

# Advocating Victims Rights

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June 8, 2012



During the week of May 1st, we stopped to acknowledge the hurt and loss of actual victims of violent crime or their families in South Carolina. By an executive order of the SC Governor, this week was designated as Victim's Rights Week.

Thanks in part to the contributions of SCSA, South Carolina has one of the largest and most active crime victim advocacy movements in the country. With a provision in our state's constitution providing for the specific rights for crime victims, we have laws providing certain assistance and support to victims of crime.

SCSA was among those who worked to pass the laws that provide services to crime victims – serving on the working committee to draft the legislation that led to the South Carolina Crime Victims Coordinating Council.

This year, SCSA's executive director, Jeff Moore, serves as the Council's Chair and spoke at the opening ceremony for Victim's Rights Week. He reiterated the Council's mission to ensure the proper training of victim advocates through their new certification program. Additionally, he spoke of the funds that are collected and earmarked to provide direct services to crime victims.