



**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**APRIL 2011 – A Month of Crime Prevention Awareness and Activities**

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(Tucson, Arizona) Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall encourages Pima County residents to participate in the many different outreach and educational activities that support victims of crime and promote efforts to prevent violence during the month of April.

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This month is *Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)* in the United States. The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.

[www.pcao.pima.gov](http://www.pcao.pima.gov)

April is also *National Child Abuse Prevention Month*, a time to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and create strong communities to support children and families.

And since 1981, during the second week in April, the Office for Victims of Crime has helped lead communities throughout the country in their annual observances of *National Crime Victims' Rights Week* by promoting victims' rights and honoring crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf.

This year's theme—*Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past*—pays tribute to the millions of crime victims over the decades who have summoned the strength to rebuild their shattered lives, families, and communities, one step at a time. Similarly, it honors the victim service community whose members have walked alongside these victims, responding to their courage with unwavering commitment and skillful guidance.

*National Crime Victims' Rights Week*, April 10-16, 2011, is a way to honor victims, to promote victims' rights, and to acknowledge those who advocate for victims. LaWall says: "It is important to commemorate the courage and sacrifices of victim-survivors who helped establish the rights that victims' benefit from today."

The Pima County Attorney's Office has a list of outreach and educational activities that will take place in April (you may download the list at: <http://www.pcao.pima.gov/vicservices.html>). County Attorney LaWall urges everyone to participate in these community activities that support crime victims, support the work of non-profit agencies that help victims, and help promote violence prevention efforts.

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