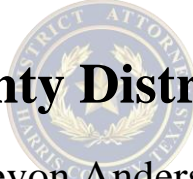


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Harris County District Attorney

Devon Anderson

DA's Office Celebrates

30th Anniversary of Victims of Crime Act

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District Attorney Devon Anderson announced today that her office will recognize National Crime Victims' Rights Week which begins on Sunday April 6th.

Each April, the National Crime Victims' Rights Week is promoted to honor crime victims. This year's theme is *30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice*.

In 1984, Congress passed the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which created the Crime Victims' Fund which is financed from fines and penalties paid by offenders. The fund supports victim services, including rape crisis and domestic violence programs and victim compensation programs that pay many of the crime victims' out-of-pocket expenses such as counseling, funeral expenses and lost wages.

"The National Crime Victims' Rights Week is a great opportunity to remember those who have been victims of crime," said DA Anderson. "Our office is committed to seeking justice for Harris County citizens. We are devoted to holding offenders accountable, protecting the rights of victims, and supporting all of the victims who walk in and out of our criminal courthouse every day."

On Monday April 7th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Office's Victim/Witness Division will hold an event called, "Shoes without Souls" at the Family Law Center, 1115 Congress Street to honor crime victims. There will be 9 agencies participating including the local chapters of Parents of Murdered Children, Fort Bend Women's Center and Bay Area Turning Point. These agencies will be available to answer questions and distribute information regarding help and support for crime victims. The Harris County District Attorney's Office collected shoes from employees and will display them to symbolize the walk crime victims have to take through the criminal justice system. After the event, the shoes will be donated to the Salvation Army.

For additional information on how to help crime victims please visit [the Harris County District Attorney's Office website](#) and click on the tab "Helping Victims".