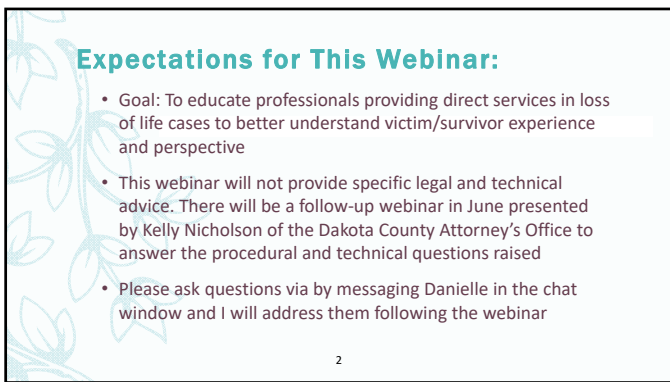


**Working with
Victims/Survivors
In Loss of Life
Cases**

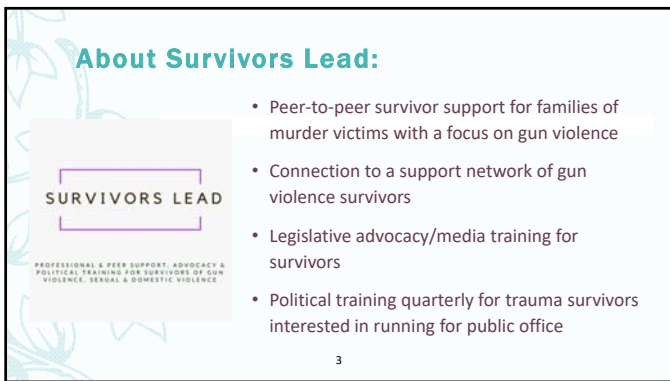
April 9, 2018
Rachael Joseph, Survivors Lead



Expectations for This Webinar:

- Goal: To educate professionals providing direct services in loss of life cases to better understand victim/survivor experience and perspective
- This webinar will not provide specific legal and technical advice. There will be a follow-up webinar in June presented by Kelly Nicholson of the Dakota County Attorney's Office to answer the procedural and technical questions raised
- Please ask questions via by messaging Danielle in the chat window and I will address them following the webinar

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About Survivors Lead:

SURVIVORS LEAD

PROFESSIONAL & PEER SUPPORT, ADVOCACY & POLITICAL TRAINING FOR SURVIVORS OF GUN VIOLENCE, SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Peer-to-peer survivor support for families of murder victims with a focus on gun violence
- Connection to a support network of gun violence survivors
- Legislative advocacy/media training for survivors
- Political training quarterly for trauma survivors interested in running for public office

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Grieving Process in Murder Cases:

- Doesn't follow the "stages of grief" (no closure)
- Rapid shifts: How to react if you are a target of the family's anger stage
- Recognize your own vicarious trauma and practice self-care

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What Would Have Been Helpful for My Family During the Trial Experience:

- Media advocacy training
- Character witnesses for Shelley
- Minimize interaction between victim’s family and perpetrator’s family in court and elsewhere
- Have multiple cell phones/pagers to designate multiple points of contact for large families or difficult family dynamics, divorced families

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Victims’ Rights:

- Critical for advocates to know all the rights afforded in statute to the family of victims
- Which rights are automatic and which are “opt-in”
- OJP’s Minnesota Crime Victims’ Rights Guide: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/forms-documents/Documents/Victim%20Rights%20Reference%20Guide.pdf>

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Victims’ Rights:

- Minnesota has differing definitions of “victim” in Minnesota Statute, Reparations, Parole Review, etc. **Important to know them all.**
- For the purposes of sections Minn. Stat 611A.01 to 611A.06: **The term “victim” includes the family members, guardian, or custodian of a minor, incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased person.** In a case where the prosecutor finds that the number of family members makes it impracticable to accord all of the family members the rights described in sections 611A.02 to 611A.0395, the prosecutor shall establish a reasonable procedure to give effect to those rights.

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Preparing the Family for Difficult Moments:

- Educate hospital staff
- Does the family need to be present for every second of trial?

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Victim's Property:

- Explain when the victim's property will be returned and when
- Expedite this process, if possible
- Is there anything that cannot or will not be returned?
- My personal experience making data/property requests 14 years later to be used in advocacy

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Media:

- What can be done in high publicity cases to protect victim family's privacy?
- Speak with judge:
 - Can family use rear exit/entrance?
 - Can the Court assign security or point person to run interference with media?

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Media:

- Talk to the family about their wishes:
 - Press conference? Interviews?
 - Do they want to speak with the media?
 - No media contact?
- Honor the family's wishes:
 - Connect them with survivor advocates, if needed, to prepare statements/talking points and outline the importance of keeping certain information confidential to avoid jeopardizing a conviction

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Security in the Courtroom:

- Know the security options in your local courthouse
- Build relationships with security to protect family and their safety
- Know and advocate for the family's wishes
- Family feeling safe is top priority

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Grand Jury Process:

- Make sure you outline to the family how this will look, particularly in cases of police violence
- Survivors Lead resource

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Victim Impact Statements:

- Understand how they work in your jurisdiction—Are they filed with the court? Will defense get a copy?
- Can be re-traumatizing for some to speak in front of perpetrator
- Find out what's possible to utilize for a victim impact statement and speak with judge

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Post-Conviction Resources:

- MN VINE: Release info for county jails
- MN Choice: Release info for Dept. of Corrections facilities
- Remember that the above are “opt-in,” so family should register



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Crime Victim Reparations Benefits:

- Know the eligibility requirements—who can apply, what they can apply for, maximum amounts awarded/award caps, etc.
- Understand application deadlines
- Explain benefits to the entire family
- Assist family with applying (trauma fog)
- Assistance with appealing a decision by the Reparations Board

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Resources for Families:

Parents of Murdered Children

Monthly support meetings.
Chapters in Twin Cities, Rochester, and Rockville
www.pomc.com/chapters.html

Mothers Against Drunk Driving Minnesota

Victim advocacy, victim impact panels
Offices in St. Paul but provide statewide services
651-523-0802
www.madd.org/minnesota

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Resources for Families:

Survivor Resources

Advocacy, support groups
Offices in St. Paul but also support groups in St. Louis Park and Forest Lake
651-266-5674
www.survivorresources.org

Survivors Lead

Peer support and media advocacy
612-710-1160
www.survivorslead.com

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Office of Justice Program Resources:

- [Victim Impact Statements](#) (Brief for advocates)
- [Post Conviction Checklist](#)
- [Cameras in the Courtroom](#) (Brief for advocates)
- [Handbook for Victim Service Providers](#) (Reparations guide)
- [Can I Attend the Court Proceeding? Access to Minnesota Courts by Victims, Advocates, and Family](#)
- [Expungement and Victims](#) (for victims)

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Save the Date:

Wednesday, June 6, 2018 from Noon to 1:00 pm

Working with Victims/Survivors in Loss of Life Cases II: An Advocate's Perspective, a webinar presented by Kelly Nicholson, Dakota County Attorney's Office

Registration coming soon.

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Question and Answer

Please message Danielle in the chat box with questions and comments.

There will be slight lag time from your sending the message and receipt.

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Contact Me:

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