



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Colleague:

I am proud to present the *2011 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*, developed by the Office for Victims of Crime and the National Center for Victims of Crime, to motivate and guide your planning for National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10–16, 2011.

This year's theme—*Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past*—pays tribute to the millions of crime victims over the decades who have summoned the strength to rebuild their shattered lives, families, and communities, one step at a time. Similarly, it honors the victim service community whose members have walked alongside these victims, responding to their courage with unwavering commitment and skillful guidance.

Today, our greatest challenge may be to match, if not exceed, the legacy of past achievements in service to victims. The Victims of Crime Act of 1984, the Crime Victims' Rights Act of 2004, and the many laws at federal and state levels stand as benchmarks of the first quarter century of the victim rights movement. Now, we stand at the threshold of a new era in victim services, one in which we acknowledge the challenges of serving victims of emerging crimes as well as responding to enduring crimes, such as domestic violence and sexual assault, with renewed energy and resolve. The tragic events of September 11, 2001, taught us that an entire population of victims can be created in a blinding flash. We are committed to respond to every type of victimization, from homicide to human trafficking, with the knowledge, skill, and compassion that tomorrow's crime victims will demand and deserve.

To meet the needs of the future, we must confront the changing face of crime. Millions of financial fraud victims need better tools to reclaim their resources and identities. Children living with domestic violence and youth threatened by street violence need better protection and more responsive services. Underserved victims—such as American Indians and Alaska Natives; immigrants; seniors; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or questioning victims; and victims with disabilities—all deserve understanding and support. To most effectively serve victims in the future, we must learn from past successes, foster victims' resilience, and never cease advocating for the rights of crime victims.

When you look to the future, be inspired by the accomplishments of the past. As you plan this year's events and your work in the months and years ahead, this guide should be a useful resource. The Office for Victims of Crime is privileged to serve as your partner in Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past for all victims of crime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joye E. Frost". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joye E. Frost
Acting Director