



Greetings Educational Programming Partner:

As you are fully aware, our communities are experiencing unprecedented times that have influenced the way we “typically do business.” Knowing most schools/organizations have transitioned to virtual learning and/or have cancelled meetings for the foreseeable future, I am writing to share The Victim Center has postponed all community-based presentations, in-person meetings, and educational seminars this spring.

We will continue to monitor this situation and guidance provided by our city, state, and national leadership/health experts. The hope would be to resume presentations/in-person meetings/educational seminars this summer (pending guidance/mandates provided).

Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or our 24-hr crisis response line if you have questions about scheduling for summer, fall scheduling, or if our staff can be of assistance to you, your school/organization/business or another community member. We are here and available to assist.

The following message was sent to all partner-agencies and collaborators:

NOTICE

The Victim Center’s Coronavirus Response and Service Adjustments Effective 03/20/2020 through 04/05/2020

In response to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation and growing concerns for the health of our clients, volunteers, and staff, The Victim Center has made the following adjustments to our services:

- Crisis response and advocacy services will be limited to phone-based support only; Victims and collaborating partners can continue to reach Victim Advocates 24/7 through our crisis response line 417-864-7233 (SAFE).
- Our Springfield offices, including our building at 819 N Boonville, will be closed to walk-in traffic and in-person appointments.
- In-person classes and support groups will be temporarily suspended; Staff are working diligently to create virtual or paper-based resources for clients.
- Most therapy appointments will be limited to phone or video-based format only. Therapy clients are encouraged to talk to their counselor for more information and to discuss case-specific concerns.
- Community-based presentations, in-person meetings, and educational seminars have been postponed.

The Victim Center is deeply saddened by the need to make these adjustments and how this might impact those who need support. The safety and health of our communities remains our top concern, and we will continue to work toward our mission to provide hope and healing to those who have experienced trauma and tragedy.

We want to remind everyone that although our services are modified in their approach, our dedicated team of staff and volunteers continue to be available through our 24/7 crisis response line. Our services are always free-of-charge and are available to any person who has experienced or been impacted by violent or sexual crimes. Services consist of crisis response, personal advocacy, therapy, and prevention education.

Existing clients and collaborating partners will be contacted about these changes directly.

As the situation evolves, we will continue to provide updates on our Facebook page and website.

For additional information or questions: 24/7 Crisis Response Line: 417-864-SAFE (7233)

Email: hope@thevictimcenter.org

Office: 417-863-7273

Media Requests: Contact Brandi Bartel at bbartel@thevictimcenter.org

Website: thevictimcenter.org