

# VICTIM SERVICES AUDIT

## Outcomes & Actions to Serve Victims



The office is working to double exam payments for nurses who help sexual assault victims.

# 20+

More than 20 new victim services trainings will be provided to address sexual assault, domestic violence, homicide, and other violent crime.

# 42%

The office is fighting a 42% federal cut to victim services funding.

# 14

Kids under age 14 were denied victim services by a certain provider to cut costs. The office made clear that service centers will not receive funding unless all victims are served.

# 16

16 victim services roundtables were held with victims, law enforcement, advocates, and other community leaders. All 99 counties were invited.

# 1.

### Creating System to Alert Victims of Protective Orders

Iowa law requires a notification system that alerts victims when their abuser is served a protective order and when the order is about to expire. The previous administration terminated this system in 2019. This termination violated state law and failed victims.

Attorney General Bird has hired a coordinator to launch a new protective order notification system. The system will buy Iowans critical time to protect themselves and their families from retaliation from their abusers.

# 2.

### Fixing Iowa Victim Notification System

Iowa Victim Information and Notification Everyday is a system that notifies victims when their abusers are released from custody. System errors have been inaccurately telling victims their abusers were released when transporting them between county jail and state prison.

Attorney General Bird has worked with the office's partners to correct the messages and keep victims accurately informed on their perpetrator's status.

# 3.

### Ensuring Sexual Assault Nurses are Available

A statewide shortage in sexual assault nurse examiners has led to long wait times for victims, with a victim in Polk County waiting as long as 8 hours for services.

Attorney General Bird is thanking and recruiting nurses by proposing the first raise for SANE nurses in nearly 20 years. The raise will double exam payments for each SANE nurse. The office will also provide new trainings and compensate SANE nurses for travel by \$0.50 per mile.

# 4.

### Reforming Crime Victim Compensation

The Iowa Attorney General's office will continue reimbursing providers to pay for victims' emergency contraceptives, medical examinations, STI tests, and other services. The office will not use public dollars to pay for abortions.

The victim compensation fund will now provide compensation to eligible fiancées of homicide victims. The office is advocating to increase victim funds for services such as mental health counseling and housing.

# 5.

### Improving Tracking for Sexual Assault Evidence Kits

The audit found that despite Iowa law, prosecutors were unable to update the status and location of sexual assault evidence collection kits. This access is critical to ensuring no kit slips through the cracks or victim is left unserved. The office fixed the system so that a statewide program will enable prosecutors to update the status of these kits.

# 6.

### Fighting Against Federal Cuts to Victim Funding

Attorney General Bird has called on Congress to stop a looming cut to nearly half of the Victims of Crime Act funding. The cut would eliminate rural services, cause personnel cuts, and reduce resources for healing.