

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

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:
2nd Tuesdays from 1pm-3pm
3rd Wednesday from 6pm-8pm
Last Wednesday – Los Lunas
Last Thursday - Rio Rancho



TELEPHONE

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.



ON-LINE

E-mail: pacnia@usa.net

Website:
www.bridgesforvictimsofviolentdeath.org

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

The Resource Center for Victims of Violent Death receives funding support from NMCVRC (2014-VA-136A)