
THE FOLLOWING IS A BROADCAST EMAIL TO ALL OVS FUNDED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Dear Colleague:

The New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) has recently been made aware of reports by Maryland's Criminal Injuries Compensation Board that someone claiming to represent either the "Victim's Services Board" or the compensation program has been calling victims in Maryland and in a neighboring state asking for personal financial information. The affected programs have reported this to authorities and are alerting victims to be aware of this fraudulent activity.

OVS wants to take this opportunity to remind all Victim Assistance Programs, (VAPs) to work closely with their vulnerable victim populations to safeguard against potential fraud and scams around compensation applications. VAPs are reminded to notify victims of the names of advocates working at their office, as well as the Crime Victim Specialist at OVS assigned to their claim, who may contact them about an application or compensation issue. VAPs should encourage victims to call them if they have any questions or receive suspicious calls regarding claim applications submitted to OVS.

If VAPs have any questions, they are encouraged to contact their Program Monitor to discuss the issues.

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.

Sincerely,

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