

# **ADVISORY BULLETIN**

TRANSMITTAL NO. 2017-04

**TO: ALL FUNDED PROGRAMS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**FROM: ELIZABETH CRONIN, ESQ.  
DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: CRIME SCENE CLEANUP CLAIMS**

**DATE: January 4, 2018**

Last year, OVS proposed, the Legislature approved, and the Governor signed into law a change to OVS' enacting statute related to eligibility for reimbursement of crime scene cleanup. The Governor signed this into law in July of 2017 and ***it will take effect for all claims filed on or after January 21, 2018.***

***It is crucial that our partners have, and provide the correct information to all current and potential OVS claimants.*** This change is ***not applicable*** to claims filed prior to the effective date and such pre-existing claims cannot be reopened for consideration of this new provision.

This change expands the list of enumerated, surviving family members eligible for reimbursement of crime scene cleanup when a victim/family member is killed in a shared residence. This benefit was previously limited to a surviving spouse, child or stepchild of a deceased victim. Effective for claims filed on or after January 21<sup>st</sup>, such family members will now include a grandparent, parent, stepparent, guardian, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister and grandchild.

OVS investigators will work with claimants to gather the information we need to make these new eligibility and other claim determinations. General questions related to the implementation of this change should be directed to Crime Victim Specialist II, Kathy Davidson at (518) 457-8049.

On behalf of the New York State Office of Victim Services, thank you for your commitment to providing the highest quality services to innocent victims of crime in New York State.



Elizabeth Cronin, Esq.  
Director