VICTIM SERVICES FOR FAMILIES OF MMIW/MMIP

When a loved one disappears or becomes a victim of homicide, grieving families are often left struggling on how to address the aftermath of these tragic circumstances. They may be confronted with planning for a funeral, determining who will take responsibility for minor children, or how to ensure a loved one’s disappearance and/or murder is addressed. Fortunately, there are resources available to help families during this difficult period. To make it easier for Indigenous families to connect with available resources, the Native Alliance Against Violence has assembled a collection of state, federal and national victim service providers that can provide assistance or referrals with cases involving MMIW/MMIP. Another resource included in this list are some of the state and federal statutes in places that concern MMIW/MMIP.

Oklahoma

* Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI)

Ida’s Law - passed into law in 2020 - requires the OSBI to establish an office for Missing

and Murdered Persons once funding is secured to support this effort. While the search for funding is underway, the OSBI has demonstrated their commitment to this cause by assisting agencies on missing and murdered Indigenous person cases.

* + Dale Fine, Special Agent and OSBI Tribal Liaison

[Dale.fine@osbi.ok.gov](mailto:Dale.fine@osbi.ok.gov)

918-582-9075

* + Christy Pata, Victim Services Coordinator

[Christy.penney@osbi.ok.gov](mailto:Christy.penney@osbi.ok.gov)

[victims.support@osbi.ok.gov](mailto:victims.support@osbi.ok.gov)

405.715.9579

* + Dale Fine and Christy Pata email contact:

[idaslaw@osbi.ok.gov](mailto:idaslaw@osbi.ok.gov)

* Other OSBI resources:
  + Oklahoma Cold Case Playing Cards Program

[coldcasecards@osbi.ok.gov](mailto:coldcasecards@osbi.ok.gov)

405.879.2959

* Homicide Survivors Support Group

An informal group that meets at the OSBI Forensic Science Center in Edmond.  Although it is specifically focused on homicide survivors, there are some who have participated when a loved one is missing.

* + [ohssgroup@gmail.com](mailto:ohssgroup@gmail.com)
* Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

The mission of the Family Assistance Coordinators is to establish and maintain lines of communication with the families of victims whose homicidal or suspicious death is being investigated by this office.

* + Oklahoma City, Central Division

Ashley Cunningham, Family Assistance Coordinator

Office:  405-248-9700

Fax:  405-293-2430

Email:  [Ashley.Cunningham@ocme.ok.gov](mailto:Ashley.Cunningham@ocme.ok.gov)

* + Tulsa, Eastern Division

Jon Moser, Family Assistance Coordinator

Email: [Jon.moser@ocme.ok.gov](mailto:Jon.moser@ocme.ok.gov)

Office**:** 918-295-3400

Fax:  918-585-1549

* + OSBI Records Division

Contact to receive a complimentary copy of the medical examiner’s report, if an autopsy was performed.

* + Oklahoma City Records Division

Annette Riley, Records Manager

405-248-9716

[Annette.riley@ocme.ok.gov](mailto:Annette.riley@ocme.ok.gov)

* + Tulsa Records Division

Amelia Jones, Records Manager

918.295.3411

Amelia.jones@ocme.ok.gov

* Oklahoma Crime Victims Compensation Program
  + The purpose of the program is to assist victims of violent crime with compensation for specific crime related expenses.

[victimservices@dac.state.ok.us](mailto:victimservices@dac.state.ok.us)

405.264.5006

1.800.745.6098

Oklahoma Statutes

**Reports of Missing or Runaway Person - Procedures and Guidelines for Electronic Database - Hot-Line Number** |§74-150.12A.

* Describes the reporting requirements that law enforcement should follow when a person is reported missing and the steps to takes for missing persons under 18.
* **https://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=101439**

**Investigation of Missing Child 16 Years and Under |**§10-52.1628

* States that the duty of law enforcement is to investigate immediately when a child under 16 is reported missing.
* <https://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/deliverdocument.asp?id=64289&hits>=

**Fingerprinting Programs for Students |** §10-52.1633

* Describes how fingerprinting programs shall be developed for the sole purpose of providing a means by which a missing child might be located or identified and how they should be operated.
* <https://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=64289>

**Francine’s Law** | 74 O.S. § 151.3

* Francine's Law redefined the definition of a missing person and mandated that law enforcement enter that missing person into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) within 30 days.
* <https://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/deliverdocument.asp?id=485949&hits>

**Ida’s Law** - **Office of Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons** |74 O.S. § 150.12A-1

* **The bill states that upon securing federal funding by 1/01/22, an Office of Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons the OSBI shall be established to coordinate efforts and gather data in the state of Oklahoma. Despite a lack of funding at this point, OSBI Director Ricky Adams is taking steps to implement the bill on behalf of missing and murdered indigenous persons in Oklahoma and has assigned personnel to take the lead on MMIP cases.**
* <https://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=489974>

FEDERAL RESOURCES

* National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)

NamUs provides technology, forensic services and investigative support to resolve missing person and unidentified remains cases.

* + Michael Nance, Regional Program Specialist (AR, LA, OK and TX)

[mnance@rti.org](mailto:mnance@rti.org)

(918) 527-0080

* Missing and Murdered Unit | Bureau of Indian Affairs-Office of Justice Services |Department of Interior

Missing and Murdered Unit within the Office of Justice Services focuses on analyzing and solving missing and murdered cases involving American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Office of Justice Services

1849 C Street NW, MS-3662

Washington DC 20240

[Ojs-mmu@bia.gov](mailto:Ojs-mmu@bia.gov)

833.560.2065

* Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) | Oklahoma City Office

As part of the Victim Services Division (VSD), Victim Service Specialists provide services to victims of crimes investigated by the FBI. Crime victims are given the opportunity to receive services and notification as required by federal law and the Attorney General Guidelines on Victim and Witness Assistance.

* + 405.290.7770
* United States Attorney Office – Oklahoma

The US Attorney’s Office prosecutes crimes within federal jurisdiction. To assist crime victims and witnesses during the prosecution process, Victim Witness Coordinators are assigned to ensure victims and witnesses are afforded all rights and services to which they are entitled. Some services provided include: notice of case events; information concerning their rights; information about case proceedings and the criminal justice system in general; referrals to medical and/or social service providers; assistance with travel arrangements; and logistical information concerning transportation.

* + Victim Witness Coordinator, Oklahoma Eastern Division

800.659.7913

* + Victim Witness Coordinator, Oklahoma Northern Division

918.382.2700

* + Victim Witness Coordinator, Oklahoma Western Division

405.553.8700

Federal Statute

**Savanna’s Act** | Public Law 116 – 165, 116th Congress, Signed into law on October 10th, 2020.

 Savanna’s Act clarifies federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement responsibilities with respect to missing or murdered Indians; aims to increase communication and coordination between federal, tribal, state, and local law enforcement agencies; improves tribal access to resources and information such as the federal criminal information databases needed to respond effectively to missing and murdered Indian cases; requires data collection related to missing and murdered Indian people, regardless of where they reside; and directs U.S. attorneys to develop regionally appropriate guidelines for responding to missing or murdered Indians.

[Savanna's Act | Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/227?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22savanna%27s+act%22%2C%22savanna%27s%22%2C%22act%22%5D%7D&s=8&r=4)

**Not Invisible Act** | Public Law 116 – 166, 116th Congress, Signed into law on October 10th, 2020

An act to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and of Indians.

[Not Invisible Act | Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/982?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22not+invisible%22%2C%22not%22%2C%22invisible%22%5D%7D&s=7&r=1)

NATIONAL

**Sovereign Bodies Institute**

Sovereign Bodies Institute (SBI) builds on Indigenous traditions of data gathering and knowledge transfer to create, disseminate, and put into action research on gender and sexual violence against Indigenous people.

Assistance in organizing or paying for vigils and memorials, referrals for therapists and healthcare, referrals for emergency or transitional housing, emergency financial assistance (especially housing, food, and other basic needs), custom design work for awareness designs, emotional support, legal and media advocacy, assistance in pushing cases forward, assistance in locating healing opportunities or resources.

(707) 335-6263

<https://www.sovereign-bodies.org/services>

**National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**

NCMEC’s masters-level trained advocates work to strengthen families by offering telephonic support when planning for prevention or managing a crisis.

1-800-THE-LOST (843-5678)