

# *Resource Center for Victims of Violent Death*



## STEPPING STONES



**JULY – AUGUST 2013**

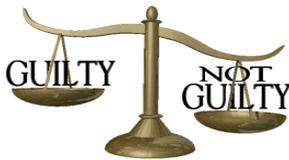
*Our mission is to bridge the gaps in the availability of information and resources that impede and discourage victims/families trying to deal with the aftermath of violent death, undetermined deaths, questioned suicides, and attempted murders, by taking one step at a time using the stepping stones we try to provide:*



This edition offers  
**INFORMATION** and additional  
**RESOURCES** to meet needs...



*Victim to Victim*  
Victim Advocate Joan Shirly is  
preparing the next *Victim to Victim*  
letter – coming soon



### SEEKING JUSTICE

The **Criminal Justice System** has the high standard of proof of “*beyond a reasonable doubt*” because the outcome for the accused is loss of freedom or one’s life. In the last two weeks, juries in Florida and New Mexico issued *not guilty* verdicts in two violent death cases that have many questioning whether or not “JUSTICE” was served. The dictionary definition of justice is assigning reward or punishment. For many of our families, just getting some attention by and answers from the criminal justice system is their version of justice.

The **Civil Court System** can provide a different measure of justice. There is not a determination of innocence or guilt in a civil court but there is a finding of **LIABILITY** – which means that the person accused is **RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT OCCURRED**. The burden of proof in civil court is “*the preponderance of evidence*” – which is a lesser standard than in criminal court because there is no loss of freedom or life.

*There are time limitations and other factors to consider, but both systems are available to seek “Justice”.*

**If you would like to know more about seeking justice – please contact us. We will give you information and referrals on an individual case basis; or, if there is enough interest, we will do a group presentation with guest experts.**

**Let us know your preference by telephone or by e-mail**



***More Resources*** (see website for copies of April/May edition for other resources)

***1-855-NMCRISIS – dial (1-855-662-7474)  
Hotline for Mental Health Crises***

A place to turn when someone is experiencing a mental health crisis. The hotline is available/staffed 24 hrs per day/7 days a week. The staff will help stabilize the person experiencing the crisis and then refer to the appropriate community health resource.

***SAFE RIDE SERVICES INC***

**1-800-797-7433 (closed Sundays)** for transportation to medical or counseling visits. Requires two days’ notice for reservations. Covered by health insurance coverage, Medicaid, and Presbyterian Health.

*Please call them to see if eligible.*

***OUR NEW HELP GROUP IN LOS LUNAS  
Last Wednesdays  
At the Wellness Center  
3445 Lambros Lp NE Los Lunas, NM  
7/31/13 6:00-8:00 pm***

***OUR NEW GROUP IN RIO RANCHO  
Last Thursdays  
Library - Star Heights Recreation Center  
800 Polaris Blvd SE Rio Rancho, NM  
7/25/13 6:30-8:00 pm***



**OFFICE**



**TELEPHONE**



**ON-LINE**

***The Atrium Building***  
10701 Lomas NE, Suite 115  
Albuquerque, NM 87112  
(just east of Eubank on Lomas)

**Daily drop in hours:**  
**Mon – Friday Noon – 3pm**  
Or may call for an individual, home, or after-hours appointment

**Albuquerque Monthly Victim Groups meet:**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays from 1pm-3pm**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 6pm-8pm**  
**Last Wednesday – Los Lunas**  
**Last Thursday - Rio Rancho**

**505-243-2222 & 855-430-2232**  
(TOLL FREE)

**After hours contacts:**

**Pat Caristo – 505-299-8712**  
Project Coordinator / Intake

**Joan Shirley 505-238-1663**  
Victim Advocate

*We can set up a conference call so you can join in if you can't get into Albuquerque.*

**E-mail: [pacnia@usa.net](mailto:pacnia@usa.net)**

**Website:**  
**[www.bridgesforvictimsofviolentdeath.org](http://www.bridgesforvictimsofviolentdeath.org)**

**We are a 501 © (3) organization.**  
**Your donations are tax-deductible.**  
**Thank you, in advance.**

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