



## DECEMBER 2019 NEWS

MINNESOTA ALLIANCE ON CRIME

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### from mac's executive director

Dear MAC Members and Allies,

Gratitude means thankfulness, counting our blessings, noticing simple pleasures, and acknowledging everything that we receive. It means learning to live our lives as if everything were a miracle, and being aware on a continuous basis of how much we've been given.

When we practice gratitude, we shift our focus from what our lives lack to the abundance that is already present. In addition, behavioral and psychological research has shown the surprising life improvements that can stem from the practice of gratitude. Giving thanks makes people happier and more resilient. It strengthens relationships, improves health, and reduces stress.

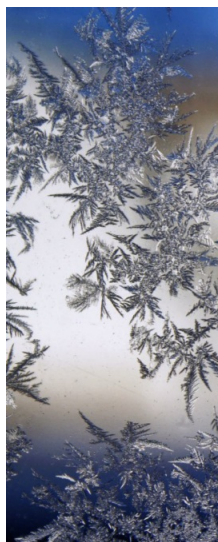
One year ago, I began keeping a gratitude journal. I take one minute at the end of the day to name three things I am grateful for. I challenged myself to not repeat the same thing or person within the month. At first it was difficult to look beyond the obvious – family, co-workers, health - but it forced me to take time to acknowledge all the ways I am blessed and all the people who add to my life in so many ways.

Each of you reading this has been counted as a blessing, to me personally, and to MAC. More importantly, you are each a blessing to the countless crime victims whose lives you all touch every day. MAC is proud and thankful to be doing this important work alongside each of you. Happy holidays to you!





No need to RSVP, just come and join us! There will be ASL interpreters on site.



Please join the Minnesota Alliance on Crime for a celebratory open house

*Cocoa, Coffee, and Cookies  
with the Coalition*

Thursday, December 19, 2019  
10 am to Noon

1 West Water Street, Suite 260  
St. Paul, Minnesota

## **National Network to End Domestic Violence Safety Net: Coalition Against Stalkerware**

NNEDV is happy to announce the founding of the Coalition Against Stalkerware. This group is made up of antivirus companies and advocacy organizations. The partnership is engaging companies to come together to design industry-wide standards and responses to stalkerware. Please see the [State of Stalkerware in 2019 report](#) and our blog post – [Making Strides to Stop Stalkerware](#).

## **Bureau of Justice Statistics: Victim Service Providers in the United States Report**

[This report](#) provides statistics from the National Census of Victim Service Providers (VSPs), the first national data collection on the number and characteristics of these organizations. The census was conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) with support from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). The report describes the types of organizations that served victims, maps their locations, and reports on the rate of VSPs per 100,000 U.S. residents by state.

## **Office for Victims of Crime: National Impaired Driving Prevention Month Resources**

In preparation for National Impaired Driving Prevention Month this December, OVC TTAC offers several resources:

- Search the [TTA Network Resource Directory](#) for current OVC-funded TTA projects.
- Take the [VAT Online](#) modules on [Impaired Driving](#) and [Victims With Substance Abuse Issues](#).
- Visit the [Victim Impact: Listen and Learn](#) download center to download the training unit on [Drunk and Impaired Driving](#).
- Download the resource paper on [Impaired Driving](#) from the [Integrating Crime Victims' Issues Into College and University Curricula](#).
- Access the recordings of these past webinars:
  - [Addressing Substance Abuse When Responding to Survivors of Human Trafficking](#),
  - [Serving Victims of Impaired Driving and DUI Crashes](#), and
  - [Addressing Substance Use Disorders Among Human Trafficking Survivors](#).
- Visit the [Human Trafficking Task Force e-Guide](#) section on supporting victims with [Substance Abuse Needs](#).
- Search [VictimLaw](#) to find laws related to impaired driving.

## **Federal Bureau of Investigation: Hate Crime Statistics 2018**

On April 23, 1990, Congress passed the Hate Crime Statistics Act, 28 U.S.C. § 534, which required the Attorney General to collect data "about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity." [Read the 2018 report](#).

## **Center for Victim Research: Screening and Assessment Tools**

CVR has added a [new screening and assessment tools collection](#), which features tools that practitioners can use in a variety of settings with potential victims to identify the presence or risk of victimization. Entries in this collection include links to the tools and clear information about their purpose, administration, availability, and other details to help choose the right instruments.

## **Protecting Immigrant Families: Know Your Rights**

The Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF) Campaign is dedicated to providing community-facing materials on public charge to better equip immigrants with what they need to know to make the best decision for themselves and for their families. [Public Charge: Does this apply to me? | You Have Rights – Protect Your Health | Should I Keep My Kids Enrolled in Health & Nutrition Programs? | 10 Facts About Access to Health Insurance for Immigrants and Their Families](#). More materials for service providers and advocates can be found at our [Special Resources Page](#).

## **Funding Alert: OVW Disability Grant Program**

The Office on Violence Against Women's 2020 Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities Grant Program (Disability Grant Program) is currently accepting applications for communities looking to increase the safety and accessibility of their services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking with disabilities. Applications are due on January 16, 2020.

[Review the solicitation](#).

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## **Office for Victims of Crime: Fraud Alert - Scammers Claiming to Be With OVC**

[The Office for Victims of Crime](#) (OVC) has received multiple reports that our office's name is being used as part of an impostor scam targeting individuals throughout the country. OVC is not making these phone calls.

These scammers falsely represent themselves as OVC employees and attempt to obtain personal information from the call recipient, such as a social security number, or will ask for money by suggesting the person's social security number has been compromised. The scammers may call from a local number and provide a "case number," but it is all a fraud.

We encourage the public to remain vigilant and do not provide personal information during calls in which someone claims to be from OVC or the "OVC Fraud Prevention Unit." OVC has no such unit.

We also encourage those who have received one of these calls to report this information to us through the OVC Resource Center at the National Criminal Justice Reference Service by [email](#) or by phone at 800-851-3420. Individuals may also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission [online](#) or by calling 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357).

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## **Minnesota Office of Justice Programs Crime Victim Justice Unit: Updated *Cameras in the Courtroom - Considerations for Victim Service Professionals* Brief**

[Rule 4 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice](#) governs visual and audio recordings in the courtroom. Under this rule, which went into effect in 2018 after a long history of experimental pilot projects, recognized media outlets can record proceedings in a limited way after first being granted access by the trial judge.



It is expected that requests to record court proceedings will become more common in the future, and advocacy organizations and criminal justice agencies need to be prepared by having protocols and procedures in place. This brief provides background information on Rule 4, reviews its key aspects, and identifies common issues for victim service professionals to consider as they prepare for requests for visual and audio coverage in their cases.

[Click here to download the brief.](#)

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## **State Court Administrators' Office: HRO Data Pass Project**

The Minnesota State Court Administrator's Office is excited to share that the Harassment Restraining Order (HRO) Data Pass Project at the Minnesota Judicial Branch is approaching completion. The Minnesota Judicial Branch will soon electronically pass HRO data and a copy of the judge's signed order to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). The data pass will result in law enforcement being able to access to HRO information in Hot Files to assist with serving and enforcing active orders. [We've created a document that provides additional information about this change.](#) Please share this information with your colleagues.

The HRO data pass will go live in the Second Judicial District (Ramsey County) and Sixth Judicial District (Carlton, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties) the afternoon of Thursday, December 5, 2019. The rest of the state will go live on Thursday, December 12, 2019.

This project prompted changes to several statewide court forms including the Petitioner's Instructions for Filing an HRO (HAR101) and the Petition for Harassment Restraining Order (HAR102). To help facilitate the data pass, it's important that petitioners and advocates begin using these new forms. Updated forms can be found [here](#). The Minnesota Judicial Branch is grateful for the feedback provided by advocates across the state as we began reviewing these forms over a year ago.

If you have questions about the HRO Data Pass Project, feel free to contact Melia Garza at [melia.garza@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:melia.garza@courts.state.mn.us).

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[The Minnesota Elder Justice Center](#) is excited to announce a \$375,000 grant award from the Department of Justice's Office on Victims of Crime (OVC) to develop and enhance multi-disciplinary



# MINNESOTA ELDER JUSTICE CENTER

teams (MDTs) for older victims of abuse and financial exploitation in four Minnesota communities. MDTs focusing on elder or vulnerable adult abuse typically involve professionals from law enforcement, prosecution, adult protection services, local advocacy programs and others who meet to collectively address elder justice issues in their community. The MDTs included in this grant award include Becker County, Olmsted County, Cass/Clay County in Fargo/Moorhead, and White Earth Nation.

The OVC funding will allow MEJC to work with these four community MDTs to obtain advanced training, enhance MDT coordination and expertise in collaboration with MEJC, as well as access the OVC's new national technical assistance center. Shelly Carlson, who previously served as MEJC's criminal justice systems manager, will now serve as the MDT Project Coordinator, managing the work of this new grant.

Thirteen agencies across the United States were awarded funding under this grant. The work with MEJC and partner communities will begin this month and continue through September 2022. If you have questions about this project, please contact [Shelly Carlson](#).

**MAC wants to highlight your organization's amazing work! To spotlight your agency in our monthly newsletter, please email [Danielle Kluz](#).**

## upcoming trainings & webinars

Please join the Minnesota Alliance on Crime for a FREE webinar:

### Protecting Workers from Exploitation and Trafficking Using the New Wage Theft Law

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 from noon to 1:00 pm

Presented by Siv Dobrovolny, Standpoint &  
Sara Ellstra, Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry

In May 2019, the Legislature passed a new Minnesota Wage Theft Prevention Act to create additional protections for workers, including adding criminal penalties for employers that commit wage theft, which occurs when employers do not pay their workers what is owed them for the work they have performed.

Sara Ellstra will discuss the new [wage theft law](#) and how this law enhances enforcement of Minnesota labor laws. Siv Dobrovolny will use hypothetical examples to explore the differences between labor exploitation and labor trafficking and explain how the [wage theft statute](#) can result in increased identification of each. Collaboration at the municipal, state, and federal levels to support workers will also be discussed.

**Sara Ellstra** is the state program administrative director for the [Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's Labor Standards Unit](#). The Labor Standards Unit does enforcement and compliance work in the areas of minimum wage, overtime, child labor, and pregnancy accommodation and leave, and the new Wage Theft Prevention Act. Sara has been with the Department for 12 years, working first as a Labor Investigator Senior in the Labor Standards Unit before moving into her current position in late 2010. Prior to starting work at the Department, Sara graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School where she studied labor and employment law.

**Siv Dobrovolny**, youth labor trafficking project attorney at [Standpoint](#), provides direct representation to victim survivors of labor trafficking. She frequently collaborates with labor union representatives, worker's rights groups, advocates, and law enforcement to identify and address victim survivors' legal needs. In her position at Standpoint, she formed and trained a pro bono network of attorneys to represent trafficking survivors in their T visa applications before the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in addition to creating a manual to provide technical assistance.

**Register today**

# fundamentals in victim services training

a two-day training for crime victim  
advocates

january 9-10, 2020

dakota lodge, west st. paul, mn

minnesota alliance on crime



**Only 15 spots left. Register today!**

## what is this training about?

A two-day advocacy training for victim advocates to develop core advocacy knowledge and skills to provide victim-centered services. This training will cover:

- The role and importance of the advocate (both community-based and system-based);
- Working in collaboration with other criminal justice professionals;
- Crime victims' rights;
- Systems change advocacy;
- Understanding bias, privilege, and oppression;
- Occupational identity;
- And MORE.

The training will feature interactive modules to appeal to different styles of learning, with a combination of lecture, small group work, and games.

## featured trainers



**Julie Richards**  
Inquire, Decipher, Progress



**Kelly Nicholson**  
Dakota County Attorney's Office



**Johnanna Ganz**  
Johnanna Ganz Consulting

## who should attend?

The primary audience for this training is prosecution-based victim/witness advocates who have been working in the field for less than one year. Community-based advocates from general crime, domestic violence, and sexual assault programs are also very welcome to attend, as well as advocates with more experience who would like a refresher training to strengthen their understanding of core advocacy. Others involved in the criminal justice system such as prosecutors, legal aid attorneys, and law enforcement may attend as well.

**This training is FREE for all MAC members and includes generous travel reimbursement for members who qualify. Non-members are also welcome to attend.**

**Not a MAC member yet? [It's easy to join!](#)**

**[Click here for more info & to register](#)**

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## Other Trainings, Webinars, and Conferences

**Raped, Then Jailed: The Risks of Prosecution for Falsely Reporting Sexual Assault** Sponsored by End Violence Against Women International  
**Webinar | December 4, 2019 | Noon to 1:30 pm**

Sexual assault victims have often faced sources of bias, based on unjustified suspicions that their report is a false allegation. This webinar focuses on the scenario where victims summon the courage

to report a sexual assault, only to be disbelieved, mistreated, and later charged (often erroneously) with false reporting or associated crimes such as obstruction of justice, interfering with law enforcement, or providing false statements. [Learn more.](#)

**Now What? Moving Forward With Your Vicarious Trauma Action Plan**  
**Sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center**  
**Webinar | December 6, 2019 | 11:00 am to 12:00 pm**

This webinar will provide information on using your VT-ORG results to create a realistic action plan that identifies specific tasks, persons responsible for those tasks, time frames for completion, and a process for monitoring progress. You will also begin to navigate and explore the VTT's selection of resources to support your organizational efforts to address the needs of your staff. [Learn more.](#)

**Blueprint to Ending Poverty**

**Sponsored by the Hamline University Center for Justice and Law**

**In Person | December 6, 2019 | 12:30 to 4:00 pm | Hamline University Anderson Center, St. Paul**  
**\$25-\$90**

How we can end poverty in the Twin Cities? In 2009, Minnesota Legislature Commission to End Poverty created a report with a pathway to end poverty in Minnesota by 2020. What has worked? What hasn't? What do we need to do next? We will examine poverty from the perspective of courts, nonprofit organizations, corrections, and personal experience. [Learn more.](#)

**Keeping Faith: Empowering the Faith Community to Recognize and Respond to Child Abuse**

**Sponsored by the Zero Abuse Project**

**In Person | December 9-10, 2019 | Jacob Wetterling Resource Center, Minneapolis**  
**Registration: \$125**

This course empowers faith communities to recognize and respond to cases of sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect. Included are discussions detailing the impact of child abuse on a victim's sense of spirituality and offering concrete suggestions for working with medical and mental health professionals to assist a child in coping with maltreatment. The course also discusses ideal child protection policies for a faith-based institution, including handling a situation in which a convicted sex offender seeks to join a congregation. [Learn more.](#)

**Removing Barriers for Survivors with Disabilities Seeking Protection Orders**

**Sponsored by the Vera Center on Victimization and Safety**

**Webinar | December 17, 2019 | 1:00 to 2:30 pm**

People with disabilities are more likely to experience domestic and sexual violence and therefore more likely to need a protection order. To provide effective assistance in protection order cases, advocates and attorneys must identify and take into account any disability a client may have and the barriers that may arise. Practitioners need to foresee the barriers, recognize them, and eliminate them, to ensure an accessible protection order process for survivors with disabilities. [Learn more.](#)

**Human Trafficking in Minnesota- Safe Harbor Systems Moving Forward Conference**

**Sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota Department of Health, The Enitan Story, and the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center**

**In Person | February 11-12, 2020 | Breezy Point Resort, Breezy Point, MN**  
**\$60 for both days, lodging is an additional fee**

The Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center are co-sponsoring a multidisciplinary conference in central Minnesota. See the [Save the Date](#) and [conference website](#) for more details. Keynote plenary session include Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, race and intersectionality in the Safe Harbor movement, and survivor leadership. [Apply online](#) by December 31 for a scholarship to attend. You can [request free space](#) for exhibit booths, marketplace for survivor wares, and an art gallery. Please request by December 31. Conference registration and lodging available soon. Contact [Sarah.Ladd@state.mn.us](mailto:Sarah.Ladd@state.mn.us) for more information.

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upcoming events

# Twin Cities Scam Jam

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

## Earle Brown Heritage Center

Brooklyn Center, Minnesota  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**8:00 a.m.** Doors open  
and breakfast is  
served. Enjoy!



**8:00-9:00 a.m. and  
during a mid-  
morning break,** visit  
with helpful reps  
from a variety of local  
organizations at our  
Resource Expo.

**9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon,**  
hear from fraud  
experts in a series of  
presentations about  
the latest scams,  
identity theft, staying  
safe online and more.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register for this great and FREE AARP event. (And come visit MAC at our table!)

## Let MAC help your organization get the word out about your training or event!

If you have a training or event to submit for inclusion in the MAC newsletter, please email the following to Danielle Kluz at [danielle@mnallianceoncrime.org](mailto:danielle@mnallianceoncrime.org):

- Training/event title
- Sponsoring agency/organization
- Date and time
- Location
- Names of trainers/presenters
- Cost
- Brief description of training/event
- More info/how to register (web link preferred, will accept attachments)

Please send by the 28th of the month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter.

## employment opportunities

[Check out the latest victim service employment opportunities in Minnesota.](#)

If you have job postings you would like us to include in our monthly newsletter, please include the following information and email to Danielle Kluz at [danielle@mnallianceoncrime.org](mailto:danielle@mnallianceoncrime.org) by the 28th of each month. **If you have posted the position to the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits' website, you do not need to email it to us as we check their listings daily.**

- Location
- Job title
- Organization name
- Link to organization's website
- Link to the job posting
- Closing date

## contact us

As always, if you have any suggestions for MAC, we welcome your input!



Bobbi Holtberg, Executive Director  
[bobbi@mnallianceoncrime.org](mailto:bobbi@mnallianceoncrime.org)

Danielle Kluz, Training and Engagement Program Manager  
[danielle@mnallianceoncrime.org](mailto:danielle@mnallianceoncrime.org)

Amea Krogfus, Operations Program Manager  
[amea@mnallianceoncrime.org](mailto:amea@mnallianceoncrime.org)

Julia Tindell, Training and Special Projects Program Manager  
[julia@mnallianceoncrime.org](mailto:julia@mnallianceoncrime.org)

612-940-8090 | 866-940-8090  
[www.mnallianceoncrime.org](http://www.mnallianceoncrime.org)

## about the minnesota alliance on crime

The Minnesota Alliance on Crime connects systems, service providers, and victims to advance the response for victims of all crime. MAC is a membership coalition of more than 90 crime victim service providers in Minnesota, including prosecution-based victim/witness programs, community programs, law enforcement agencies, and individuals committed to supporting crime victims. We support our membership through training, technical assistance, resources, public policy and legislative initiatives, and networking opportunities.

For more information about MAC, go to [www.mnallianceoncrime.org](http://www.mnallianceoncrime.org).

To join our coalition of crime victim service programs, [click here](#).



## IT'S TIME FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION TO JOIN THE MINNESOTA ALLIANCE ON CRIME

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Member benefits include free  
training & technical  
assistance, travel benefits,  
networking, resources  
and more.