



State of North Carolina
Department of Crime Control and Public Safety



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Victims Assistance Network and Hispanic TV Network Link Up

RALEIGH – Hispanics who are impacted by violence are historically reluctant to turn to law enforcement agencies for help, according to Debbie Allen, administrator of the Statewide Automated Victims Assistance and Notification Program.

In an effort to educate Spanish language crime victims on safe places to turn to for help, NC SAVAN is teaming up with the Hispanic television network, Univision, to air 432 public service announcements for four months.

The PSAs tell victims how to register with NC SAVAN to receive notifications on the perpetrator of their crime. Through automated telephone and e-mail notifications, NC SAVAN provides up-to-date information about an offender's custody status such as escapes, capture and release and scheduled court case events. This service is free, and available around the clock in English, Spanish and 100 other languages.

“Our goal is to help any victim negotiate the criminal justice system, find services and stay safe,” Allen said.

The spots began airing April 3 on Univision's two Spanish-speaking television stations, Channel 40 in Fayetteville and Raleigh. Univision produced the PSA at no cost, and also waived the \$15,000 cost of a three-hour talk show that will air on Thursday, April 30. A federal SAVAN grant of \$11,250 pays for the on-air time.

“This issue touches many lives, and our support is another example of Univision's commitment to inform and empower our viewers,” said Michael Muñoz, vice president and general manager of WUVC Univision 40.

The public is invited to tune in April 30, from 6 to 9 p.m. for the locally-produced call-in

show. Representatives from the Attorney General's Office, Department of Correction, N.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence, N.C. Coalition Against Sexual Assault, N.C. Justice Center, El Pueblo, the Governor's Crime Commission and the N.C. Victims Assistance Network will help take calls from victims of crime who have questions.

NC SAVAN, operated through the Governor's Crime Commission, received a total of \$45,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, to educate the Hispanic community of victims' rights, resources and services available to victims of crime. The Univision PSAs are the first expenditures in the outreach to Spanish language victims of crime. Allen said the program has recently been awarded grant funding to pay for a similar outreach to the English-speaking community.

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