



OREGON CRIME VICTIMS LAW CENTER NEWSLETTER



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A Message from the Executive Director

ROSEMARY BREWER

While 2020 has certainly been a challenging year, OCVLC has maintained its commitment to ensuring Oregon's victims are able to have their voices heard in the justice system. When the stay-at-home orders went into place in March, OCVLC's attorneys and advocate shifted to working remotely. While the transition has not always been completely smooth, we have been fortunate in that technology has allowed us to maintain close communication with our clients and the courts, and our work for victims was not interrupted. Our advocate has continued to be there for victims, providing support and resources to those who need them. Our attorneys are continuing to represent victims, appearing in court by phone, video conference, or in person to ensure that victims' rights are being enforced. We have appeared on behalf of victims in parole board hearings, in contested restraining order hearings, and in hearings involving victims' rights around the state. We have worked with other community-based providers to ensure that victims have access to the services that they need, and we are regularly communicating with courts and other organizations to stay updated on the latest procedures to follow. We have learned that by staying flexible yet committed to our mission we are able to provide a consistent level of service to our clients, and the need for our work has not diminished. While we look forward to the day when we are all meeting in person again, until then we will continue to be adaptable, persistent, and optimistic about the future!

Introducing OCVLC's Newest Staff Members

Vicky Radenkova



Vicky Radenkova is a staff attorney with the Oregon Crime Victims Law Center. She represents clients in contested restraining order cases and helps victims of crime assert their constitutional rights. Prior to joining OCVLC, Vicky worked in a small civil litigation firm representing insurers and employers in workers compensation cases.

During law school, Vicky gained valuable trial experience as a court certified law student with the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office where she prosecuted violations of restraining orders and other misdemeanor cases. Vicky also worked as a clerk for the Department of Justice, Child Advocacy Section, and assisted in juvenile dependency cases.

Prior to attending law school, Vicky worked for the Family Law Department at Multnomah County Circuit Court, assisting self-represented litigants seeking protective orders and dissolution petitions. Vicky received her JD from Lewis and Clark Law School and her BA in International Affairs with a minor in Russian Language and Literature from Lewis and Clark College.

Donna Botticelli

Donna Botticelli is a victim advocate with Oregon Crime Victims Law Center. Donna started advocating at The Gateway Center as a Domestic Violence Navigator in 2016 as a student at Portland State University. There, Donna assisted survivors in obtaining restraining orders and filing police reports. She also helped survivors access services such as legal support, housing assistance, counseling, and DHS services. After graduating, Donna worked for the YWCA's Yolanda Project as a domestic violence Housing Specialist at Gateway. Donna advocated for survivors housing rights in landlord/tenant mediations, preventing/assisting in evictions, and helped short term rental assistance for survivors.

After shifting to the Emergency DV Advocate Program, Donna assisted survivors in the facilitation of emergency transfers within the Portland Housing Authority, Home Forward. Donna advocated and asserted survivors' VAWA housing rights according to HUD guidelines.

Donna continues her advocacy for victims' rights at OCVLC by providing support, guidance and resources, as well as assisting with police reports, the Address Confidentiality Program, and Crime Victims Compensation. Donna graduated 2016 from Portland State University with a BA in Criminology/Criminal Justice.



Tirzah Matthews

Tirzah Mathews is a staff attorney working in OCVLC's Bend office. Tirzah graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and California Western Law School. She has worked as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children and with the Domestic Violence Prevention Project in California assisting victims with their temporary restraining orders. After law school, Tirzah worked in Nevada as a public defender, representing both adults and juvenile clients throughout their criminal and delinquency cases. She then worked in a child advocacy position in rural Nevada and represented children in dependency, termination of parental rights, guardianship, custody, and criminal cases. Tirzah later was appointed to a deputy attorney general position for Nevada and represented the Division of Child and Family Services. She has also worked as a prosecutor in the Nevada Attorney General's financial fraud unit. Tirzah is Oregon Child Forensic Interview Trained and has experience as a forensic interviewer with KIDS Center in Bend. She will be handling victims' rights cases as well as contested restraining order hearings in Central Oregon.



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Advocacy During the Covid-19 Pandemic

BY DONNA BOTTICELLI

Covid-19 has had impacts in every community in Oregon, which have created challenges for advocates working with domestic and sexual violence survivors. With mandatory stay-at-home orders in place, many service providers were forced to shut their doors to in person support. Organizations quickly shifted to providing services remotely, but the transition has not been without challenges. As an advocate at OCVLC, working remotely hasn't been ideal, but the advocacy and support we provide has continued even though the method of providing services has had to change. Currently OCVLC is providing advocacy through phone and videoconferencing, and we are working with other organizations throughout the state to try to provide the most effective services to victims as we can.

Victims in the Portland area have also been dealing with a lack of law enforcement availability. Due to limited staffing and the large number of officers needed to cope with the ongoing protests in Portland, victims have reported to us that law enforcement is not responding to calls regarding violations of restraining orders. Regardless of whether officers are responding, it is important for victims to continue calling police when these violations occur. If a victim you are working with is having difficulty getting police to respond to violations, please refer them to us and we will try to help.

OCVLC is committed to providing victims with support and advocacy throughout this challenging time and we welcome calls and referrals!

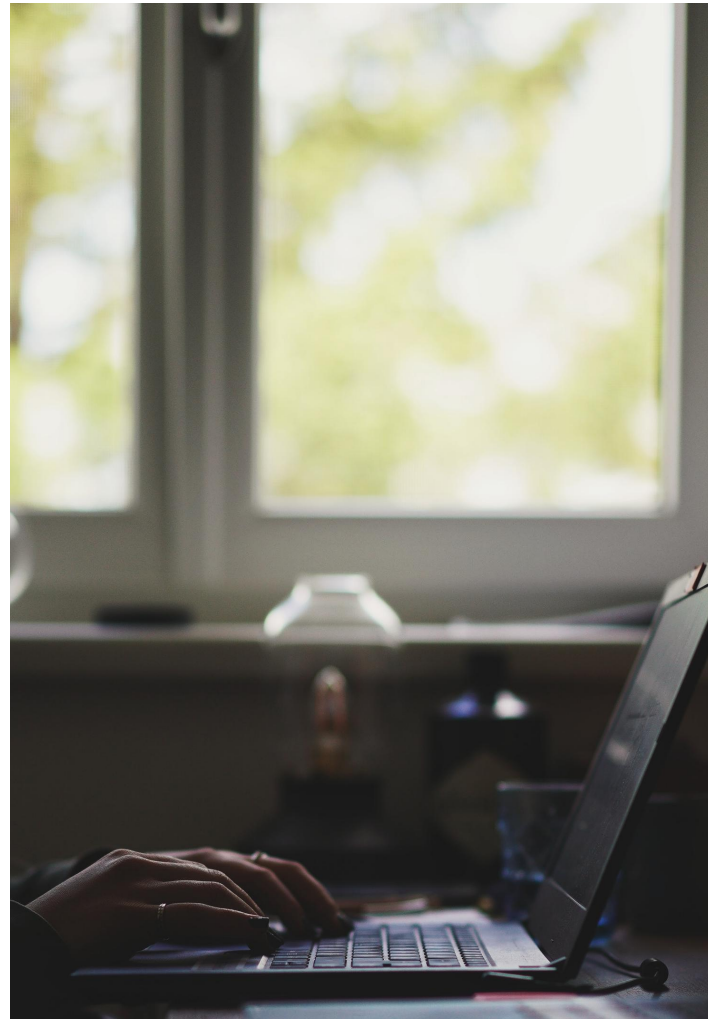


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Communicating with Clients During COVID

BY YAZMIN WADIA



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Since March we have become increasingly familiar with our “new normal,” whether in reference to social distancing, wearing masks, or working remotely. One major change during these times is the extended use of telephonic meetings and video conferencing.

Regardless of your platform of choice, whether it be Zoom, Webex, Google Hangouts, Skype, BlueJeans, or GoToMeeting, attorneys and advocates have seen an increased use of video conferencing tools to connect with crime victims. While such platforms provide important face-to-face interaction, it may not be the best way to connect with that victim. We need to consider the safety of the victim in scheduling appointments. For example, even if a domestic violence survivor has fled the family home, it still may not be safe for them to discuss the details of the abuse in their new living situation or with their children nearby. It's a good idea to connect via text message or email before the meeting to ensure that the scheduled time still works; for many, daily routines and schedules are no longer possible.

While many may have the capabilities to connect via video conference, some may experience difficulties due to connectivity issues, technological constraints, or safety concerns. In a 2017 study by the National Center for Education Statistics, 13% of Oregonians do not have internet access at home (this figure does not include those experiencing houselessness or housing instability). Understanding the limitations that many victims may face, attorneys and advocates should think creatively to maintain the safety of all individuals while effectively communicating with the victim. Coordinating time to speak with the victim over the phone or utilizing a low traffic area where individuals are able to wear masks and speak in person are viable options to communication.

Even though attorneys and advocates are forced to adjust to limited in person contact with victims, the need to best serve victims during the pandemic has resulted in creative solutions to communicate and collaborate. For many, the use of encrypted data drop boxes or cloud accounts to share files between individuals has increased, as has the utilization of phone applications to convert photographs to PDFs since some may not have access to printers. The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) has created DocuSAFE Documentation and Evidence Collection App to assist victims in collecting, storing, and sharing photos and other electronic evidence needed for their court cases or their own personal records. More information about DocuSAFE and how to use it can be found at www.techsafety.org/docusafe

Rabble for Representation

FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING
OREGON CRIME VICTIMS LAW CENTER

OCVLC HAS HELPED MORE THAN A
THOUSAND VICTIMS OF CRIME IN THE
LAST TEN YEARS.

HELP US CONTINUE TO SERVE THE
MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR STATE BY
PURCHASING A RAFFLE TICKET TODAY!

PRIZES INCLUDE:

- 1 WEEK STAY AT BAXTER'S RETREAT
AT THE OREGON COAST
- 2 NIGHTS AT LENNE WINERY
SECRET HIDEAWAY
- 2 MAGNUMS OF BERGSTROM WINE
- OTHER FABULOUS PRIZES!

JOIN US VIRTUALLY ON OCTOBER 28, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BUY
TICKETS, VISIT:

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/Y49Y5BZW](https://tinyurl.com/Y49Y5BZW)

A Look Back: Some of OCVLC'S Recent Work

BY EMILY LABRECQUE

The Oregon Crime Victims Law Center recently represented the family of a murder victim at a hearing before the Oregon Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision. The victim was murdered by the defendant in 1978 after kidnapping and sexually assaulting her. The victim survived long enough to give a description of her attacker. The defendant was convicted and is serving a life sentence in the Department of Corrections.

At issue for this hearing was ensuring that the victim's family members were able to exercise their right to be heard given the restrictions in place due to COVID. The Board of Parole arranged for the family members to be able to participate in the hearing via video conference, as did an OCVLC attorney and an assistant district attorney from the county of conviction. The defendant appeared via video from a DOC facility, failed to show any remorse for his actions, and substantially revised his version of events. An OCVLC attorney argued against release on behalf of the family. The defendant's release date was deferred for a period of eight years.

OCVLC represented the family of the murder victim in *State v. Kaliq Mansor*. The case was initially tried in 2012 and Mansor was convicted on multiple charges, including murder by abuse felony murder for the killing of his infant child. In 2018 the Oregon Supreme Court overturned the conviction, citing concerns with a search warrant executed on the defendant's computer. OCVLC represented the family throughout the second prosecution of the case, helping to foster a productive relationship with the district attorney's office and ensuring that the family's rights were upheld. OCVLC represented the family at multiple settlement hearings, and made sure that despite the restrictions in place due to COVID the family was able to be present in person when Mansor pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the first degree, assault in the first degree, and criminal mistreatment in the second degree, and to be heard when at sentencing.

OCVLC provided representation to a victim in a contested EPPDAPA restraining order. Due to the victim's vulnerability it was safest for the victim to call in to the hearing rather than appear in person. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, the victim was unable to be reached the day of the hearing. OCVLC was able to get the matter rescheduled because of the inability to reach the victim. At the rescheduled contested hearing, in which all parties appeared telephonically, the court found in favor of the victim, upholding the restraining order.

OCVLC represented a mother of three at her contested restraining order hearing after the victim's husband continuously subjected her to physical and verbal abuse, often in front of the children. Because the hearing was held during the pandemic, all parties and witnesses appeared via telephone, which meant the only way for the OCVLC attorney and the victim to communicate during the hearing was via text messages. Presentation of the evidence was also impacted as all exhibits had to be in electronic format and emailed to the court prior to the hearing. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 restrictions, OCVLC was still able to provide representation to the victim and the order was upheld.