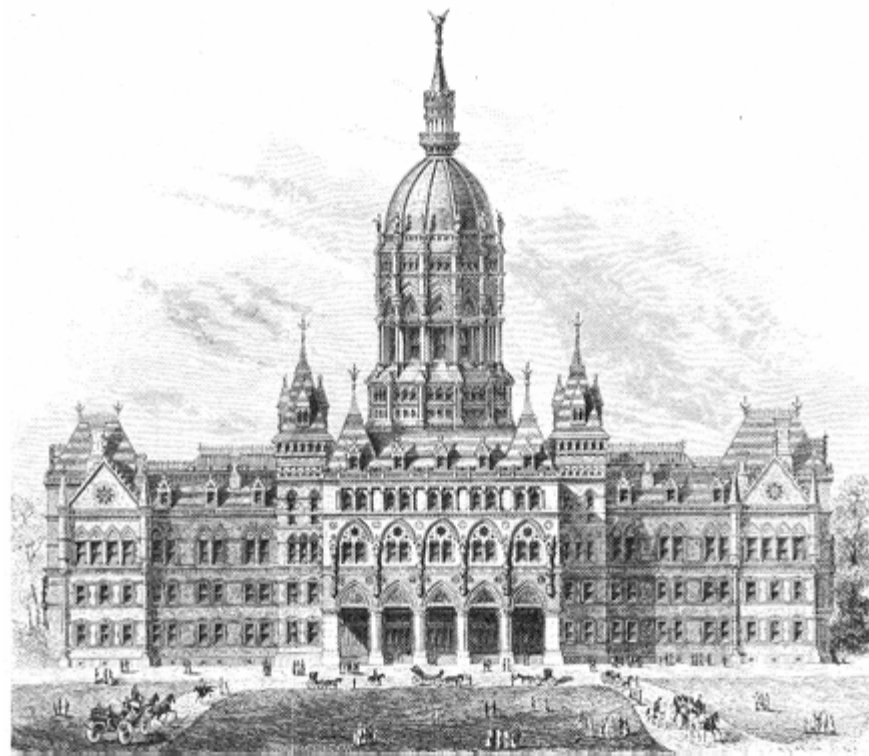


State of Connecticut

Office of the
Victim Advocate

James F. Papillo, Victim Advocate



2004 ANNUAL REPORT

To the Governor and the Connecticut General Assembly



M. Jodi Rell, Governor

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**2004 ANNUAL REPORT
THE OFFICE OF THE VICTIM ADVOCATE**

August 15, 2005

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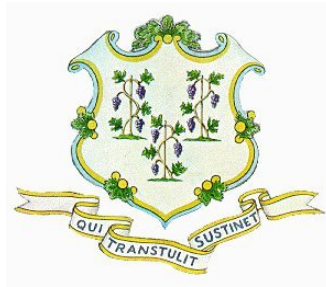


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction		4
Overview of Office of the Victim Advocate Statutory Responsibilities and Accomplishments		7
I.	Evaluate Connecticut’s Victim Service Delivery System.	7
II.	Coordinate and cooperate with other private and public agencies concerned with the implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the constitutional rights of crime victims and enter into cooperative agreements with public or private agencies for the furtherance of the constitutional rights of crime victims.	7
III.	Review the procedures established by any state agency or other entity providing services to crime victims with respect to the constitutional rights of crime victims.	7
IV.	Receive and review complaints of persons concerning the actions of any state or other entity providing services to victims and investigate those where it appears that a victim or family of a victim may be in need of assistance from the Victim Advocate.	10
	• Summary of OVA Case Statistics for 2004	10
	• Significant Formal Investigations Conducted by the OVA during 2004	15
	○ The Death of Lapreea Moore	16
	○ The Death of John Coleman	16
	○ The Death of Kelly Lombard	17

o	The Attempted Murder of Carrie Arteaga	17
o	The Murder/Suicide of Rose Conrad and Leo Conrad	18
o	The Death of Newington Police Officer Peter Lavery	18
V.	File a limited special appearance in any court proceeding for the purpose of advocating for any right guaranteed to a crime victim by the Constitution of the state or any right provided to a crime victim by any provision of the general statutes.	18
•	Appearances in Criminal Court Proceedings	19
•	Appearances in Civil Proceedings	19
o	Melissa Morrow v. Jennifer Ripley and Rochelle Ripley	20
VI.	Ensure a centralized location for victim services information.	20
VII.	Recommend changes in state policies concerning victims, including changes in the system of providing victim services.	20
VIII.	Conduct programs of public education, undertake legislative advocacy, and make proposals for systemic reform.	20
•	Legislative Initiatives	20
•	Conference on Identity Theft	22
•	Other OVA Initiatives/Activities	23
IX.	Take appropriate steps to advise the public of the services of the Office of the Victim Advocate, the purpose of the office and procedures to contact the office.	25
•	Creation and Distribution of an OVA Brochure	25
•	Office of the Victim Advocate Web Site	25
	OVA Budget	26
	Challenges and Priorities for 2004	27

INTRODUCTION

The State of Connecticut continues to make great strides in the area of victims' rights. Since adopting the Victims' Rights Amendment to our state constitution in 1996, Connecticut has enacted many laws intended to provide genuine opportunities for crime victims to effectively participate in the criminal justice process and to require that victims' concerns are addressed by all professionals within the criminal justice system.

Connecticut's victims' rights laws serve to promote respect for crime victims, including their safety, privacy and the interest they have in seeking justice. In addition, such laws serve to foster administrative and judicial sensitivity to the difficulty experienced when crime victims are unexpectedly drawn into an often indifferent but always confusing criminal justice system—often at the very time they are trying to cope with injury and the trauma of personal loss.

Connecticut's Victims' Rights Amendment affords crime victims the same protection and status of rights provided to those accused of committing crimes. These state constitutional rights, along with the many other statutory rights afforded Connecticut crime victims, represent a formal acknowledgment on the part of our state lawmakers that crime victims have an important participatory role in Connecticut's criminal justice system.

Subsequent to incorporating victims' rights into our state constitution in 1996, our state lawmakers have continued to demonstrate their strong support for and commitment toward protecting and expanding the rights of crime victims in Connecticut.

For example, sensing the need for an independent “watchdog” agency to oversee the enforcement of victim rights in Connecticut, our legislature in 1998 created the Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) to help enforce, protect and further crime victim rights. The Victim Advocate, appointed by the Governor, has been given broad authority to: monitor the provision of services to crime victims by state agencies and private entities; receive and investigate victim complaints regarding their treatment by the criminal justice system; intervene in court proceedings to advocate for victims' rights when their rights have been violated; and make recommendations to the legislature, victim service providers and criminal justice professionals for changes in state policies and laws to help further and protect crime victim rights in Connecticut.

The OVA's independence from the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government is a vitally important feature of the office, one that is necessary for achieving satisfactory results from agencies and providing redress for crime victims. To be effective, the Victim Advocate must be free to criticize, in appropriate situations, governmental agencies, officials, public employees and other professionals involved in the criminal justice system. The need for independence is readily apparent given the Victim Advocate's broad oversight jurisdiction, which includes all crime victims, criminal justice agencies, victim service providers and victim advocacy groups.

The public, particularly those Connecticut citizens who have been victimized by crime, has responded enthusiastically to the creation and work of the OVA. Since its inception, OVA clients have sought and received a variety of OVA services including information, support, investigation and in-court advocacy. The OVA has also received strong support from Connecticut lawmakers. The OVA has worked effectively with many members of the Connecticut General Assembly on legislation to further and enhance victims' rights for Connecticut citizens.

Specific OVA accomplishments include:

- The Victim Advocate and his staff have effectively intervened in numerous criminal cases to protect crime victims' rights, including the appeal of two cases to the Connecticut Supreme Court to address alleged violations of the Victims' Rights Amendment to the Connecticut State Constitution.
- The Victim Advocate has formally investigated several serious criminal matters that highlighted the failure of criminal justice and law enforcement professionals to enforce laws or take appropriate action to protect victim and public safety.
- As a result of the Victim Advocate's investigative efforts, more attention is being paid to the handling of domestic and family violence matters; the penalties for violating restraining and protective orders have been significantly enhanced; and there is now in place a state-wide, centralized enforcement unit to ensure that those who are the subject of restraining and protective orders comply with the requirement to transfer or surrender guns within two business days of the order's issuance.
- The Victim Advocate proposed and Connecticut became the first state in the country to have a law requiring Superior Court judges to advise crime victims of their state constitutional rights in open court just as, each day, judges are required to advise criminal defendants as to their rights at the time of arraignment.
- Connecticut is one of the few states in the country to provide employment protection to crime victims so that they can attend court proceedings or secure an order of protection in family violence cases without worrying about any form of retaliation from employers.
- Connecticut laws regarding restitution for crime victims have been significantly enhanced. In each case where the victim requests restitution and can document loss, courts are now required to issue a written order of restitution and set appropriate terms of payment to victims. Even where the convicted individual has no financial resources at the time of disposition of the case, courts are still required to issue a written order of restitution for the amount of loss that can be entered as a civil judgment in a civil court and that later can be executed if and when the criminal no longer is indigent.
- Connecticut law now protects crime victims during the pendency of the criminal case from civil lawsuits brought by criminal defendants to harass and intimidate their victims. Upon motion by a crime victim, the court has the authority to stay any civil action brought by the defendant against the victim until the criminal matter has been completed.

- Victim notification requirements have been greatly improved so that crime victims receive notice of court dates and important events related to their cases (e.g., when a convicted individual applies for a modification of sentence; escapes or is released from incarceration; applies for exemption from the sex-offender registration requirements, etc.). Victims are now provided with an opportunity to be heard during any hearing related to these events.
- The authority of the Victim Advocate has been expanded.

Beyond the specifics, there is a growing sense among the Victim Advocate, his staff and others in the victim community as well that, throughout the state of Connecticut, victims' rights and the many issues affecting crime victims have received more attention of late from criminal justice and law enforcement officials. Further, this greater attention to victims' rights is beginning to make a difference for crime victims throughout Connecticut in terms of their meaningful participation in the criminal justice process. But there is clearly much more work to be done.

The consistent enforcement of crime victim rights within our criminal justice system is a priority issue that must be addressed. All too often, crime victim rights are not enforced because they have not been incorporated into the daily functioning of *all* criminal justice professionals. Implementation of rights is often arbitrary and based upon the individual practices and preferences of criminal justice officials. Additionally, with the exception of the creation of the OVA, victims have lacked any enforcement mechanisms, thereby leaving them without adequate remedies to enforce their rights when they are violated.

Much work remains ahead to ensure that rights for crime victims are honored and respected to the same degree as are the fundamental rights of the accused and convicted offenders. We would not tolerate lapses in the enforcement of rights for those accused and convicted of committing crime and we should not tolerate such lapses for crime victims. In the future, the OVA must and will play an important catalytic role in helping accomplish the goal of consistent enforcement of victims' rights in Connecticut's criminal justice system.

The OVA continues to be a unique and effective voice for Connecticut citizens who have been victimized by crime and advocates for crime victims when the criminal justice system or victim service delivery system fails crime victims. The OVA will continue to help ensure that the rights afforded crime victims in Connecticut are honored, respected and enforced throughout the criminal justice system; continue to monitor and evaluate services available and rendered to crime victims; and continue to work to advance and further policies throughout the state that promote the fair and just treatment of crime victims throughout the criminal justice process.



CONSTITUTION of the STATE of CONNECTICUT

Article XXIX - Rights of Victims of Crime

In all criminal prosecutions, a victim, as the General Assembly may define by law, shall have the following rights:

- The right to be treated with fairness and respect throughout the criminal justice process;
- The right to timely disposition of the case following arrest of the accused, provided no right of the accused is abridged;
- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice process;
- The right to notification of court proceedings;
- The right to attend the trial and all other court proceedings the accused has the right to attend, unless such person is to testify and the court determines that such person's testimony would be materially affected if such person hears other testimony;
- The right to communicate with the prosecution;
- The right to object to or support any plea agreement entered into by the accused and the prosecution and to make a statement to the court prior to the acceptance by the court of the plea of guilty or nolo contendere by the accused;
- The right to make a statement to the court at sentencing;
- The right to restitution which shall be enforceable in the same manner as any other cause of action or as otherwise provided by law;
- The right to information about the arrest, conviction, sentence, imprisonment and release of the accused.

The General Assembly shall provide by law for the enforcement of this subsection. Nothing in this subsection or in any law enacted pursuant to this subsection shall be construed as creating a basis for vacating a conviction or ground for appellate relief in any criminal case.

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Overview of Office of the Victim Advocate Statutory Responsibilities And Accomplishments

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 46a-13c, the Victim Advocate may:

- I. Evaluate Connecticut's victim service delivery system [C.G.S. § 46a-13c(1)];**
- II. Coordinate and cooperate with other private and public agencies concerned with the implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the constitutional rights of crime victims and enter into cooperative agreements with public or private agencies for the furtherance of the constitutional rights of crime victims [C.G.S. § 46a-13c(2)];**
- III. Review the procedures established by any state agency or other entity providing services to crime victims with respect to the constitutional rights of crime victims [C.G.S. § 46a-13c(3)].**

Within available appropriations, the Victim Advocate is authorized to evaluate the delivery of services to crime victims by state agencies and those entities that provide services to crime victims, including the delivery of services by Connecticut's Witness Protection Program and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner [See, C.G.S. 54-82t; §§ 46a-13c(1)].

Due to limited budget and staff resources of the Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA), it was decided early on that the best approach for monitoring and evaluating the criminal justice system's enforcement of victims' rights and the provision of services by Connecticut's victim services delivery system would be to base such assessments upon the accumulation of complaints received from crime victims and others over time. The OVA simply does not have the resources necessary to conduct an intensive, comprehensive and systematic evaluation of services to crime victims and at the same time carry out its other statutory responsibilities.

The Victim Advocate has requested and received extensive policy and procedure materials from major Connecticut victim services providers and OVA staff members have comprehensively reviewed such materials. Policy and procedure materials have also been requested and received from numerous criminal justice agencies, including state and local police departments, which also have been comprehensively reviewed by OVA staff members with respect to safeguarding the state constitutional and other rights afforded crime victims.

OVA review of such materials has led to meetings and discussion with various agencies and entities regarding the enforcement and furtherance of victims' rights and the provision of victim services. Based upon victim complaints and OVA review of the policies and procedures adopted by various state agencies, the Victim Advocate has attempted to address specific problems facing Connecticut crime victims through recommended changes to policy and procedures or through legislative changes.

During 2004, the following initiatives were taken by the OVA:

- The OVA receives many complaints from crime victims regarding court ordered restitution. The OVA has begun a formal investigation into the processes employed by the Office of Adult Probation to monitor and enforce compliance with financial restitution orders.
- The OVA has begun a formal investigation into the most frequently registered complaint by Connecticut crime victims—i.e., the failure to receive adequate notice of rights and scheduled court proceedings. Under a law recently proposed by the Victim Advocate and enacted by state lawmakers, [Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 54-220], crime victims are to receive formal, written notification of their rights from court-based victim services advocates. This legislation was designed to address the problem of victim notification by giving the responsibility for providing such notification to those in the system whose primary function it is to provide advocacy services to crime victims. Court-based victim services advocates are either employed by the Judicial Branch or are employed by not-for-profit agencies that are part of Connecticut's victim services delivery system. The not-for-profit victim services agencies contract with the Judicial Branch to provide advocacy services to victims of particular types of crime (i.e., homicide, domestic violence, sexual assault and driving while intoxicated crimes).

In what appears to have been a response to the enactment of C.G.S. § 54-220, the Judicial Branch issued two directives that serve to limit the application of the new law, to the detriment of crime victims. First, court-based victim services advocates employed by the Judicial Branch were instructed to no longer provide advocacy services to victims who do not sustain physical injury. Second, victim services advocates working for not-for-profit organizations that contract with the Judicial Branch to provide advocacy services were advised that C.G.S. § 54-220 does not apply to them.

The OVA is currently examining the impact these directives have on the exercise and enforcement of the state constitutional and statutory rights afforded crime victims.

The OVA continues to monitor and evaluate the delivery of services provided by Connecticut's Witness Protection Program (WPP), which is based within the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, and the services provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. The OVA continues to work closely with the WPP to monitor the provision of services to witnesses/crime victims and receives on a regular, periodic basis detailed information regarding each WPP participant. The WPP and the OVA have continued a strong, cooperative working relationship to service crime victims eligible for WPP services. On numerous occasions during 2004, as in previous years, the OVA has been able to procure expedited WPP services for crime victims in emergency situations, even when such situations arise well beyond normal working hours. On behalf of all

Connecticut crime victims, the Victim Advocate again wishes to express his sincere appreciation to the WPP director and staff for their willingness to cooperate with the OVA on a range of victims' issues and specific cases and for their dedication and hard work in servicing all Connecticut citizens in need of witness protection services.

The Victim Advocate has and continues to work closely and cooperatively with the Department of Correction's Victim Services Unit to provide timely and effective notification to crime victims who request to be notified of any change in status (e.g., release or escape) of prison inmates, or notice of an inmate's application for a change in sentence or exemption from Connecticut's sex offender registration laws. Such notice is vital for victim safety and for exercising the rights crime victims have been granted to be heard at important hearings affecting inmate status.

The Victim Advocate, representatives from the Department of Correction's Victim Services Unit (DOC-VSU) and the Department of Mental Health and Addictive Services (DMHAS) have agreed to collaborate on changes to agency policies and procedures to provide crime victims registered with the DOC-VSU to receive notice of any change to the status of individuals, as described in the previous paragraph, when such individuals are either transferred from prison to the Whiting Forensic Institute or are committed there directly by court order for psychiatric reasons. Currently, due to confidentiality concerns, crime victims do not receive notification in such situations as the DOC-VSU no longer has custody of such individuals and would be unaware of any status change while the individual is at the Whiting Forensic Institute. The various agencies have committed to exploring the possibility of developing an inter-agency strategy for providing crime victims with the notice they are legally entitled to while, at the same time, complying with federal and state confidentiality laws.

Since the inception of the OVA, in 1999, the Victim Advocate has issued several investigative reports involving domestic and family violence matters (The murder of Josephine Giaimo; The matter of State v. Iannone; and The murder of Jenny McMechen). Since these reports have been issued, the OVA has worked collaboratively with representatives from the Governor's Office, the Judicial Branch, the Department of Public Safety and the Office of the Chief State's Attorney to provide greater protection for victims of crime, specifically victims of domestic and family violence.

During 2004, the Victim Advocate continued to monitor compliance with the many changes in laws and agency policies and procedures that have resulted from these previous OVA investigations. As part of the effort to monitor and evaluate these changes, the Victim Advocate has investigated, or is currently investigating, the facts and circumstances of several, more recent domestic violence matters: *The death of Lapreea Moore*; *The death of Kelly Lombard*; *The attempted murder of Carrie Arteaga*; *The murder/suicide of Rose Conrad and Leo Conrad*; and *The death of Newington Master Police Officer Peter Lavery*. The limited staffing resources of the OVA have dramatically hampered the OVA's ability to issue a formal investigative report in each of these matters. However, based upon the findings of these investigative efforts, the Victim Advocate will attempt to work collaboratively with the agencies and professionals

involved to, where necessary and appropriate, implement changes to further improve the provision of services and the protection of rights afforded Connecticut crime victims.

IV. Receive and review complaints of persons concerning the actions of any state or other entity providing services to victims and investigate those where it appears that a victim or family of a victim may be in need of assistance from the Victim Advocate.

Crime victims contact the OVA in writing, via telephone, or through e-mail to complain that they have been denied or are having a problem asserting any of the rights afforded them by Connecticut law or that they are having problems with the level or quality of services being rendered by one or more victim services providers. The OVA is empowered to investigate such complaints and take appropriate action on their behalf to help remedy violations of rights or to procure victim services. In deciding upon the appropriate manner in which to respond to such complaints, the OVA may:

- a. Make inquiries and obtain information considered necessary from criminal justice agencies or victim service providers regarding a particular case;
- b. Contact and meet with criminal justice professionals or victim service providers in an attempt to remedy rights violations or victim service issues;
- c. Conduct a more formal investigation of complaints representing systemic problems pertaining to an alleged violation of victims' rights or to alleged deficiencies in the delivery of victim services.

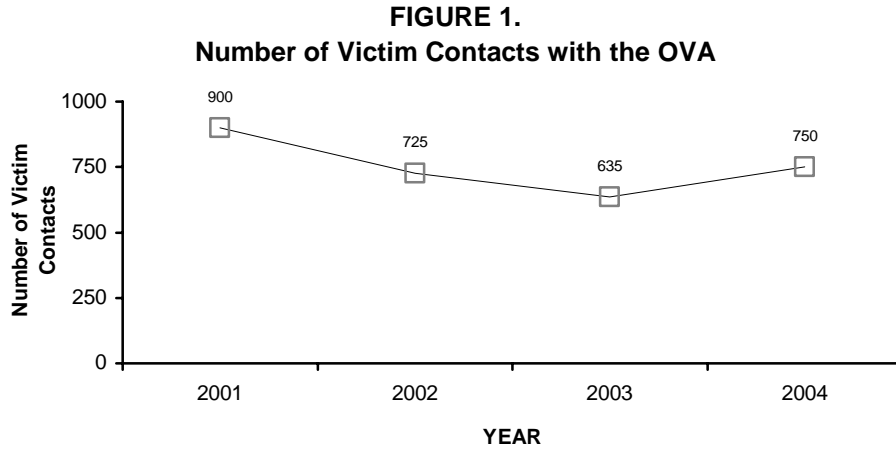
SUMMARY OF OVA CASE STATISTICS FOR 2004

Number of Contacts

The OVA receives many telephone calls and other forms of contact from crime victims with questions, requests and complaints. The OVA makes every effort to respond appropriately to each and every contact. Due to a change in recording statistical information in the OVA, necessitated by a reduction in staff during 2004, the reported number of *total* contacts during 2004 has been estimated.

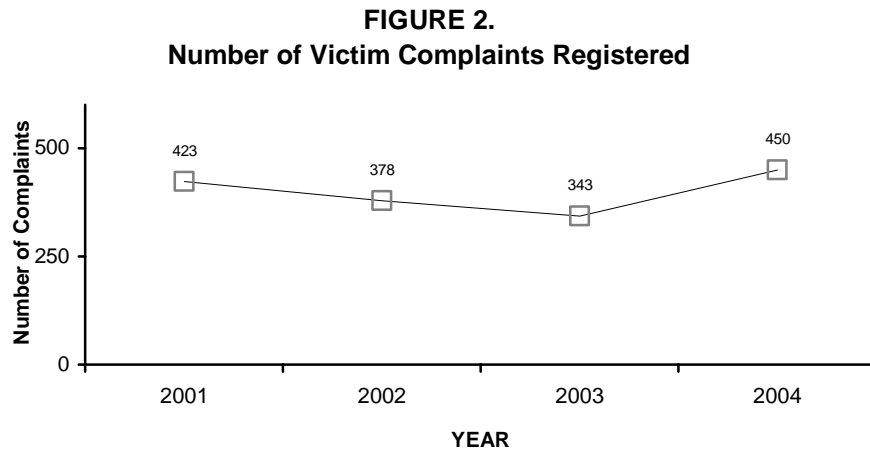
As shown in Figure 1, the number of contacts to the OVA increased during 2004 as compared to 2003. During the first two years of the OVA's existence (2000-2001), the OVA received many contacts from victims whose cases had already ended (i.e., the criminal prosecution was no longer pending) and, thus, there was nothing the OVA could do to help remedy the alleged violation of rights. In addition, because the agency was new, many contacted the OVA simply seeking basic information about victims' rights and services. During the two-year period 2002-2003, the percentage of contacts to the OVA from crime victims with *active* cases (i.e., cases still pending in court) greatly increased as compared to 2001, although the total number of contacts decreased during the 2002-2003 time period. It seems reasonable to speculate that the reduced number of

contacts with the OVA during 2002-2003 may be due mostly to the reduction of complaints pertaining to previously disposed cases.



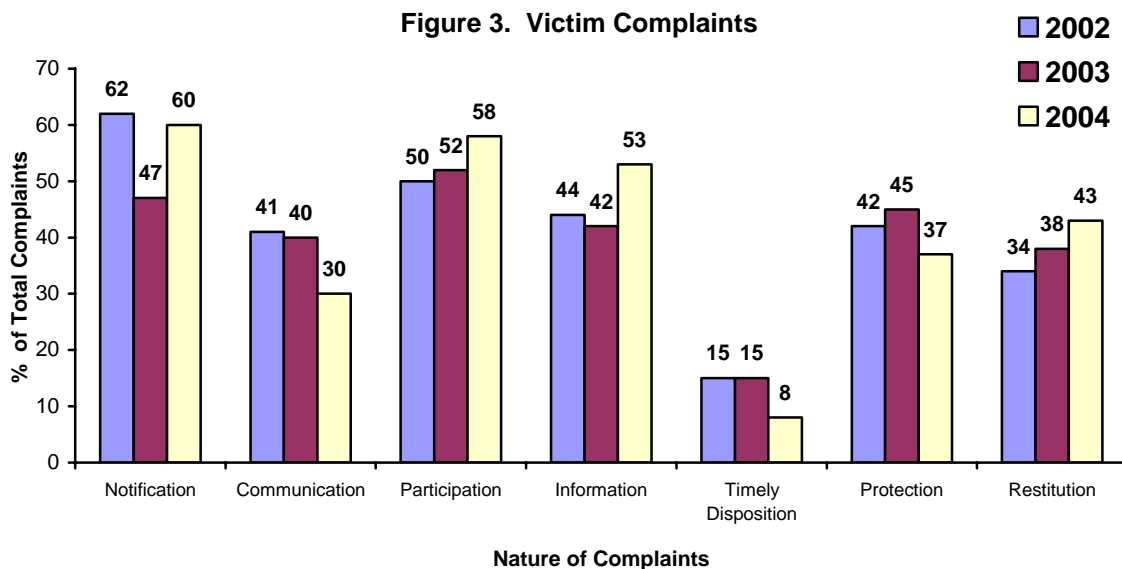
Number & Nature of Complaints

Figure 2 shows the number of victim complaints registered with the OVA. In 2001, 47% of the 900 contacts with the OVA were categorized as complaints. In 2002, of the 725 contacts received, 378 (or 52%) were categorized as complaints. In 2003, of the 635 contacts received, 343 (or 54%) were categorized as complaints. In 2004, of the approximately 750 contacts received, 450 (or 60%) registered one or more complaints.



As in all previous reporting years, notification to crime victims of victims' rights and the availability of victim services continues to be the most frequent complaint received from crime victims during 2004 (See Figure 3).

Many crime victims complain that they don't receive adequate or timely information from criminal justice personnel. If victims are informed of their rights by court-based victim service advocates, they are informed of only some of their rights—usually, they are informed of their right to attend the sentencing hearing and of their right to submit or present a victim impact statement to the court at the sentencing hearing. Victims often report not being advised about, and in some cases discouraged from exercising, their right to attend other court proceedings. Victims also often report not being advised of their right to address the court before the court accepts or rejects a plea agreement reached between the state and the defendant. Additionally, crime victims contacting the OVA often report not being fully informed of their right to seek a written order of restitution from the criminal court and not being informed of, or even dissuaded from exercising, their right to discuss their case with the prosecution. Figure 3 below shows the nature of the complaints filed with the OVA during the 2004 and previous reporting periods.



The pattern in the nature of complaints filed with the OVA during the 2004 reporting period is fairly similar to the pattern observed and reported in OVA's previous annual reports. During 2004, as compared to previous years, crime victims registered fewer complaints about certain rights. In particular, victims registered fewer complaints about: (1) the right to communicate with the prosecutor about their cases; (2) the right to a timely disposition of their cases; and (3) the right to obtain from the court reasonable protection from the accused during the pendency of criminal prosecutions.

An increase in the number of complaints was observed regarding: (1) the right to receive "Notification" of rights, services and scheduled court dates; (2) the right to participate ("Participation") in the criminal justice process, including the right to be heard at plea and sentencing proceedings; (3) the right to receive "Information" about their cases;" and (4) the right to receive financial restitution from the person convicted of the crime(s).

It is interesting to note that although the percentage of complaints filed with the OVA indicating that “Notification” was an issue decreased between 2002 and 2003 from 62% to 47%, the percentage increased to 60% during 2004. Although we previously speculated that the observed reduction in 2003 as compared to 2002 might have been the result of OVA’s recent efforts to focus attention on notification issues with criminal justice professionals and state lawmakers, it unfortunately appears from the 2004 data that this may not have been the case.

Particularly disappointing is the finding that despite the OVA’s past success in working with the legislature to strengthen the laws pertaining to providing restitution to crime victims (P.A. No. 01-211), the percentage of complaints from crime victims related to restitution, while remaining essentially steady between 2001 (38%), 2002 (34%) and 2003 (38%), has increased in 2004 to 43%. Because receiving restitution from the offender is such an essential aspect of obtaining justice for many crime victims, the criminal justice system should do better in terms of honoring and respecting the right crime victims have under our state constitution to be “made whole” by receiving financial restitution for losses sustained as a result of crime. Section 13 of P.A. No. 01-211, codified in C.G.S. §53a-28(c), provides a clear and unambiguous formula for issuing orders of restitution along with reasonable terms of payment. This law needs to be enforced where crime victims comply with the statutory steps for requesting such orders. Further, our criminal justice professionals need to do a better job of informing crime victims about their right to request and receive an order of restitution from the court and, also, the actions victims are required to take to request an order of restitution from the court.

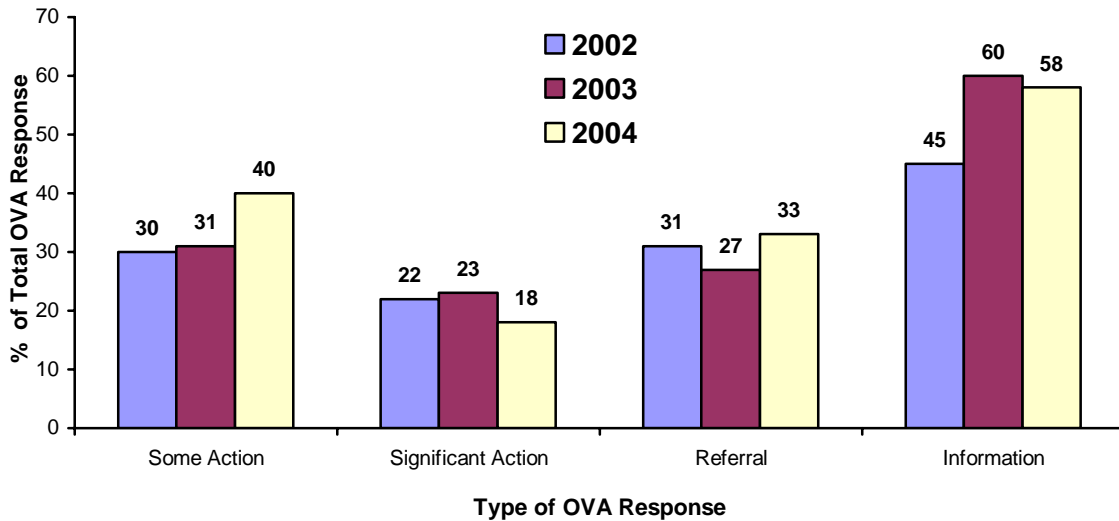
OVA Response to Contacts

In 2004, fifty-eight percent (58%) of the contacts to the OVA resulted in at least some level of action being taken by the OVA (See Figure 4 below). In appropriate cases, the caller is referred to a direct victim service provider (e.g., a court-based victim services advocate, local or regional victim services organization, etc.). In each such case, the victim is strongly encouraged to contact the OVA in the future if s/he has any trouble either contacting the service provider or has any problems or concerns with respect to the level or quality of services provided. In 2004, 33% of contacts to the OVA were referred to other state agencies and/or private not-for-profit victim service providers. Often, time is spent with such individuals providing them an overview of their rights as crime victims and of available services, prior to making the referral. An OVA information brochure is mailed to each such contact.

In Figure 4, the category labeled “Some Action” refers to those calls that result in some, relatively minimal activity being taken by the OVA to help resolve the issue(s) or complaint(s) the caller registers with the OVA. This level of activity typically involves a phone call or two on behalf of the crime victim to someone in the criminal justice system, law enforcement agency, or direct victim services provider organization involved in the case. The category labeled “Significant Action” refers to those contacts that result in the OVA creating a physical, office file for the complainant. Typically, such cases require

much more involvement on the part of the OVA to help the crime victim. This may involve ordering and reviewing court and other records and transcripts of court proceedings. Such level of OVA involvement may also include attendance at court proceedings with the crime victim, scheduling and attending meetings with criminal justice and law enforcement officials, etc. Formal investigations conducted by the OVA are also included in this category.

Figure 4. OVA Response to Calls and Complaints

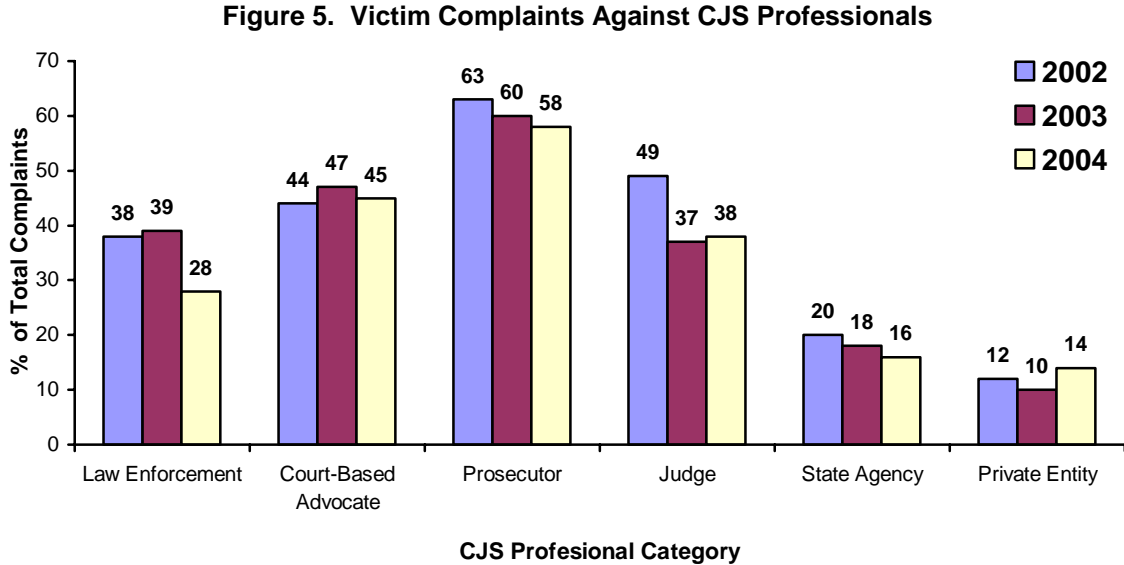


As the data in Figure 4 show, the percentage of contacts where OVA staff provide information to crime victims about their rights and available services has increased over time. Such information is provided to the victim regardless of whether the victim contacts the OVA for a simple referral, for specific information about an issue, or to register a formal complaint. Not included in the data presented in Figure 4 are the many contacts where OVA staff simply responds by making a referral or answering a specific question and the OVA sends the individual, via mail, an OVA information brochure which contains information about rights and services.

In every case where the Victim Advocate takes some form of action on behalf of a crime victim, the OVA routinely sends a “notification letter” to the court and to the parties to the matter. This letter serves to provide the court, the state’s attorney and the defendant’s attorney with notice that: (1) the victim has been informed of their constitutional and statutory rights; (2) the victim intends to exercise the right to participate in the criminal justice process; (3) the victim wishes to receive notification of any and all court proceedings related to the mater; and, in appropriate cases, (4) the victim intends to request that an order of financial restitution from the defendant be issued by the court. Unfortunately, despite sending this notification letter to criminal justice professionals, victims on whose behalf such letters are sent continue to complain to the OVA that they are not receiving adequate notice court dates.

Complaints Against CJS Professionals and Service Providers

Figure 5 shows, for each of several categories of criminal justice and law enforcement professionals, as well as state and private victim service providers, the percentage of all complaints received directed at those categories.



The general pattern in the data across categories is similar for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004. Further, the pattern presented here is very similar to the pattern presented in prior OVA annual reports.

SIGNIFICANT FORMAL INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE OVA DURING 2004

Based on complaints received by the OVA, the Victim Advocate initiated six formal investigations during the 2004 reporting period (a brief description of each is presented below). The purposes for conducting such investigations include: (1) to evaluate the delivery of services to crime victims by agencies and other entities that provide or should have provided services to crime victims; (2) to review the procedures established by agencies and other entities that provide services or should provide services to crime victims; (3) to review complaints of persons concerning the actions or inactions of agencies and other entities that provide services to crime victims; (4) to recommend changes in policies concerning the delivery of services to crime victims; and (5) to make proposals for systemic reform. All of these purposes are statutory mandates of the OVA (See, C.G.S. § 46a-13c).

The goal of five of the six formal investigations conducted during 2004 was to examine issues and concerns for victim safety that emerged in the OVA's previous investigations into fatal domestic violence incidences. Four of the six investigations are

ongoing at the end of the 2004 reporting period and no formal investigative reports have yet been released.

Copies of prior formal investigative reports released by the OVA can be obtained by contacting the OVA directly or by visiting OVA's website at www.ova.state.ct.us.

The Death of Lapreea Moore

On July 10, 2004, Lapreea Moore was shot and killed by her boyfriend, Mark Hackney, during a domestic dispute. Because of the perceived similarities in the facts and circumstances of the case, as reported in the media, with the facts and circumstances surrounding previous cases investigated by the OVA, the OVA initiated an investigation into the murder of Lapreea Moore. Specifically, the OVA investigated issues relating to domestic violence, orders of protection, and requirements to surrender/transfer firearms in cases where an order of protection has been issued. The OVA made formal requests for documentation and other relevant materials from the various agencies and entities involved in Lapreea Moore's case.

After a review of materials submitted, the OVA determined that Mark Hackney was a registered gun owner with the State of Connecticut and that Mark Hackney used one of the guns that was registered to kill Lapreea Moore. Mark Hackney did not have a criminal record and was, prior to the murder, not the subject of an order of protection. Further, the OVA determined that there was no previous involvement in the lives of Lapreea Moore and Mark Hackney with law enforcement officials or with the criminal justice system. The OVA did not produce a formal, written report following this investigation.

The Death of John Coleman

John Coleman was involved in a motor vehicle accident on December 9, 2003 in Hartford and later died on January 8, 2004 as a result of injuries sustained from the accident. The facts and circumstances surrounding the investigation of the motor vehicle accident was the focus of OVA's investigation. Family members contacted the OVA to complain that the Hartford Police Department (HPD) failed to adequately investigate the accident; that the HPD failed to properly follow-up on the medical condition of Mr. Coleman; and that the state's attorney improperly decided not to pursue criminal charges against the person responsible for causing the accident and subsequent death of the victim. The OVA requested documents from the Hartford Police Department relating to the investigation of the accident. In addition, the OVA requested copies of all policies and procedures from the Hartford Police Department relating to the responsibilities and duties of a responding police officer to a motor vehicle accident.

The surviving family members of John Coleman were told shortly after his death, that the person responsible for the accident had paid a fine and therefore could not be charged with a criminal offense relating to his death (i.e. negligent homicide with a motor vehicle). The family was also told that because the responding officer did not call for an

accident reconstruction team there was insufficient evidence to support a criminal charge against the other driver.

The OVA has reviewed the documents provided by the Hartford Police Department. The Victim Advocate and the Chief State's Attorney will be meeting early in 2005 to discuss the issues raised in this matter.

The Death of Kelly Lombard

On June 22, 2004, Kelly Lombard was found stabbed to death in her apartment in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Also on June 22, 2004, Edwin Cabrera, the on-again/off-again boyfriend of Kelly Lombard and father of her son, failed to report to work after he signed out of the half-way house he was released to on April 15, 2004. Edwin Cabrera had been serving time in prison for domestic violence crimes committed against Kelly Lombard. On September 20, 2004, Edwin Cabrera was charged with the murder of Kelly Lombard.

The Victim Advocate was contacted shortly after the murder by the family members of Kelly Lombard and by State Senator Bill Finch regarding the conditions and propriety of Edwin Cabrera's early release from the Department of Correction (DOC). The OVA initiated an investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding the death of Kelly Lombard—specifically the violent history and early release of the alleged murderer, Edwin Cabrera. The OVA made requests for documents and other evidence to the DOC, the Judicial Branch, the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the office of the state's attorney for the judicial district of Bridgeport.

The OVA has reviewed the materials provided by the DOC and the DPS. Once the complete set of information has been received from all agencies, and the information analyzed and digested, the OVA will again meet with family members and others involved and a determination made as to what, if any, further action the OVA may take in the matter.

The Attempted Murder of Carrie Arteaga

On August 3, 2004, Carrie Arteaga and a friend were seriously injured when Carrie's estranged husband, Michael Arteaga, broke into her home and violently stabbed her and her friend. Michael Arteaga was no stranger to police and since 2003 five orders of protection against Michael Arteaga were issued on behalf of Carrie Arteaga and her children. However, Mr. Arteaga was consistently released on either a promise to appear or the setting of very low bonds which he easily posted.

The OVA initiated an investigation into the facts and circumstances of the violent assault on Carrie Arteaga and her friend. Specifically, the OVA is concerned with how the criminal justice system responds to the patterns of behavior of individuals that continually violate court orders of protection, as did Michael Arteaga. The OVA made the request for documentation from various agencies and after a review of the materials, will determine what, if any, further action will be taken.

The Murder/Suicide of Rose Conrad and Leo Conrad

On June 23, 2004, Rose Conrad applied for an ex-parte restraining order against her estranged husband, Leo Conrad. The ex-parte order was granted and a hearing was scheduled for July 6, 2004. On July 6, 2004, the order was extended for six months including provisions for visitation with the couple's children. On September 6, 2004, Rose Conrad was shot three times and killed by her estranged husband, Leo Conrad, in Norwich, Connecticut. Shortly thereafter, Leo Conrad shot himself to death.

The OVA initiated an investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding the death of Rose Conrad. Specifically, the OVA investigated whether the proper procedures and protocols for requirements to surrender and/or transfer firearms were followed after Leo Conrad became the subject of a restraining order. Such procedures and protocols were developed and instituted across the state in response to the recommendations made by the Victim Advocate following his investigations of the Josephine Giaimo murder, the State v. Iannone matter, and the murder of Jenny McMechen. The Victim Advocate made formal requests for documents and other evidence from the Norwich Police Department, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Norwich Superior Court.

After a review of the materials received, the OVA determined that: (1) the victim took the appropriate and necessary steps to seek protection from the courts; (2) the courts responded with appropriate and necessary steps to protect the victim and her children; and (3) the Norwich Police Department and the DPS followed procedures and protocols for securing registered weapons from the respondent of the restraining order. This case underscores the fact that even in cases where protocol is properly followed there can be no guarantee of victim and public safety.

The Death of Newington Master Police Officer Peter Lavery

On December 31, 2004, Newington Police Officer Peter Lavery responded to a domestic violence call and was shot and killed by Bruce Carrier, the live-in boyfriend of a victim of domestic violence. The OVA initiated an investigation into the facts and circumstances of the death of Officer Lavery. Specifically, the OVA was interested in examining whether the various domestic violence issues observed in previous OVA investigations were present in this case and which may have contributed to the death of Officer Lavery. The OVA has requested documentation and other materials from the various agencies and entities involved in the matter.

V. File a limited special appearance in any court proceeding for the purpose of advocating for any right guaranteed to a crime victim by the Constitution of the state or any right provided to a crime victim by any provision of the general statutes.

To accomplish the goal of assisting crime victims, and of giving force to their state constitutional and statutory rights, the Victim Advocate was empowered by the state

legislature to advocate in court proceedings with respect to an alleged violation of any right afforded crime victims under Connecticut law. During 2004, the Victim Advocate appeared before a number of state criminal and civil courts to advocate for victims' rights—always at the request and with the prior consent of the crime victim.

APPEARANCES IN CRIMINAL COURT PROCEEDINGS

Since the inception of the OVA in September 1999, the Victim Advocate or a member of his staff has effectively assisted many crime victims in criminal court proceedings. Often, simply attending court proceedings with the crime victim, making formal introductions to key criminal justice professionals, scheduling and attending meetings with the crime victim and criminal justice professionals, and educating victims about the criminal justice process, victim rights and victim services is enough to effectively rectify a complaint registered with the OVA. Other cases require more extensive involvement, such as the Victim Advocate filing his appearance to appear before the court to advocate for a crime victim's rights or to file a motion asking the court to address an issue relating to an alleged violation of one or more of the victim's state constitutional and/or statutory rights. On a growing number of occasions, the involvement of the Victim Advocate in court prior to the particular case being called (e.g., discussions in judge's chamber) serves to remedy issues and complaints thereby making it unnecessary for the Victim Advocate to formally file an appearance.

In one such case, having a positive outcome for the crime victims, the Victim Advocate intervened in a criminal matter in Norwalk where the mother of a minor sexual assault victim contacted the OVA because her rights to be notified of court proceedings, to attend court proceedings and to address the court prior to plea and sentencing had been violated. The mother only learned of the disposition of the case by reading an article covering the case published in the local newspaper. The court granted the Victim Advocate's request to vacate and re-do the plea and sentencing to afford the crime victim an opportunity to be heard with respect to both the plea and sentencing. In addition, the Victim Advocate convinced the court to impose upon the defendant the monetary fine to benefit sexual assault victims as statutorily required under P.A. No. 04-121.

APPEARANCES IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

The Victim Advocate has the statutory authority to file his appearance in *any* court proceeding to advocate for victims' rights. This authority, therefore, extends to civil as well as criminal proceedings.

During 2004, the Victim Advocate formally intervened in one civil proceeding to protect the rights of crime victims.

In the case of Melissa Morrow v. Jennifer Ripley and Rochelle Ripley, the Victim Advocate filed his appearance to assert the right of the named civil defendants (the

mother and grandmother of a minor crime victim) to stay a civil matter that was filed by the criminal defendant allegedly to intimidate, threaten and harass the crime victims. Pursuant to C.G.S. § 52-235e, legislation initiated by the Victim Advocate, a victim can seek to have stayed any civil action brought against him/her by the criminal defendant during the pendency of a criminal prosecution.

The criminal defendant filed a civil libel and slander action against the mother and grandmother of the minor child victim alleging that statements made by the mother and grandmother to local authorities in the reporting and investigation of the alleged criminal misconduct caused harm to the criminal defendant. The criminal defendant also sought a civil order prohibiting the mother and grandmother from further voicing their complaints to authorities.

Based upon motions and briefs filed in Hartford Superior Court, and following oral arguments before the court, the court granted the Victim Advocate's Motion for Stay of Proceedings. Further, in response to the criminal defendant's argument that the civil action could not be stayed because the grandmother was not a victim in the criminal case, the court agreed with the Victim Advocate's position that the grandparent of a minor child victim in a criminal proceeding is also a crime victim as that term is defined in the statutes (C.G.S. § 1-1k).

- VI. Ensure a centralized location for victim services information;**
- VII. Recommend changes in state policies concerning victims, including changes in the system of providing victim services;**
- VIII. Conduct programs of public education, undertake legislative advocacy, and make proposals for systemic reform.**

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

During the 2004 legislative session, the Victim Advocate submitted eighteen separate legislative proposals for the Connecticut General Assembly to consider. Among those were legislative proposals designed to improve the notification requirements to crime victims; to ensure that victims of juvenile and youthful offender crimes are not excluded from participating in the criminal justice process; to provide greater protection for the safety and well-being of crime victims; to enhance the Victim Advocate's authority to advocate on behalf of crime victims; and to improve the notification of rights and available services to crime victims. From those proposals, the Judiciary and Children's Committees raised five bills for consideration:

Raised Senate Bill No. 309, AAC Records of Youthful Offenders

Raised Senate Bill No. 310, AAC Crime Victims and Youthful Offender Proceedings

Raised Senate Bill No. 312, AAC Youthful Offender Proceedings and Victim Statements

Raised Senate Bill No. 509, AAC the Responsibilities of the Victim Advocate
Raised Senate Bill No. 512, AAC Notification to Victims of Crime

Throughout the session, the Victim Advocate worked collaboratively with representatives of the victim service organizations, state agencies, members of the general assembly and crime victims to draft, support and pass legislation that provides victims with greater protections. Although none of the OVA's proposals were enacted into law, the following proposals, supported by the Victim Advocate, were enacted to the great benefit of Connecticut crime victims:

Public Act No. 04-66, An Act Concerning Dual Arrests in Family Violence Cases.

Effective October 1, 2004, this bill addresses the problem of indiscriminate enforcement of dual arrest policies and laws in domestic violence cases by creating an exception to the requirement that law enforcement officers, at the scene, arrest anyone and everyone they suspect may have committed a family violence crime. This law should cause law enforcement officers to better discern who the perpetrator is and who the victim is to avoid doing an injustice to victims of domestic and family violence.

Public Act No. 04-121, An Act Concerning A Sexual Assault Victims Account.

This bill establishes a separate, non-lapsing sexual assault victim account in the General Fund. Beginning July 1, 2005, money in the account, including investment earnings, must be provided annually to the Department of Public Health in legislatively determined amounts to fund crisis services that are available to the state's sexual assault victims. Account funds cannot substitute for federal or state funds available for this purpose. The account is funded with a new \$151 fine on anyone convicted of, or who pleads guilty or no contest to, risk of injury to a minor or a sexual assault crime and any other moneys required by law to be deposited in it.

In addition to the above legislative proposals, the Victim Advocate supported and monitored the passage of the following proposals that were enacted into law:

- *Public Act No. 04-130, An Act Concerning Sexual Assault of Youths by Persons Standing in a Position of Power, Authority or Supervision;*
- *Public Act No. 04-139, An Act Increasing the Penalties for Enticing a Minor and Importing or Possessing Child Pornography;*
- *Public Act No. 04-188, An Act Concerning DNA Testing;*
- *Public Act No. 04-250, An Act Concerning the Administrative License Suspension of Drunken Drivers and the Pretrial Alcohol Education System.*

On March 24, 2004, the Senate adopted House Joint Resolution No. 115, *Resolution Confirming the Nomination of James Papillo, Esquire, of West Hartford to be Victim Advocate*. The resolution read as follows:

“That the nomination by His Excellency, the Governor, of James Papillo, Esquire, of West Hartford, to be Victim Advocate, to serve for a term ending August 31, 2007, or until a successor is appointed and has qualified, whichever is longer, is approved and confirmed, and he is appointed said Victim Advocate for said term.”

At the end of calendar year 2004, the Victim Advocate submitted nine separate legislative proposals for the Connecticut General Assembly to consider in the 2005 legislative session. Among those were legislative proposals designed to ensure that victims of juvenile and youthful offender crimes are not excluded from participating in the criminal justice process; to provide greater protection for the safety and well-being of crime victims; to enhance the Victim Advocate’s powers and authority to advocate on behalf of crime victims; and to improve the notification of rights and available services to crime victims.

CONFERENCE ON IDENTITY THEFT

On November 9, 2005, the Victim Advocate and State Senator Martin Looney sponsored a Conference on Identity Theft to help educate the citizens of Connecticut regarding the fastest growing and most under-reported crime in the country—Identity Theft. The focus of the conference was to provide information regarding: (1) the nature of identity theft and how it is committed; (2) how to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft; and (3) what to do if you become the victim of identity theft.

The conference was a collaborative effort among a number of agencies and included, among others, the following participants:

Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General, State of Connecticut
Kevin O’Connor, U.S. Attorney, District of Connecticut
Christopher Morano, Connecticut Chief State’s Attorney
Leonard Boyle, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Thomas Cohen, Federal Trade Commission
Patrick Bernardo, U.S. Postal Inspector
Sean Gallagher, U.S. Secret Service
Chief James Strillacci, President of the Connecticut Police Chief’s Association
Bonnie Steward, Vice President and Council, CT Business and Industry Assoc.

The conference was held at the Legislative Office Building and was well attended by law enforcement professionals and members of the general public. The event was televised live by the Connecticut Television Network (CT-N) and replayed numerous times over the course of several weeks.

At the conference the Victim Advocate released to the public a guide, “Identity Theft: A Guide for Connecticut Citizens” to help citizens of our state defend themselves against one of the most frustrating crimes to deal with. The response to this guide has

been overwhelming. A copy of the publication can be obtained by contacting the office or by visiting the OVA website.

OTHER OVA INITIATIVES/ACTIVITIES

The Victim Advocate participates on a number of legislative committees and commissions for the improvement of services to crime victims. Among those are:

- Member, Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System
- Member, Hate Crime Task Force
- Member, CT Helps Oversight Council
- Member, Advisory Commission on Wrongful Convictions
- Member of Governing Board, Criminal Justice Information System Commission
- Member, Commission to study the CT process for granting pardons and erasing criminal records
- Member, Criminal Justice Collaborative
- Member, Commission to study the treatment by the criminal justice system of crime victims having physical and/or cognitive disabilities
- Member, Advisory Panel to the VictimLaw Project, sponsored by the National Center for Victims of Crime

Other activities include:

- The Victim Advocate is a member of the planning committee for the Melanie Rieger Conference Against Violence. The OVA is a co-sponsor of the conference. The OVA, in cooperation with Survivors of Homicide, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, and Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence presented two awards at the 2004 conference for dedication and commitment to improving the delivery of services to crime victims. The recipients of the awards were State Senator Donald Williams and State Representative Michael Lawlor.
- The Victim Advocate submitted testimony and testified at several public hearings before a variety of legislative committees regarding legislative proposals.
- The Victim Advocate attended a meeting regarding reports of alleged sexual assaults and the failure of police and other state agencies to respond appropriately to such reports.
- The Victim Advocate attended the annual dinner for the Sexual Assault Crisis Service Organization in Stamford.
- The Victim Advocate met with a representative from DOIT to upgrade and network the operating system of the OVA computers.
- The Victim Advocate continued to meet and work with state officials and forensic investigators regarding the death of Joe Belliveau's son. Considerable progress made through the collaborative efforts of the Victim Advocate, the Office of the

Chief State's Attorney and the Henry Lee Institute at the University of New Haven.

- The Victim Advocate met with representatives of the General Federation of Womens' Clubs to discuss ways in which they could support and assist effort to improve services to victims.
- The Victim Advocate attended a conference entitled, "Identifying and combating Modern Day Slavery."
- The Victim Advocate was awarded the first annual "HOPE" award by Survivors of Homicide in recognition of the Victim Advocate's contributions toward promoting and protecting the rights of crime victims in Connecticut.
- The Victim Advocate attended an Identity Theft Community Awareness Seminar at the Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport.
- The Victim Advocate met with Police Chiefs from the Walden, MA and Concord, MA departments to discuss their efforts and successes in providing victim advocacy services in domestic violence cases.
- The Victim Advocate was invited to present on the topic of identity theft to an elite group of bank fraud investigators and law enforcement officials in Bridgeport, CT.
- The Victim Advocate accepted an invitation to present at the National Center for Victims of Crime's First National Conference in Washington, D.C. in June of 2005.

The Victim Advocate and members of the OVA staff attended and participated in a number of seminars, conferences and other programs of public education. Among those are:

- The Victim Advocate was a guest speaker for the Rotary Club of West Hartford.
- The Victim Advocate was invited to be the guest speaker at the 107th annual meeting for the General Federation of Women's' Clubs.
- The Victim Advocate attended the inauguration of Governor M. Jodi Rell.
- The Victim Advocate presented before the West Hartford Women's Club regarding victims' rights and the Office of the Victim Advocate.
- The Victim Advocate presented to the Women's' Club of Farmington regarding victims' rights and services.
- The Victim Advocate appeared on a local cable program hosted by State Representative Peggy Sayers to discuss identity theft.
- The Victim Advocate presented to the Northeast Conference of Granges in Cromwell, CT regarding identity theft.
- Throughout the year, the Victim Advocate conducted numerous television, radio and print media interviews in response to issues regarding victims' rights and the improvement of services to crime victims in Connecticut.

IX. Take appropriate steps to advise the public of the services of the Office of the Victim Advocate, the purposes of the office and procedures to contact the office.

The Victim Advocate makes every attempt to advise the public about victims' rights and available services in the state. Through the daily work of the OVA, victims are informed and educated about their rights and available services. Many referrals are made to those agencies that provide direct services to crime victims. Through the legislative initiatives of the Victim Advocate, the OVA has been successful in communicating identified systemic issues facing Connecticut crime victims and has proposing legislative changes to effectively address many of these issues. The Victim Advocate has had many opportunities to inform and educate the public about victims' rights and available services. Among those opportunities are the following:

Creation and Distribution of an OVA Brochure

The Victim Advocate designed a two-fold, color information brochure that highlights victims' rights, the role of the OVA, and contact information for the OVA. To date, the OVA has printed and distributed approximately 20,000 copies of the brochure.

Office of the Victim Advocate Web Site

In an effort to serve crime victims throughout the state, the Victim Advocate designed and developed an OVA website that can be accessed at the following address: <http://www.ova.state.ct.us>. The website was designed to provide the user with easy access to information about victim rights and victim rights laws (constitutional and statutory); the services provided by other state agencies and private entities of interest to crime victims; links to state and national advocacy organizations; biographical information about the Victim Advocate and his staff; and the full text of all OVA investigative reports and annual reports. The OVA receives many calls from crime victims claiming to have learned of the OVA and its services from the OVA website. The OVA also receives frequent contacts from individuals around the country, having accessed the OVA website, for general information about victims' rights and services.

However, due to limited staffing resources, the OVA has been unable to consistently maintain the website. The OVA will be researching alternatives that may include the use of outside resources to assist the OVA in the maintaining the website.

OVA BUDGET

For fiscal years 2004 (actual) and 2005 (estimated), budget details for the OVA can be found in the table presented immediately below.

	Fiscal Year 2004 (Actual)		Fiscal Year 2005 (Estimated)	
Total General Fund	\$195,350		\$227,689	
<i>Expenses:</i>				
Personal Services	\$165,628		\$197,677	
Other Expenses	\$ 29,722		\$ 29,912	
Equipment	-0-		\$ 100	
Additional Funds (Bond):	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
<u>Totals</u>	\$195,350 \$195,350		\$227,689 \$227,689	

For administrative purposes only, the OVA is in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Commission, pursuant to C.G.S. §46a-13b(b). C.G.S. §4-38f details the respective duties and responsibilities of the OVA and the FOI Commission under this relationship.¹

¹ Sec. 4-38f. "Administrative purposes only", defined. Agencies assigned to departments for administrative purposes only; agencies' powers; departments' duties. (a) An agency assigned to a department for administrative purposes only shall: (1) Exercise any quasi-judicial, rule-making or regulatory authority, licensing and policy-making functions which it may have independent of such department and without approval or control of the department; (2) prepare its budget, if any, and submit its budgetary requests through the department; and (3) hire its own personnel or enter into contracts, if authorized by law, or if the general assembly provides or authorizes the expenditure of funds therefor.

(b) The department to which an agency is assigned for administrative purposes only shall: (1) Provide record keeping, reporting, and related administrative and clerical functions for the agency to the extent deemed necessary by the department head; (2) disseminate for the agency any required notices, rules or orders adopted, amended or repealed by the agency; (3) provide staff for the agency subject to the provisions of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section; and (4) include in the departmental budget the agency's budgetary request, if any, as a separate part of said budget and exactly as prepared and submitted to the department by the agency.

CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES FOR 2005

Despite many achievements over the years by the State of Connecticut in terms of providing and expanding victims rights and victim services, far too many crime victims in our state never become aware of these rights and/or services, especially when it matters most—i.e., during the pendency of a criminal prosecution. As a result, too many of our citizens who become victimized by crime are being denied the opportunity to assert their rights or to avail themselves of services. Affording rights to crime victims, especially rights having state constitutional stature, comes with the responsibility to educate and inform citizens regarding these rights. Crime victims simply cannot assert rights or avail themselves of services they are unaware exist. A greater effort needs to be undertaken to adequately inform and educate the general public about crime victim rights and crime victim services. The Victim Advocate will work with the state legislature and others to accomplish the important goal of educating the public as to rights *and* services.

The OVA will attempt during 2005 to more specifically address several key problems/issues confronting Connecticut crime victims. First, the Victim Advocate and the Chief State's Attorney have agreed to begin exploring the feasibility of developing an automated victim notification system that will provide crime victims with timely notice of scheduled court dates. Such victim notification systems have been employed in other states with great success. If such a system can be developed and implemented in Connecticut, this would go a long way toward resolving one of the most frequent complaints reported by crime victims to the OVA.

Second, the OVA will examine ways to help make certain that the state constitutional right that crime victims have to receive financial restitution from offenders is being consistently honored and respected by the criminal justice system. Receiving restitution for financial losses sustained as a result of crime is something crime victims are not only entitled to under our state constitution but is also perceived by many crime victims as a very basic and fundamental part of attaining justice for harm caused by others.

Finally, current OVA staff and resource levels are inadequate to effectively and comprehensively accomplish all of the statutory goals of the agency. The number of crime victims who contact the OVA seeking assistance continues to grow. The OVA plays a unique and valuable role assisting crime victims as they interact with the criminal justice system. More resources are necessary for the OVA to effectively play its "watchdog" and "agency of last resort" roles for Connecticut crime victims. The Victim Advocate will push for increased funding during the 2005 legislative session.