Victims For Justice

## Assisting Alaskans Affected By Violent Crime Since 1985

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## National Crime Victims' Rights Week

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) will be commemorated in Anchorage and across the country April 24-30, 2022. The theme of the week this year is "Rights, access, equity, for all victims." This theme underscores the importance of helping crime survivors find justice by enforcing victims' rights, expanding access to services, and ensuring equity and inclusion for all.

As per tradition, we will hold our Tree Ceremony at Hostetler Park in downtown Anchorage at 12pm Monday April 25th following the start of NCVRW. Guidelines regarding Covid will adhere to CDC recommendations.

We will also hold a livestreamed panel discussion on Wednesday, April 27, followed by The 2022 Victim Service Awards April 30. Mark your calendars! Stay tuned here and on our social media accounts for upcoming details.

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### Has someone made a difference in your life?

Victims for Justice (VFJ) annually recognizes individuals, teams, programs and organizations that demonstrate outstanding service in supporting victims and victim services in Alaska. Help us show our appreciation by submitting a nomination for someone who has made an

impact in our state.

Click here to nominate someone!

## Advocate Spotlight: Cynthia Gachupin

**Cynthia Gachupin** is a new advocate at Victims for Justice. She was hired as an executive assistant last fall but made it known shortly afterward that she would be interested in training to be a victim advocate. Cynthia took time for a brief interview so our readers and clients can get to know her. What follows are excerpts:

Read the interview.

## Goodbye Paula/Hello Cyndi!

*We wanted to let you know that our communications and development staff is changing...*

**Paula Dobbyn**, a longtime journalist, is leaving VFJ to take a reporter position in Hawai'i at Honolulu Civil Beat. We wish Paula the best of luck as she embarks on this exciting new chapter!

And we are welcoming **Cyndi Ramirez** to the position. Cyndi is a veteran communicator and development professional. Creative, dedicated and excited to be part of the VFJ team. Welcome Cyndi!
You can reach Cyndi at cramirez@victimsforjustice.org

## What does "Beyond a Reasonable Doubt" mean?

The main job of a juror in a criminal trial is to apply the presumption of innocence and the burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt.
Defendants begin the trial process with a clean slate. In other words, they are presumed to be innocent of the crime they are accused of committing.
To overcome the presumption of innocence, the

prosecution must prove every element of the crime or crimes beyond a reasonable doubt.
The requirement that the prosecution must prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt is called the burden of proof. The defendant is not required to prove his or her innocence. And they have a right not to testify.

Read More

## It's Time to Pick.Click.Give.

Did you know that Pick Click Give allows Alaskans to donate a portion of their #PDF to charities they support in state?

You can select Victims for Justice and donate in increments of $25 or more. The dividend application period runs through March 31, but you can choose to add or adjust your pledge through August 31. Thank you for considering us.

File for your PFD at pfd.alaska.gov.

**Got a story idea for the newsletter? Email us at info@victimsforjustice.org**

**Contribute Today!**

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