

**STATE OF MONTANA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
EXECUTIVE ORDER No 03-2015**

---

**EXECUTIVE ORDER DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED CRIME VICTIM ADVOCATE  
AGENCIES AS CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES UNDER THE MONTANA  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION ACT OF 1979 FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
ACCESS TO STATE CRIME VICTIM INFORMATION.**

---

**WHEREAS** crime victim advocates who provide victims of crime and their families with guidance and support serve a critically important function in the criminal justice system;

**WHEREAS** in order to perform their job duties and to assist crime victims in navigating a complex and often intimidating judicial system, it is imperative that these advocates have access to the information required to fulfill their responsibilities;

**WHEREAS** most crime victim advocates in Montana are part of a prosecution or law enforcement office and therefore considered part of a criminal justice agency and entitled to access confidential criminal justice information, there are advocates across the state who perform the same function but who are housed outside of a criminal justice agency;

**WHEREAS** in order for crime victim advocates who are not part of a criminal justice agency to adequately deliver services to victims of crime, it is essential that they have access to confidential state crime victim information; and

**WHEREAS** crime victim advocate agencies must be designated as a criminal justice agency as defined by Mont. Code Ann. 44-5-103 in order to be eligible to access confidential crime victim information.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK**, Governor of the State of Montana, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the laws and Constitution of the State of Montana, and pursuant to the Montana Criminal Justice Information Act of 1979 [Mont. Code Ann. Title 44, Chapter 5, and Mont. Code Ann. 44-5-103(7)], do hereby designate authorized Crime Victim Advocate agencies identified by the Attorney General as Criminal Justice Agencies for the sole purpose of the exchange of state crime victim information the Attorney General specifies.

Pursuant to this Order, the Montana Attorney General may identify crime victim advocate agencies housed outside of law enforcement and prosecution offices that qualify for the designation of criminal justice agency. The Montana Attorney General may restrict what crime victim information is available to an eligible crime victim advocate agency in order to fulfill the agency's mission of serving victims.

This designation is limited to granting criminal justice agencies the authority to exchange state crime victim information with authorized crime victim advocate agencies. It does not grant

authorized crime victim advocate agencies the right to access national confidential criminal justice information. Authorized crime victim advocate agencies receiving confidential crime victim information shall comply with applicable privacy laws and audit requirements.

This Order is effective immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LINDA MCCULLOCH, Secretary of State