



EX-OFFICIO VICTIM REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

To: Commissioners of the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision

From: John W. Gillis, Ex-Officio, National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)

One of the most frequent complaints from crime victims is “the criminal justice system is insensitive to victim issues and not responsive to victim complaints. These complaints are not just directed towards First Responders, but it is a resounding echo throughout the entire criminal justice system, including parole and probation. With each passing year, ICAOS has continued its efforts to be more innovative, and sensitive to crime victim issues by continuing to work closely with victim organizations through its executive committee ex-officio member representing the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA). During an executive committee meeting, in late 2020, the ex-officio member stated victims had no established method to direct problems to ICAOS. Based on the information provided, the Board approved the establishment of a national email address to be used by crime victims encountering ICAOS case problems.

With the collaboration between ICAOS and NOVA Executive Directors, an email address was established, and fully operational, at the beginning of 2021. Crime victims can now contact the ICAOS National Office and state their problem. If the problem is strictly ICAOS related, it is addressed by the ICAOS National Office. If the problem is strictly victim assistance/service, it is handled by NOVA staff. In either case the victim is contacted within two business days after contacting ICAOS. In most cases the problems have been resolved through the joint efforts of NOVA and ICAOS. The program has been extremely successful during 2021, and we expect to serve more victims during 2022.

Here are excerpts from cases handled by ICAOS and NOVA. Information that could identify the victim, including the states involved, has been omitted:

1. My brother was murdered [REDACTED]. He was paroled to [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and had since moved to [REDACTED]. I find this upsetting as none of my family were notified of this move. He had threatened my family and family friends while he was incarcerated. He is still a threat to all of us. I would like to know what my rights are in this situation.

2. Hello, I am writing you because I am a domestic violence survivor. My current husband is incarcerated [REDACTED] in the county jail awaiting transport to DOC, and I am concerned that my ex-husband who is incredibly manipulative and calculating is about to be incarcerated with him, which will put him in serious danger. My children and I came to [REDACTED] to escape my ex-husband and his harassment, but now my husband is not safe I feel. We are wanting to request an Interstate Compact, but I am wanting to make sure we understand the process correctly, especially right now with the pandemic. If someone could please reach out to me, I would greatly appreciate it!
3. Good morning, I received notification thru the VINE network in [REDACTED] that the above named subject was being transferred "out of state". After calling no less than 15 different numbers, I was able to find out he was transferred to [REDACTED].
4. I have called several numbers and still cannot find out where in [REDACTED] he is or why he has been transferred. In 2007 [REDACTED] raped, murdered and sodomized my little sister. After panicking, he tried to dump her body on an island in the middle of [REDACTED]. I just want to know where he is and why he is there. My mother, younger brother, and 3 remaining sisters want to know also. Please help, thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Gillis

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