

A Focus for the Future: Victim-Oriented Policing

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Today, resources for law enforcement have become limited, officer retention is an issue and violent crime is on the rise. These factors increase the demand on the officer and limit their opportunity to focus on the crime victim. Technical advancements and public scrutiny have impacted officer time with training, documentation and increased calls for service. Time and attention provided to the victim are often lost on “getting the job done.” Often cases are “no filed” and successful prosecutions are declining due to lack of victim cooperation. Skilled intervention with victims has proven to significantly increase the victim’s level of participation in criminal cases and improve conviction rates. Despite the availability of funding, many agencies lack effective victim services. This study looks at the current status of victim services provided by municipal law enforcement agencies within the State of Florida to identify strengths and weaknesses in current approaches and identify potential future improvements.