



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 21st through April 27th, 2013

“New Challenges. New Solutions.”

The Anderson County Sheriff's Department will honor 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 21st through April 27th. This year's theme – *New Challenges. New Solutions.* – celebrates the spirit that will advance crime victims' rights.



Only 30 years ago, crime victims had no rights, access to crime victim compensation, or services to help rebuild their lives. They were often excluded from courtrooms, treated as an afterthought by the criminal justice system, and denied an opportunity to speak at sentencing. Through decades of advocacy and hard work, we have come a long way. Today, all states have enacted crime victims' rights laws and established crime victim compensation funds. More than 10,000 victim service agencies help victims throughout the nation. Every year, states and localities receive millions of federal dollars to support these services.

But National Crime Victims' Rights Week reminds us that many challenges remain. Crime victims' rights are not universal and are often not enforced. Only a small percentage of victims receive crime victim compensation, which is usually limited to victims of violent crime. Advocates also face a host of new challenges as they strive to provide culturally competent services for increasingly diverse populations and victims of newly prevalent crimes.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be held April 21st through April 27th in communities throughout the nation. In Washington, DC, the U.S. Department of Justice will hold OVC's annual Service Awards ceremony that month to honor outstanding individuals and programs that serve victims of crime.

Please join the Anderson County Sheriff's Department in honoring 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 21st through April 27th.

For more information visit the Office for Victims of Crime website: www.ovc.gov.

Sheriff Paul White

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