

## Where to go for Help

### Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)

OVC is a federal office that provides funding to support victim assistance and compensation programs. OVC's website provides victims with information, resources and a directory of crime victim services.  
1-800-851-3420 / [www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov)

### ChildHelp National Child Abuse Hotline

This 24-hour hotline is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse. It offers crisis intervention, information, literature, and referrals to emergency, social service, and support resources.  
1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)  
[www.childhelp.org/hotline](http://www.childhelp.org/hotline)

### National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC)

NCVC works with local, state, and federal partners to provide support to crime victims, and also advocates for laws and public policies to secure rights, resources, and protections. The National Crime Victim Bar Association, a program of NCVC, also provides information on civil lawsuits against a perpetrator or other responsible party, as well as referrals for attorneys specializing in victim-related litigation.  
1-800-394-2255 / [www.victimsofcrime.org](http://www.victimsofcrime.org)

### National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) Family Advocacy Division

Mental health and child welfare professionals provide a support network for child victims and their families, to include crisis intervention, referrals, and other assistance.  
1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)  
[www.missingkids.org/support](http://www.missingkids.org/support)

### Team Hope

Volunteers are parents of children who were once missing or have been sexually exploited. With this knowledge and experience, they are able to offer peer and emotional support to families.  
1-866-305-HOPE (1-866-305-4673)  
[www.missingkids.org/TeamHOPE](http://www.missingkids.org/TeamHOPE)

## Your FBI Victim Specialist

The FBI Victim Specialist assigned to your case is there to make sure you have information and support to help you get through this ordeal. She or he will explain the criminal justice process, listen to your concerns, help you find counseling and other forms of assistance, and keep you updated on the status of the case. The Victim Specialist works for the FBI but is not an Agent. Instead, the Victim Specialist is often someone with a social work or counseling degree and experience working with young people and adults who have been victims of violent crime.

The Victim Specialist works as part of a team with the FBI Agent and employees from the U.S. Attorney's Office. While most of the discussions that you have with your Victim Specialist are confidential, there may be times when the Victim Specialist will need to share information you provide with other team members. If you have questions about limited confidentiality, you may contact your Victim Specialist for clarification. Generally, the Victim Specialist and the Agent will make every effort to protect your privacy.

## Important Contact Numbers

### FBI Victim Specialist:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Investigator:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Victim Services Division  
ATTN: Child Pornography Victim Assistance  
J. Edgar Hoover Building, Room 3329  
935 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20535  
1-877-236-8947 (option 3)  
CPVA@fbi.gov  
[www.fbi.gov/resources/victim-services](http://www.fbi.gov/resources/victim-services)

*The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this brochure are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.*

U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Victim Services Division



# Child Pornography Victim Assistance (CPVA)

*A Reference  
for Victims and  
Parent/Guardian  
of Victims*

## Introduction

FBI's Victim Services Division (VSD) assists victims who have suffered direct or threatened physical, emotional, or pecuniary harm as a result of the commission of a crime. A Victim Specialist (VS) provides notification, direct support, and resources to these victims.

The VSD's Child Pornography Victim Assistance (CPVA) Program is responsible for the notification process for victims of child pornography, which is mandated under the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act (34 U.S.C. § 20141) and the Crime Victims' Rights Act (18 U.S.C. § 3771). At the initiation of an investigation, victims and/or guardians are contacted by a VS who, in addition to providing referrals for services, explains the unique circumstances surrounding child pornography investigations, and the possibility that images of your victimization may appear again in future investigations or court proceedings. If distribution of the images is confirmed, the VS will request the victim and/or guardian complete and sign a Notification Preference Form.

CPVA maintains these forms once completed. Victims and/or guardians who indicate a preference for notification are entered into the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Victim Notification System (VNS) to ensure they receive subsequent notifications on investigations, court proceedings, and defendants' custody status in each individual case.

Victims may also indicate on their Notification Preference Form if they wish to provide a Victim Impact Statement (VIS) that may be used in federal/state/local sentencings or parole proceedings where the defendant's offenses involved images of their victimization. Information will also be available regarding losses suffered which may be eligible for restitution.

*\*You can provide a VIS regardless of whether or not you have chosen to be notified of investigations or proceedings. Additional information regarding the VIS and restitution eligibility can be obtained through your local U.S. Attorney's Office.*

## Notification Preferences

Due to the nature of criminal offenses involving possession and/or production of child pornography, an image involving your victimization may be the basis of multiple federal investigations and/or court proceedings. Therefore, if you choose to be notified every time the image appears in an investigation, you may start to receive a large number of notifications. If you choose NOT to be notified, you will not receive any information regarding future investigations or court proceedings.

**There are two options on the Notification Preference Form:**

### Opting-In

On your Notification Preference Form, there are two choices for opting-in. Please select ALL that apply.

- There is a box next to "Yes, I want to be notified when images of my victimization are the basis for future federal investigations or court proceedings."  
*\*By checking this box, you will receive notifications.*
- There is also a box next to "Yes, I want to be notified, but prefer notifications go to an alternate contact. I provide consent for \_\_\_ to be notified when images of my victimization are the basis for future federal investigations or court proceedings."  
*\*By checking this box, a designated alternate contact will receive notifications.*

### Opting-Out

On your Notification Preference Form, there is a box next to "No, I do not want to be notified when images of my victimization are the basis for future federal investigations or court proceedings."

*\*By checking this box, you will NOT receive notifications.*

**Please note that if you do not mark any of these boxes on your Notification Preference Form, you will automatically be opted-in to receive notifications when images of your victimization are the basis for future federal investigations or court proceedings.**

## Notification Methods

If you choose to receive information related to future investigations or court proceedings, notifications from federal agencies are facilitated through VNS via letter and/or email. To receive notices via email only, you will be required to verify your email address in the system.

## Note to Parent/Guardian of Minor Victims

As part of the federal mandate to notify all victims of crime, a minor victim is legally entitled to direct notification once he or she turns 18 years old, regardless of a guardian's prior preference. Therefore, the victim will be contacted after their 18th birthday to complete a new Notification Preference Form as an adult. Please note that written consent will be required in order for an alternate contact to receive notifications on the victim's behalf.

A representative from the Victim Services Division will first coordinate with the parent/guardian prior to contact with the victim. Unique circumstances will be taken into consideration on a case-by-case basis.

**To change your notification preferences or personal information, contact the Victim Services Division at:**

**1-877-236-8947 (Option 3)  
CPVA@fbi.gov**