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

Dear Colleague:

The New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) recently made you 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. OVS has just been notified by one of our Victim Assistance Programs (VAPs) that a client was contacted by someone claiming to work for the Washington State Compensation Program asking for personal information.

OVS wants to take this opportunity to remind you all again to work closely with your 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,

Emma Graham
Supervisor, Contract Administration
NYS Office of Victim Services
AE Smith Building
80 South Swan Street, 2nd Floor
Albany, NY 12210
Phone: (518) 485-0943
Fax: (518) 485-9294