
Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center	<a href="http://www.ovctac.gov">www.ovctac.gov</a>	866-OVC-TIAC, TTY 866-682-8880
Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network	<a href="http://online.rainn.org">http://online.rainn.org</a>	800-656-HOPE
Resource Center on Domestic Violence, Child Protection and Custody	<a href="http://www.ncfcjg.org/content/view/full/129/250">www.ncfcjg.org/content/view/full/129/250</a>	800-52-PEACE
United States Postal Inspection Service	<a href="http://postalinspectors.uspis.gov">http://postalinspectors.uspis.gov</a>	877-876-2455

Sponsored by: U.S. Department of Justice • Office of Justice Programs • Office for Victims of Crime