



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Public Safety

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
James E. Cockrell

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July 6, 2022

Dear Victim Service Providers and Advocates,

As you may know, the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) has experienced significant changes in personnel in recent weeks, including the departure of both the Executive Director and Paralegal positions. Because VCCB has a staff of three, this only leaves one staff member to manage all incoming mail, phone calls, and filing of claims. These departures require VCCB to hire staff and streamline procedures to create efficiencies to meet the continuing needs of Alaska's victims, survivors, and those impacted by violent crimes.

Housed within the Department of Public Safety (DPS), VCCB is receiving support in terms of personnel, finance, and management services. While these changes will create delays in terms of communication, processing claims, and timely payments, everyone has pulled together to ensure VCCB is working to reduce the significant backlog and enter new claims for initial processing. However, even with help, one staff person can only address limited requests each day.

During this time of transition and rebuilding, it is essential to have patience and understanding. This is important work, and everyone involved recognizes the need for clarity in communications and expectations while also working to keep the process moving efficiently. DPS has initiated recruitment efforts to fill the two vacant positions and is hopeful new staff will be hired within the next two months.

The good news is that, with support from the US DOJ Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Alaska is receiving technical assistance and guidance to improve all aspects of the critical work VCCB does to improve and rebuild the lives of Alaska victims of violent crimes. While there is much work to be done, the OVC Technical Assistance team is providing critical knowledge and experience to help Alaska create a victim-centered and culturally responsive approach to the work of VCCB.

Please share this information with your colleagues and clients. As new information becomes available, we will communicate via the VCCB website (<https://dps.alaska.gov/VCCB/Home>), email, and through partner agencies.

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding, and for the critically important work you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James E. Cockrell".

James E. Cockrell  
Commissioner