



**National Organization of
Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.**



**STATEWIDE AUTOMATED VICTIM
INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION**

SAVIN

National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims

SAVIN Resource Kit

SPONSORED BY:



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Overview of the Resource Kit

INTRODUCTION

This Resource Kit has been developed to help Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) programs commemorate the 14th annual observance of the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims (NDoR) on Tuesday, September 25, 2012.

In establishing NDoR in 1999, the U.S. Senate supported the goals and ideals of NDoR in a resolution that noted: “the death of a loved one is a devastating experience, and the murder of a loved one is exceptionally difficult,” and “the designation of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims on September 25 of each year provides an opportunity for people of the United States to honor the memories of murder victims, and to recognize the impact on surviving family members.”

This year, your National SAVIN Training and Technical Assistance Project is partnering with the National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc. (POMC) to promote SAVIN on 2012 NDoR. Founded in 1978 in Ohio, POMC has 59 chapters in 26 states that provide support to families and friends of homicide victims:

POMC Vision: To provide support and assistance to all survivors of homicide victims while working to create a world free of murder.

POMC Mission: POMC makes the difference through on-going emotional support, education, prevention, advocacy and awareness.

POMC’s national and state leaders will receive a copy of this Resource Kit and guidance about how to contact and collaborate with their respective state SAVIN program. They are wonderful partners in promoting SAVIN to homicide family survivors on September 25 and throughout the year. In states with POMC chapters, SAVIN Administrators can contact chapter leaders to review this Resource Kit and work together to promote NDoR and SAVIN services.

Please visit the website of national POMC at www.pomc.com for information about the wide range of services that POMC provides to homicide family survivors, and for information about chapters in your state.

YOUR SAVIN ONLINE COMMUNITY

As you plan activities to commemorate 2012 NDoR, resources from your SAVIN Online Community may be helpful to you. There are many documents in the Virtual Library contributed by SAVIN Administrators and developed by Project staff that can help you with public education and awareness, victim and survivor outreach and building partnerships with POMC chapters.

Please visit the SAVIN Online Community at <http://savinonline.org>. If you need additional information about this Resource Kit or 2012 NDoR, contact your Project staff at SAVIN@NCJA.org.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE KIT

The contents of this Resource Kit are generic in nature and can be easily adapted to individual SAVIN programs. Whenever you see “SAVIN,” you will need to substitute the name of your state’s program. Throughout this Resource Kit, anything that is featured in a RED FONT requires you to personalize it to your state’s SAVIN program.

All files provided are PDFs with fillable fields for customization. Using Acrobat, an end user can click on the field, add text and save the file as a new, custom PDF. You can access Adobe Reader and Players for free download at <http://www.adobe.com/downloads/>.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND VICTIM/ SURVIVOR OUTREACH

Four sample documents are included in this Resource Kit to enhance your public awareness and victim/survivor outreach efforts on September 25:

1. The *sample press release* includes current homicide statistics and a brief overview of SAVIN services. It should be typed double-spaced, and delivered to the media at least 10 days prior to when you are seeking coverage.
2. Two *sample public service announcements* – in a 30 second and 15 second format – can be adapted for either radio or television. You should check the PSA submission requirements of broadcast stations prior to distribution.
3. The *sample opinion/editorial column* reflects the theme, “Remember Murder Victims and Respect Their Rights,” and includes a powerful testimonial from a homicide family survivor about the value of SAVIN. You can ask radio stations to allow you or a POMC member to audio-tape it as a radio “actuality.” Be sure to check out media guidelines for submission (which are usually available on print and broadcast media websites).
4. The *testimonials from homicide family survivors* – obtained through our partnership with POMC – can be used to emphasize why SAVIN is so critical to survivors on September 25th and throughout the year.

SAMPLE QUOTATIONS

This section includes 11 inspirational quotations related to justice and compassion, and six quotations that reflect the “information” and “technology” components of SAVIN. You can incorporate these quotations into your NDoR media relations, public presentations, and victim outreach materials, and also seek quotations from homicide family survivors in your state.

HOMICIDE STATISTICS

Statistics about trends in homicide and murder are included in this section, along with suggestions about jurisdiction-specific SAVIN statistics that you can publicize to demonstrate the value of SAVIN to your state and to homicide family survivors.

NATIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL RESOURCES FOR HOMICIDE FAMILY SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE

Information about national organizations that provide services to homicide family survivors is included in this chart, which features toll-free telephone numbers and hours of operation, and website URLs for more information. You can include these important resources on your state SAVIN website for victim information and referral.

ARTWORK

Camera-ready artwork for three buttons and one bookmark (front and back) is included in this section. The artwork combines the national SAVIN logo with the National POMC logo, and can be personalized to your SAVIN program and/or jurisdiction.

RESOURCE KIT EVALUATION FORM

We value your feedback about this Resource Kit! Please take a few moments to complete the NDoR Resource Kit Evaluation Form and return it to us. Your input will help us improve future Resource Kits to assist you in promoting SAVIN during victim-related commemorations throughout the year.



Sample Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

(DATE)

CONTACT:

Name/Agency

(A/C) Telephone

Email address

VICTIM NOTIFICATION SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR HOMICIDE FAMILY SURVIVORS

(City/State) --- September 25 is the 14th annual observance of the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims (NDoR). In 2010, there were nearly 15,000 homicides in the United States. When a loved one is murdered, surviving family members suffer an unimaginable loss, and require significant support in their interactions with the criminal justice system.

An important aspect of such support in (state) is the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) system. SAVIN is a free, confidential service that notifies victims about the status of their alleged or convicted offender, including release from jail or prison. SAVIN is available around the clock, 365 days a year and allows victims to access vital information – early, accurate and often – that can help them plan for their future.

Registration for SAVIN services is simple (provide brief information about how to register for SAVIN notification by telephone/text/email/website here).

The importance of SAVIN services was described by the surviving family member of a homicide victim, who said: “Victim notification is important for protection and sanity. Knowledge is power – it provides choices and control over life’s circumstances after an experience of losing control. (You can also seek a personal testimonial from a survivor in your state to insert here, or one from the “Testimonials” included in this Resource Kit)

For additional information about how to register for SAVIN services in (state), please call (area code/telephone number) or visit the SAVIN website at (SAVIN web URL).

#

After personalizing this press release to your jurisdiction, it should be typed double-spaced.



Sample Public Service Announcements

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS AND SAVIN SERVICES SEPTEMBER 25, 2012

30 SECONDS

September 25 is the 14th Annual National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. In the aftermath of a murder, surviving family members have a critical need for information about their case. Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification, or SAVIN is a free and confidential, 24 hour-a-day public service that automatically informs registered victims of an offender's status, including release from jail or prison.

If you or someone you know is family member of a homicide victim, call or click to register for SAVIN information and notification – early, accurate and often. You can call ([area code/ telephone number](#)) or visit ([web URL](#)) online for more information, or to register for SAVIN services.

15 SECONDS

September 25 is the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. Surviving family members of homicide have the right to receive information and notification about the status of the alleged or convicted offender. If you are a survivor of a homicide victim, ([state's](#)) Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification system, or SAVIN, is a free, confidential service that can notify you 24-hours-a-day, 365 days a year. For more information, please call ([area code/ telephone number](#)) or visit ([web URL](#)) to register for SAVIN services.



Sample Opinion/Editorial/ Broadcast Actuality

REMEMBER MURDER VICTIMS AND RESPECT THEIR RIGHTS

Although the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports indicate that murder in America decreased 1.9 percent from 2010 to 2011, there were still nearly 15,000 homicide victims whose families and friends are left with immeasurable grief and sorrow. Their tragic loss is compounded by trying to make sense of such a senseless act, and trying to seek justice and accountability on behalf of their murdered loved ones.

In (state), victims of crime – including surviving family members of homicide victims – have the right to information, notification, reasonable protection and participation throughout the criminal justice system. These victims' rights are a critical component of helping survivors understand and navigate justice processes that may be confusing and overwhelming to them.

(State's) Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) programs allow victims to actively participate in the criminal justice system by registering to be notified of the status of their alleged or convicted offender, including release from jail or prison. SAVIN services are free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Surviving family members of homicide victims tell us that "information is power," and knowing the status of their case and offender can enhance their safety and involvement in justice processes. One survivor described how SAVIN programs can have a positive and profound impact on victims today:

"As a victim (survivor) for more than 25 years, I can only fantasize about having something like SAVIN when our family's homicide occurred in 1986....Access to information that we so desperately craved simply was not available unless we demanded it. Even then, it was filtered and not always timely and accurate. The technology available today, coupled with compassionate and competent professionals behind the 'keyboards and monitors' can only enhance survivability and minimize the trauma associated with surviving the murder of a loved one."

September 25 is the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. (Today/This Tuesday) and throughout the year, we as a community recognize the devastating impact of homicide on our families, friends and nation as a whole. We also recognize and respect the rights of the loved ones of murder victims to information and notification that can help them in the aftermath of tragedy – a vital service that is provided by SAVIN in (state).

(Include a sentence about the author[s] of this column, and information about how to access SAVIN services via your toll-free telephone number and/or website)



Testimonials from Homicide Family Survivors

Members of POMC were asked why victim notification and SAVIN services are important to surviving family members of homicide victims. Their inspiring responses can be used to promote SAVIN on 2012 NDoR and throughout the year:

"Victim notification is important for protection and sanity. Knowledge is power – it provides choices and control over life's circumstances after an experience of losing control. It helps to preserve victim/witness/survivor rights, and helps us to grow – take ownership and responsibility for our part in future dealings and healing. It provides a vehicle for feedback to justice professionals."

"I think victim notification is vital to the victim and their families because they need to be aware of the process of the case and suspect/defendant. It not only helps in the process of healing and grief, but helps make the victim's family feel that they are involved in the system."

"Automated victim information and notification are important so victims can be aware of where (the offender) is located, and so it can be faster and easier to get the information. Let us be a voice!"

"As a victim (survivor) for more than 25 years, I can only fantasize about having something like SAVIN when our family's homicide occurred in 1986....Access to information that we so desperately craved simply was not available unless we demanded it. Even then, it was filtered and not always timely and accurate. The technology available today, coupled with compassionate and competent professionals behind the 'keyboards and monitors' can only enhance survivability and minimize the trauma associated with surviving the murder of a loved one."

"With accurate, updated information comes empowerment. When victims have the ability to access court and offender information on their own time, it affords them the chance to regain a bit of the control that was lost and lessens the sense of helplessness."

"Victim notification is important to learn and try to get the facts on what happened, and what are our next steps in the process. After the police left, we did not know where to turn or what to do."

"SAVIN is so important to victim family members that it should be in multiple languages, such as Spanish, and it

should be mandatory for law enforcement to advise the family of such an important information resource."

"It is important for crime victims and survivors to be aware of the convict's place of incarceration, and ensure that the family will not be re-traumatized unnecessarily. Just like the convict has to inform his parole officer, similar courtesies should be offered to the survivors of the convict's whereabouts, especially while incarcerated."

"It is not just the government's case; it is the victim's case. Notification means power and safety."

"First, victims have the right to know, especially for those whose (offenders) who will be released and fear the perpetrator. Notification empowers victims, and gives us a sense of security and 'some' control."

"When a victim can't sleep at night, it's a good thing to have resources online that people can look up and get answers to questions running through their minds 24/7, such as planning, safety, etc."

"You feel safe because you know where your offender is at all times. You can check to make sure he is there, even if you know he is there. Prompt notification about parole or clemency, escape, if he changes prisons or goes to work release is important."

"It can impact the lifestyle, location and safety of the victim's family."

"It ensures that victims are included in the process."

"Notifications of escapes are important, especially for those whose murderers are family members (domestic violence-related)."

"Many cold case homicide victims' relatives and friends become lost to the system because they move, become estranged to law enforcement, or cease cooperating because of the lack of filing charges. Suddenly, the case may go active and the victim's family is lost, and victim information and notification are dearly needed for the exercise of justice."

"It is a denial of justice not to stretch out a helping hand to the fallen; that is the common right of humanity. *Seneca*

"Sow good services; sweet remembrances will grow from them." *Germaine De Stael*

"Every unpunished murder takes away something from the security of every man's life." *Daniel Webster*

"Our lives begin to end the day we are silent about things that matter." *Martin Luther King*

"This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in, unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in."
Theodore Roosevelt

"It is not enough to be compassionate. You must act.....When something needs to be done in the world to rectify the wrongs, if one is really concerned with benefitting others, one needs to be engaged and involved." *Dalai Lama*

"The purpose of human life is to serve and show compassion and the will to help others." *Albert Schweitzer*

"Wisdom, compassion and courage are the three universally recognized more qualities of life." *Confucius*

"Tears are the silent language of grief." *Voltaire*

"There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are messengers of overwhelming grief and unspeakable love." *Washington Irving*

"Can I see another's woe, and not be in sorrow too? Can I see another's grief, and not seek for kind relief?" *William Blake*

QUOTATIONS ABOUT "INFORMATION"

"Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information on it."
Samuel Johnson

"Information can bring your choices and choices bring power – educate yourself about your options and choices. Never remain in the dark of ignorance." *Joy Page*

"In the new economy, information, education and motivations are everything." *William J. Clinton*

"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family."
Kofi Annan

"Information is the resolution of uncertainty." *Claude Shannon*

"These technologies can make life easier, can let us touch people we might not otherwise..." *Steve Jobs*

- From January to June 2011, homicide rates were down by 5.7% from the same time period in 2010. Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Preliminary Semi-Annual Uniform Crime Report, January-June 2011." <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/preliminary-annual-ucr-jan-jun-2011/data-tables/table-1>.
- In 2010, the homicide rate was as low as it has been in almost 50 years. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics Reports, "Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2010." http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60_04.pdf
- An estimated 14,748 persons were murdered nationwide in 2010, equating to one murder every 35.6 minutes. Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Crime in the United States, 2010." <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/offenses-known-to-law-enforcement/standard-links/national-data>
- In 2010, 77.4 percent of murder victims were male, and 22.5 percent were female. Ibid, calculated from Table 1, <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/tables/10shrtbl02.xls>
- In 2010 homicide cases, 48.4% were single victim/single offender situations, 29% were single victim/unknown offender or offenders situations, and 12.6% were single victim/multiple offenders situations. Ibid, Table 4, <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/tables/10shrtbl04.xls>.
- Of the 4,284 hate crimes against persons reported in 2010, 7 were homicides. Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Hate Crime Statistics: 2010." <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/hate-crime/2010/summary>
- In 2010, 56 law enforcement officers were feloniously killed in the line of duty; 54 were male and 2 were female. The average age of the slain officers was 38 years. Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted: 2010." <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/leoka/leoka-2010/officers-feloniously-killed/feloniouslykilled>
- Of the 56 officers feloniously killed in 2010:
 - » 15 were killed in ambush situations.
 - » 14 died as a result of felonious attacks during arrest situations.
 - » 8 were slain while investigating suspicious persons/circumstances.
 - » 7 were killed during traffic pursuits/stops.
 - » 6 were murdered answering disturbance calls.
 - » 3 were slain during tactical situations (barricaded offender, hostage taking, high-risk entry, etc.).
 - » 2 were killed while conducting investigative activity (surveillance, search, interview, etc.).
 - » 1 was killed while transporting or maintaining custody of a prisoner. (Ibid)

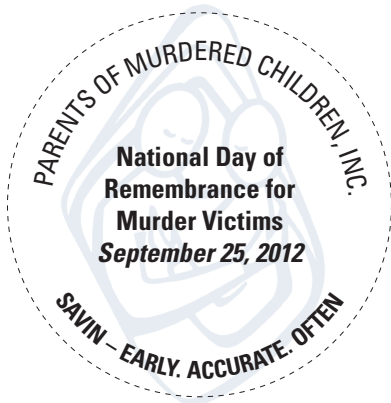
SAVIN STATISTICS

- It's important to promote SAVIN's value to your state or jurisdiction by publicizing information about your program's usage and other statistics. The SAVIN Guidelines and Standards (available online at http://it.ojp.gov/documents/ijis_savin_guidelines_standards.pdf, pages 21 and 22) include over 20 performance metrics for your review. In general, important statistics to help educate crime victims/survivors and residents in your state about SAVIN and its value as a free public service include:
 - » Number of people registered for SAVIN services
 - » Number of inbound and outbound calls
 - » Number and types of notification
 - » Number of callers who request/receive assistance from SAVIN customer service staff
 - » Number of agencies and organizations that help promote SAVIN in your jurisdiction



Camera-ready Artwork

Buttons



Bookmark



National Organization of
Parents Of Murdered
Children, Inc.



EARLY. ACCURATE. OFTEN.

CONNECT
to Statewide
Automated Victim
Information &
Notification

National Organization
of Parents Of Murdered
Children, Inc.
888-818-POMC
www.pomc.com

SAVIN Online Community
www.savinonline.org

The Compassionate Friends
877-969-0010
www.compassionate
friends.org

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
877-MADD-HELP
www.madd.org

National Organization for
Victim Assistance
800-879-6682
www.trynova.org