

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRAUMA-INFORMED VICTIM NOTIFICATIONS

CONNECT SURVIVORS TO ADVOCATES

Connect survivors to advocacy services at the time of notification and continue to provide advocacy services in any interactions with legal system personnel.

INCLUDE ADVOCATES IN THE FIRST NOTIFICATION

Active outreach victim notifications should be conducted by advocates, either in collaboration with law enforcement personnel or solely by advocates, to ensure survivors' first contact experience focuses on their emotional well-being.

PROTECT SURVIVORS' PRIVACY

Whether the notification is in person or by phone, protect survivors' privacy and prevent accidental and incidental disclosures to others.

APOLOGIZE

Law enforcement's first interaction with a survivor should include an apology for the survivor's sexual assault kit not being tested.

ENSURE ADVOCATES ARE PRESENT WHEN CRITICAL INFORMATION IS SHARED

Details about the forensic DNA resting results and information about the identified offender should be provided when an advocate is present to help survivors cope with the range of emotions they may feel.