

South Carolina Crime Victim Services

Purpose: *To consolidate, co-locate, and coordinate multiple victims-related agencies to better serve victims in South Carolina.*

Attorney General to appoint Director of Crime Victim Services to oversee four functions:

Victim Compensation	Victim Assistance Grants	Victim Services Provider Training & Certification / Statistical Analysis & Research	Crime Victim Ombudsman
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently administered by SOVA under DOA.• Continue to administer the Victims' Compensation fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently administered by DPS.• Continue serving as the administrating agency for federal justice victims grant funds, VOCA, VAWA, and the state SVAP funding and retain Public Safety Coordinating Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently administered by CVO & SOVA under DOA.• Continue to provide oversight, training, and certification of victim service providers.• Initiate strategic planning & research to ensure adequate and quality services for victims.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently administered by CVO under DOA.• Continue to serve as a liaison between crime victims and the criminal justice community, and investigate and respond to allegations of victims' rights violations.

No Fiscal Impact – Affects approximately 55 employees – Requires legislation – Targeted start date of July 1, 2017.
Executive Order issued to establish Transition Team to develop plan for transitioning the administration of agencies and employees.

Would make SC the 27th state to combine victims' compensation with victims assistance grants and the 9th state where the Attorney General oversees crime victims' services.

Proposed following Recommendation 42 of Domestic Violence Task Force; Also proposed by DOA's Restructuring Report in 2015;
Consolidation also proposed by Legislative Audit Council Reports in 1999 and 2007 and a follow-up audit in 2009.

Most significant reform affecting crime victims since the Victims' Bill of Rights was added to the State Constitution in 1998.

Key: SOVA (State Office of Victim Assistance); CVO (Crime Victim Ombudsman); DOA (Department of Administration); DPS (Department of Public Safety)