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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

From: Eric Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney  
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***Delaware County Prosecutor Commemorates National Crime Victims'  
Rights Week, April 7–13, 2019***

*Muncie, Indiana – Delaware County Prosecutor's Office, in commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), April 7–13, 2019, is raising awareness about crime victims' issues and rights and introduce the community to the important resources and services available. According to the most recent Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced 3.1 million violent victimizations and U.S. households experienced an estimated 13.3 million property crimes in 2017.*

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) leads communities throughout the country in their annual observances of NCVRW by promoting victims' rights and honoring crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. This year's theme – *Honoring Our Past. Creating Hope for the Future.* – encourages commemoration, honor, and respect toward the crime victim advocates, allied professionals, and selfless volunteers who have courageously worked for increased rights for crime victims. The theme also invites us to look toward a future of inclusive, accessible, and innovative resources and services for survivors.

The mission of the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office to pursue justice within the bounds of the law by holding criminals accountable for their actions and protecting and preserving the rights of victims of crime.

OVC and the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office encourage widespread participation in the week's events and in other victim-related observances throughout the year. OVC will host the annual National Crime Victims' Service Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C., to honor outstanding individuals and programs that serve victims of crime.

For additional information about how to assist victims in our community, please contact the Muncie Police Department's Victim Advocate at 765-747-4777, the Prosecutor's Office Domestic Violence Victim Advocate at 765-747-7801 ext. 871 or visit the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office website at [www.co.delaware.in.us/prosecutor](http://www.co.delaware.in.us/prosecutor) and look in the "Victim Advocacy" topic of interest for more information on victims' rights. For additional ideas on how to support victims of crime, visit OVC's website at [www.ovc.gov](http://www.ovc.gov).

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