

Victim/Witness Intimidation, Retaliation, Engagement, and Support

Training & Technical Assistance Outline



Abstract

Victim and witness intimidation has been a significant issue in the United States for decades. Between the 1990's and 2005 the FBI found that in cities with populations of 500,000-1,000,000+, violent crime increased. While the number of violent crimes resulting in an arrest decreased from 45% to 35%. Further, very few local courts and jurisdictions have established response procedures and strategies in place to prevent intimidation. This is highly problematic, as witness and victim intimidation disrupts the processes of the criminal justice system and prevents law enforcement and prosecutors from effectively investigating and prosecuting violent crimes. Thus, it is imperative for law enforcement officials to develop prevention and response strategies that effectively reduce witness and victim intimidation. This would result in more crimes being reported, greater victim and witness cooperation with law enforcement, more efficient arrests, and ultimately a higher rate of accurate convictions.





Learning Objectives

- Understand how victim/witness intimidation can affect a victim and hinder an investigation
- Identify the various factors that contribute to victim/witness intimidation
- Identify evidence-based responses that law enforcement and victim service providers can use to prevent and respond to victim/witness intimidation

Methodology

The principles in which this training is centered upon were developed by assessing various training tools and resources focused on witness and victim intimidation prevention and responses, including research conducted by Arizona State University and AEquitas. This training will use research, discussion questions, and videos to present the material in an engaging format, and conclude with a case study designed to summarize and critically think about the topics covered. This training is designed to be presented as a whole or portions of the course can be used on a case-by-case basis depending on what is most relevant to the site seeking technical assistance. Course modules can be presented in person or in a digital format via webinar or other available methods.

Agenda

- What is witness/victim intimidation
- Prevalence of witness/victim Intimidation
- Identifying who is vulnerable to witness/victim intimidation
- Factors that contribute to witness/victim intimidation
- Identifying who is affected by witness/victim intimidation
- Responding to witness/victim intimidation
- Measuring the effectiveness of responses to witness/victim intimidation
- Case Study

