

## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **CHRIS FENNO**

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Chris is the Executive Director of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Philosophy from Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon and a Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, Massachusetts. She has over 25 years of experience providing victim services and ensuring victim rights in four states: Massachusetts, Maine, Washington and Vermont. She has directed two agencies providing emergency and support services for victims of domestic violence and administered federal and state funding for victim services in Washington and Vermont. In Washington State she worked to establish regional crime victim service centers and was the VOCA Assistance Administrator. In addition, she has administered Violence Against Women Act funding facilitating the development of community response teams. Her work has included supporting Victim/Witness Advocates in Washington State County Prosecutor's Offices and securing emergency federal funding for a community responding to an incident of mass violence in a high school.

The Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services is the state agency designated to assist victims and survivors of crime. The Center administers the Victim Assistance Program which consists of 24 victim advocates who work out of the State's Attorneys and Attorney General's offices and the Vermont Victim Compensation Program which provides financial compensation to victims of violent crimes. The Center also coordinates state and federal funds through its grant program to community-based victim service programs including those serving children, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking along with programs supporting victims of trafficking. The Center staffs a Restitution Unit which uses state funds to pay victims of crime their restitution at the time it is ordered by the court and then works to collect those funds from offenders. Finally, the Center also provides advocates and allied professionals with basic and on-going training to ensure quality services across the state. The Center joins with victims, survivors and those who interact with victims to provide and support a system of services across Vermont that is victim-centered, comprehensive and just.