



Office of Victim Services

OVS is partnering with the Empire Justice Center, the University at Albany's Center for Human Services Research, and Pro Bono Net to perform the comprehensive assessment and establish the Crime Victims Legal Network. This unique online tool will allow crime victims to determine the type of legal help they need and then connect them with resources to ensure their interests are represented.

The Center for Human Services is hosting focus groups across the state to discuss barriers, gaps, and civil legal needs of crime victims with the goal of further shaping the development of the online network. Each location will conduct individual focus groups: One for service providers and another for crime victims. The first of the focus groups was hosted at the Poughkeepsie Public Library on July 26. Additional focus groups –each running about 2 hours in duration –are slated for the following dates and locations:

- Wednesday, Aug. 3: Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York in Utica; noon for the service provider group and 3 p.m. for the crime victim group.
- Wednesday, Aug. 10: Nassau Suffolk Legal Services in Islandia; noon for the service provider group and 2:30 p.m. for the crime victim group.
- Thursday, Aug. 11: The Safe Center in Bethpage; noon for the service provider group and 6 p.m. for the crime victim group.
- Monday, Aug. 15: Meals on Wheels in Buffalo; 3 p.m. for the service provider group and 5 p.m. for the crime victim group.
- Tuesday, Aug. 16: Monroe County Crime Victims Resource Center in Rochester; noon for the service provider group and 2 p.m. for the crime victim group.
- Wednesday, Aug. 24: The American Legion in Watertown; 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- The Legal Project in Albany: 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 29 for the crime victim group and 10 a.m. on Tuesday Aug. 30 for the service provider group.
- Thursday, Sept. 1: The Occupational Health Clinic Center of the Southern Tier in Binghamton; 3 p.m. for the service provider group and 5:30 p.m. for the crime victim group.
- The final focus group will be held at the Clinton County Government Center in Plattsburgh, at a date to be scheduled.

Contact Dr. Susan Dietzel at sdeitzel@albany.edu for more information about the focus groups or to RSVP to attend.