

Working with Reporters

If your agency is holding a newsworthy event, either for National Crime Victims' Rights Week or any time during the year, send out invitations and alerts via social media, contact local reporters by phone and email, and engage with reporters on their social media. Briefly describe the event and offer yourself as a resource. Reporters are on tight deadlines, so any information that you can share ahead of time is useful. Reporters will often ask for a local or human-interest angle. Be prepared for the following types of questions when pitching.

- Has a local victim triumphed over tragedy or found a way to help other victims restore their lives? Is there a victim who would be willing to share his or her story?
- Do you have a reliable source for up-to-date statistics on a particular type of crime? Position your organization as a resource and refer to the "Crime and Victimization Fact Sheets" for data points.
- Have there been any other recent examples of the crime you are discussing in your area or in other communities around the country?
- Who could brief the reporter on the current status of the law in this area?
- Can your organization's director provide an on-the-record comment?

