

Palm Beach County Response to DUI fatalities or Serious Bodily Injury (SBI) Crashes: **Requesting a Victim Advocate**

Violent Crime Helpline: (561) 833-7273

Daytime or
afterhours crash

Traffic Homicide
Investigator (THI)
contacts **Violent
Crime Helpline:**
(561) 833-7273

THI provides
Helpline with
necessary case
information

Victim Advocate
contacts THI for
further information
and responds to
requested location

Information law enforcement will provide to Helpline:

- Advise if you are requesting an immediate response** (*fatality, SBI, Death Notification*) or a **delayed response** (*out-of-jurisdiction Next of Kin*)
- Brief summary of the crash**
- Location of the crash**
- Current location of victim** (*hospital, crash site, ME's office, etc.*)
- Extent of injuries to the victim – if known**
- Victim's name and DOB**
- Next of Kin's name, phone number, location**
- Law Enforcement agency, investigator's name, phone number**
- Location where Victim Advocate should respond**

Palm Beach County Response to DUI fatalities or Serious Bodily Injury (SBI) Crashes: **Death Notification Process – Plan, Prepare, Deliver, Follow up**

☑ PLAN

Victim Advocate and THI meet away from the location of Next of Kin (NOK) and plan the delivery of the death notification.

☑ PREPARE

Know what information will be shared with NOK at initial contact. Expect questions from the NOK. Team of at least two—usually two THI and a Victim Advocate. Primary person (THI) provides the death notification. Support person (Victim Advocate) provides support. Additional investigator provides scene safety and should be monitoring reactions.

☑ DELIVER

THI takes the lead. THI confirms identity of NOK. If permitted, THI and Victim Advocate enter the home and ask the NOK to be seated. THI delivers the death notification while the Victim Advocate provides support. Victim Advocate will complete the Client Intake Packet and the important phone numbers in the Survivor Resource Packet.

☑ FOLLOW UP

Prior to leaving the home, Victim Advocate will request to call a friend or family member to come to the home to remain with the NOK. NOK should not be left alone following a death notification. Advise NOK that another Advocate will contact them the next business day.

