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 CJ 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:

- An apology
- DNA results
- Point of Contact
- Customized Resources
- Schedule 2nd contact/meeting

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If you would like guidance on how to fulfil these recommendations, please contact Bill Hart, SAKI Site Coordinator, bhart@ncdoj.gov