



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Deputy Attorney General

The Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 1, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF COMPONENTS

FROM: THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL *Lisa Monaco* 10/1/21

SUBJECT: REVISION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR VICTIM AND WITNESS ASSISTANCE

The Department's core mission is to pursue justice, and critical to that objective is providing support to victims and witnesses of crime. Our efforts on this front should affirm the experience of the victim or witness, promote healing, and build trust in the justice system.

The Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance (AG Guidelines) provide guidance to Department personnel on how to fulfill our obligations to victims and witnesses to crime under statutory and other authorities. The Department has not comprehensively updated the AG Guidelines since 2011. Since the last revision, there have been statutory changes, case law developments, and technological changes, all of which impact the Department's obligations to victims and witnesses. Additionally, we have learned valuable lessons from our experiences working with victims and witnesses in the last decade. I am directing the Office of Legal Policy to reconvene its Crime Victims Working Group (CVWG) to review the AG Guidelines and propose recommended revisions within 120 days.

The CVWG includes components from across the Department, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); the Antitrust Division (ATR); the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP); the Civil Division (CIV); the Criminal Division (CRM); the Civil Rights Division (CRT); the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); the Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD); the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA); the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National Security Division (NSD); the Office of Justice Programs/Office for Victims of Crime (OJP/OVC), the Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA); the Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties (OPCL); the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW); the Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ); the Professional Responsibility Advisory Office (PRAO); the Tax Division (TAX); the United States Marshal Service (USMS); and the United States Parole Commission (USPC). In addition to these components that participated previously in the CVWG, the Office of the Pardon Attorney (PARDON) will be included as well. The CVWG will build on its prior work, and it should also make recommendations regarding supplemental documents required for implementation, including training materials.

Subject: Revision of the Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance

Please assign senior staff from your components to participate in the CVWG and promptly inform OLP of your selections. OLP will provide a detailed workplan for the CVWG's review process and will provide me with regular updates on its progress and recommendations.

The Department is committed to protecting crime victims' rights and treating victims and witnesses with dignity and respect in all of our interactions. I look forward to reviewing the recommended updates to the AG Guidelines and sharing them with the Attorney General for his ultimate approval.