



## NC SAKI Working Group Victim Notification Recommendations

**Power & control were taken. It is our responsibility to give it back.**

### Guiding Principles

- ⇒ **Victim-Centered:** The victims/survivors are at the center of all decisions regarding recovery and criminal justice involvement. Their choice, safety, and well-being is the focus, and their needs are everyone’s concern.
- ⇒ **Trauma-Informed (TI):** Attend to the victim’s/survivor’s emotional and physical safety, provide resources towards recovery, and be knowledgeable about the impact of trauma on their health and well-being.

**Who & When**  
All\* victims/  
survivors should be  
notified **AFTER DNA**  
testing is complete.  
\*Some cases will require  
further training before  
notifying.



**HOW**

- 1) Phone\*
- 2) In-person
- 3) Mail

\*Phone is preferred, unless  
completely impossible.

### Who Will Conduct Notifications?



A trauma-informed LE officer or investigator **AND** a community-based advocate are the ideal first point of contact for notifications.

**“Cops don’t love victim notification. It is the most time-consuming thing we do. But it is also the most important.”**  
-Lt. John Somerindyke, Fayetteville PD

### **What information should I share with the victim/survivor?**

Be prepared to answer questions. Some may have a lot, while others may not have any as they process the information you have given them. Plan for both situations, and at minimum, give them these things:



**NOTE: These are recommended best practices, and communities are encouraged to give every effort to meet them. If you would like guidance on how to fulfil these recommendations, please contact Bill Hart, SAKI Site Coordinator, bhart@ncdoj.gov**

*This project was supported by Grant No. 2018-AK-BX-0003 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.*