

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Office for Victim Assistance Victim Assistance Program

FBI Citizen's Academy



b6
b7c

FBI's Office for Victim Assistance

- Administered by the Office of Victims of Crime in the Department of Justice (DOJ).
- Funded by federal offender (VOCA) funds – fines, assessments, forfeited bail, etc. – NOT taxpayer money.

OVA's Mission

- Ensure that victims of crimes investigated by the FBI are afforded the opportunity to receive the services and notifications required by the *Attorney General Guidelines on Victim and Witness Assistance* and the *Justice for All Act of 2004*.

*Attorney General Guidelines on Victim
and Witness Assistance (2005)*

- Designed to ensure that the federal criminal justice system does everything possible within limits of available resources to assist victims
- Guidelines of specific populations of victims, including children
- Summarizes Federal statutes applying to federal investigative, prosecutorial, and correctional agencies

Justice for All Act of 2004

- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.
- The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding, or any parole proceeding, involving the crime or of any release or escape of the accused.
- The right not to be excluded from any such public court proceeding, unless the court, after receiving clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding.

Justice for All Act of 2004

- The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, sentencing, or any parole proceeding.
- The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case.
- The right to full and timely restitution as provided in law.
- The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.
- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused.

Legal Requirements Regarding Victim Assistance

It is the responsibility of the FBI:

- To identify the victims of federal crimes, including names and contact information;
- To provide information to victims on their rights under the law;
- To provide information on available services, point of contact, and help with compensation and referrals;
- To provide key event notifications and the status of their case at the earliest opportunity after the detection of the crime;
- To provide reasonable protection to victims from offenders and their associates;

Legal Requirements Regarding Victim Assistance

- To intervene with employers and creditors, when appropriate;
- To return personal property/effects in good condition and in a timely manner;
- To provide payment for HIV/STD testing for sexual assault victims;
- To provide special handling of child victims; and,
- To provide continuous assistance as long as a case is pending final disposition or until it is turned over to the U.S. Attorney's Office for adjudication.

Defining a Victim

A victim is defined by statute as anyone who has suffered direct or proximate physical, emotional, or pecuniary (financial) harm, as a result of a Federal offense.

Who is NOT a victim?

A person who is culpable for a crime being investigated or prosecuted is not considered for purposes of rights and services contained in the AG Guidelines, however, this exclusion does NOT encompass persons who may be culpable for some other crime, even if the crime is related.

Office for Victim Assistance

- The FBI OVA trains and oversees 122 full-time Victim Specialists across the country in 56 FBI Field Offices, Resident Agencies and 38 Indian Reservations.
- In 2009, OVA delivered more than 205,000 services to crime victims.

FBI Victim Specialists

- Bachelor's or Master's Degree educational background;
- Professional and practical application experience in law enforcement, counseling, law, prosecution, psychology, social work, and/or victim services;
- Knowledge and expertise working with various cultures, particularly Native Americans, if working in Indian Country;
- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week availability to assist victims;
- Exemplary resource ability and capability to interact with other victim specialists, government and NGO service agencies
- Experience working alongside and in compliment of the investigative efforts of FBI agents.

FBI San Francisco Division

- Responsible for the Northern District of CA
- 8 RA Offices
- Two Victim Specialists cover the SF Division

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

b6
b7C

Examples of Federal Crime Victims Assisted by Victim Specialists

- Domestic Terrorism
(actual, attempt, or hoax)
- Kidnapping or Child
Abduction
- Violent Crime
- Crimes Against Children
- Cyber Crime
- Human Trafficking
- Hate Crimes or Civil
Rights Violations
- Bank Robberies
- Indian Country Crime
(felony offenses)
- Military Installations,
National Parks,
Commercial Air and Sea
Carriers
- White Collar Crime
(counterfeit checks,
identity theft, mail and
wire fraud, financial,
health care, mortgage
and real estate fraud)

Victim Specialist Priorities

- Child Victims
- Violent Crime Victims
- Indian Country Victims
- Terrorism Victims
- Civil Rights/ Human Trafficking Victims
- White Collar Crime

Victim Assistance Priorities

- Crisis intervention/ Psychological First Aid
- Provision of basic human rights
- Services that enhance the ability of the victim to cooperate with the investigation and build trust
- Services that enhance coping and recovery
- Collaboration with local, state, and federal service providers

Standard Services of Victim Specialists

- Assist agents at scene
- Provide individual and community crisis intervention
- Assess and triage victim(s) needs
- Attend interviews to provide emotional support
- Assist with clothing, housing, food, or special needs
- Provide emergency transportation of and for victims
- Assist with State Compensation application
- Explain criminal justice process, investigation process, and/or forensic identification process to victims
- Provide death notification

Standard Services of Victim Specialists

- Assist in collecting ante-mortem data of victims
- Assist Evidence Response Teams by recovering and returning personal property to victims
- Accompany victims or victim-witnesses to court
- Provide referrals for services:
 - Counseling
 - Medical Assistance
 - Immigration
 - Legal
 - Financial Counseling
 - Employment

Standard Services of Victim Specialists

- Work with local, state, and federal partners to address victim safety concerns
- Work with Child/Adult Protective Services
- Work with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- Provide forensic interview referrals
- Seek interpreter services
- Manage VNS system
- Coordinate with the USAO Victim Witness Coordinator to transition case responsibilities following indictment.

Standard Services of Victim Specialists

- Assist trafficking victims with emergency services as well as coordinate efforts and work with other involved agency personnel
- Participate on multi-disciplinary teams to assist child victims/witnesses
- Participate in Victim Response Teams
- Provide resources regarding and arrange for HIV/STD testing and medical counseling sessions
- Manage toll-free telephone lines for cases involving large number of victims

Additional Victim Assistance Program Resources

- Emergency Funds – General/Terrorism
- Forensic Child Interview Specialists
- Child Pornography Victim Assistance Program (CPVA)
- Victim Assistance Rapid Deployment Team (VARDT)

JAYCEE DUGARD

KIDNAPPING

June 10, 1991
South Lake Tahoe, California

JAYCEE LEE DUGARD



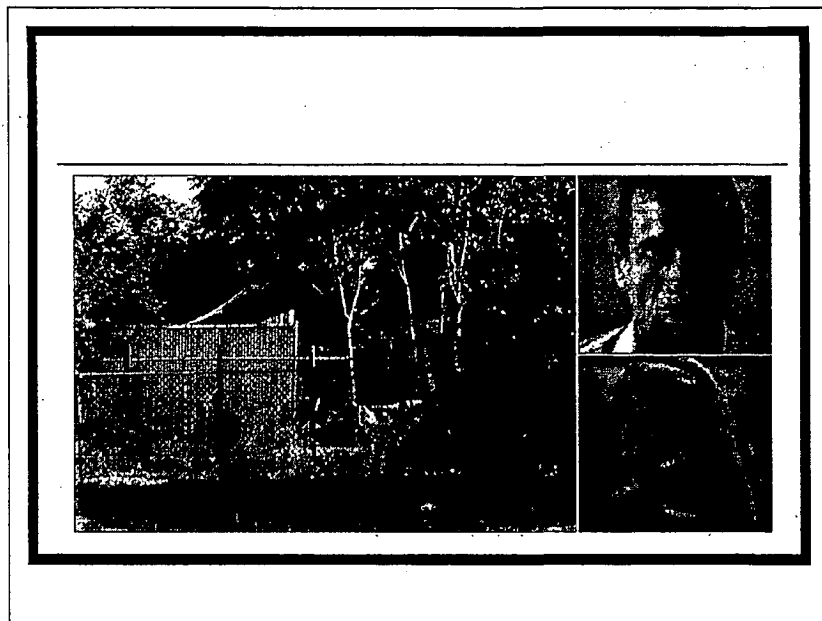
DESCRIPTION

Date of Birth: May 3, 1980
Sex: Female

Place of Birth: Anaheim, California
Hair: Blonde

Case Details:

- Kidnapped at the age of 11 by Phillip and Nancy Garrido, held captive for 18 years.
- Had two children by Garrido (Angel and Starlit).
- Recovered at the age of 29.



Federal VA Services Provided:

- Coordination of reunification
- Transportation
- Coordination between other Law Enforcement Agencies and Victim Assistance Providers
- Emergency Victim Assistance Funds paid for airfare, short-term housing, food, clothing

Federal VA Services Provided cont'd:

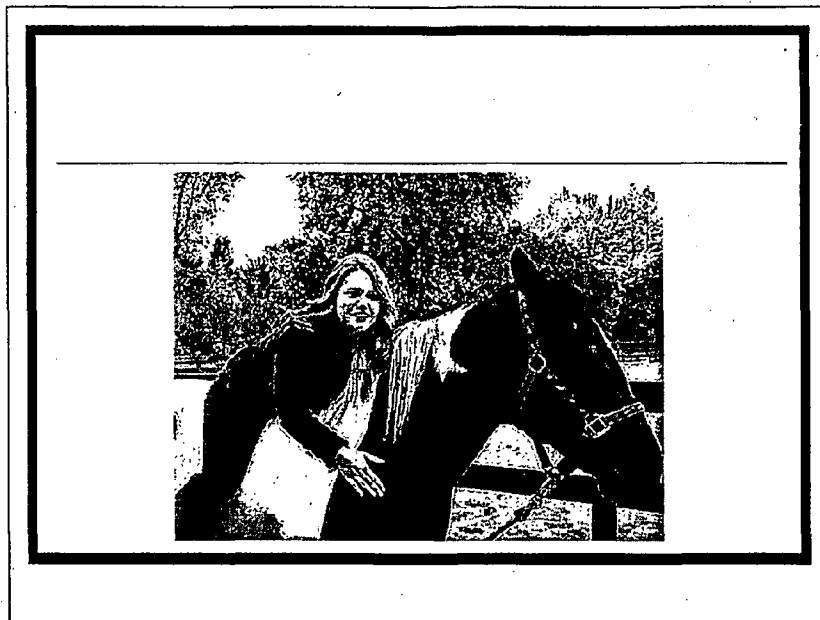
- Overnight accompaniment by VS and Agents
- Coordination of medical appointments
- Assistance obtaining necessary documents
- Victim Assistance K-9

Victim Assistance Program K-9
"Dolce" – The Therapy Dog



Local VA Services Provided:

- County Victim Witness Coordinator
- State Victim Compensation Application
- Detectives from El Dorado DA's Office transported pets
- Concord PD supplied emergency food and clothing



FBI and Victim Assistance

Victim assistance within the context of criminal investigations is now viewed as a necessary and important role of law enforcement agencies. The FBI should be the best at it.

Victim assistance is required by law. It benefits our investigations and future prosecutions. It builds better relations with communities. It is what we would want for our own loved ones if they were unfortunate enough to become victims of crime.

Robert S. Mueller III
Director

Contact Information

VS

b6
b7C