

# SOVA

## Our Mission

To work closely with victim advocates, service providers and law enforcement across the state to render advocacy, support, information, referral, training and technical assistance – thereby ensuring that relevant disciplines are equipped to meet the needs of South Carolina's crime victims.



## Office Locations

### State Office of Victim Assistance

Edgar Brown Building, Room 401  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
Phone: 803.734.1900  
Fax: 803.734.1708  
Victims' Line: 1.800.220.5370 (8am - 5pm, M - F)  
<http://www.sova.sc.gov>

### Orangeburg, Calhoun & Dorchester Counties

1st Circuit  
PO BOX 2809  
Orangeburg, SC 29116  
Phone: 803.531.8149  
Fax: 803.531.1629

### Allendale, Hampton, Bamberg, Barnwell & Aiken Counties

2nd & 14th Circuits  
PO BOX 502  
Bamberg, SC 29003  
Phone: 1.803.245.4994  
Fax: 803.245.4919

### Marlboro, Dillon, Chesterfield & Darlington Counties

4th Circuit  
PO BOX 439  
Bennettsville, SC 29512  
Phone: 843.479.2021  
Fax: 843.479.2022

<http://www.sova.sc.gov>

## Outreach Victim Services

# SOVA



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
State Office of Victim Assistance

# Outreach Victim Services

In March 2001, the State Office of Victim Assistance established its first outreach office in the 4th circuit, followed by the 1st and 2nd circuit offices. In the Fall of 2003, each office was reassessed to ensure that SOVA was meeting the needs of victims. As a result, we determined that the need for SOVA assistance was growing and so the expansion of services to the 14th circuit took place in October. Outreach office locations will continuously be examined so that South Carolina Crime Victims are assured quality services in populated as well as rural parts of the state.

The inspiration behind the creation of these outreach offices was to assist victims who might otherwise “fall through the cracks” of the criminal justice system. The offices were also developed to help victim assistance professionals “bridge the gap” by breaking down barriers that may prevent us from providing comprehensive services to crime victims that are consistent in every geographical region of our state.

Each outreach office has a victim services coordinator to provide direct services to crime victims. These offices are located in the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 14th circuits.

The victim services coordinators are available to assist you as your case goes through the criminal justice system. If you would like additional information regarding how the outreach office in your circuit can help, please call the appropriate office.

# Services Provided

- ▶ Information on victims' rights and crime victims' compensation
- ▶ Assistance in filling out the crime victims' compensation application
- ▶ Crisis intervention
- ▶ Advocacy and support to crime victims
- ▶ Referral assistance
- ▶ Case management status updates
- ▶ Courtroom accompaniment (upon request)
- ▶ Assistance to law enforcement, solicitors offices, victim advocates and service providers locally and statewide
- ▶ Community awareness to include, but not limited to, education and training

Rooted in *justice*  
Guided by *law*  
Propelled by *humanity*

# South Carolina Victims' Rights

- You have the right to be treated with fairness, respect and protected from intimidation or harm throughout the criminal and juvenile justice process;
- You have the right to be informed about victims' rights, criminal proceedings and if the accused is arrested, released or escapes;
- You have the right to be heard at bond, bail, release, pleas or sentencing;
- You have the right to reasonable access to documents relating to the crime;
- You have the right to be present at criminal proceedings where the accused can be present and confer with prosecution before the case is heard in court;
- You have the right to restitution from adult or juvenile offenders;
- Violating these rights is punishable by law. (Excerpt: SC Constitution, Act I, Sec. 24)

*To find out more, call your victim advocate or the Governor's State Office of Victim Assistance.*