

# SOVA

TRAINING



The Training Team from the State Office of Victim Assistance designs each training seminar to meet the needs and answer the questions of those who will be serving victims in their community. Allow us to bring our training to the Teachers, Counselors, Staff, & Students at your school.

For more information or to schedule your training event, please contact Ethel Douglas Ford, NACP, at 803-734-1704.

**SOVA**  
An Office of the Governor



## Online Resources

Visit the SOVA website for resources designed to help you as you help students and their families who are victims of crime.



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

- Compensation application available for crime victims in English & Spanish.
- Informational brochures explaining all of SOVA's benefits & services.
- Posters & other promotional items to display for awareness.
- List of training seminars and other events across the state.
- National & Local victim resources, contact information, and web links
- Laws that govern the State Office of Victim Assistance
- Victims' Rights

South Carolina  
State Office of  
Victim Assistance

**SOVA**  
in the  
**Schools**



SOVA



SOUTH CAROLINA  
State Office of  
Victim Assistance

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

Dear Educator,

Knowledge is a powerful thing and the State Office of Victim Assistance (SOVA) wants to educate South Carolina's students and educators about ways SOVA can help. We believe that South Carolina schools see victims every day, whether the victims are the parents or the students themselves. SOVA wants each of them to know that there is help available, and that begins with you.

There are many ways that SOVA offers information to victims and those who work with them. Our website, <http://www.sova.sc.gov>, is a valuable resource for answers to the most frequently asked questions, training & event listings, as well as printable applications, brochures, posters, and other promotional items.

It is the goal of SOVA to embrace a victim-centered criminal justice system by providing compensation to victims of crime who are eligible and direct services for victims of crime. We work closely with victim service agencies and providers across the State of South Carolina, meeting the educational, training, and professional needs of Victim Advocates through our statewide Victim/Witness Assistance programs.

We are here for you. Our SOVA Training Team travels the state to train and inform those who work in public service about the many ways that SOVA can help victims of crime. If you would like to hold a training event for the teachers, parents, policy makers, and/or Education Department Staff or would like more information, please contact Ethel Douglas Ford, NACP, Senior Manager for Community Victim Services, at 803-734-1704.



It is likely, that you have children at your school who are victims or live in a household where a crime has occurred.

Some signs of physical abuse include unexplained burns, bruises, black eyes or other injuries; apparent fear of the parent or caretaker; and faded bruises or healing injuries after missing school.

Some signs of sexual abuse include difficulty walking or sitting, or other indications of injury in the genital area; sexual knowledge or behavior beyond what is normal for the child's age; and running away from home.

Some signs of emotional abuse include acting overly mature or immature for the child's age, extreme changes in behavior, delays in physical or emotional development, attempted suicide and a lack of emotional attachment to the parent.

**Statistical Resources & Information:**

SC Department of Social Services [www.state.sc.us/dss](http://www.state.sc.us/dss)

SC Law Enforcement Division [www.sled.state.sc.us](http://www.sled.state.sc.us)