

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 27, 1996

June 27, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: Renewing our Commitment to Crime Victims

We have made tremendous progress over the last 3 years in reducing crime and making America safer. Nonetheless, crime continues to affect the lives of millions of Americans, greatly diminishing their sense of safety and security.

For too long, the rights and needs of crime victims and witnesses have been overlooked in the criminal justice system. Through the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 and the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, we have begun to address this problem. But those important measures are not enough.

As important as the protections those laws provide are, they do not -- and cannot -- give victims equal status with the accused. That's the next step we need to take.

I strongly believe that victims should be central participants in the criminal justice system, and that it will take a constitutional amendment to give the rights of victims the same status as the rights of the accused. In the interim, I want my Administration to do everything possible to ensure that victims' rights are respected and that victims' participation in the criminal justice process is encouraged and facilitated. Our Federal investigators and prosecutors should not simply comply with the letter of the law, they should also fulfill the spirit of the law.

That is why I am directing you to take a number of important steps that will improve the treatment of victims in the Federal, State, military, and juvenile criminal justice systems.

First, I am directing you to undertake a system-wide review and to take all necessary steps to provide for full victim participation in Federal criminal proceedings. I want you to hold the Federal system to a higher standard of victims' rights than ever before. In particular, I want you to adopt a nationwide automated victim information and notification system so that we can better inform and protect crime victims.

Second, I would like you to work with other Federal agencies whose missions involve them with crime victims in order to ensure that a common and comprehensive baseline of participation for victims can be achieved.

Third, I want you to review existing Federal statutes to see what further changes ought to be made. For example, I would like you to consider legislation that would prohibit employers from dismissing or disciplining employees who are victims of crime and whose participation as victims in criminal proceedings requires them to take time away from their employment.

more

(OVER)

Finally, I want you to work with State officials -- governors, attorneys general, legislators, district attorneys, and judges -- and victims' rights advocates to identify the needs, challenges, best practices, and resources necessary to help achieve a uniform national baseline of protections for victims. The Department of Justice should provide technical assistance to State and local law enforcement, as well as other Federal agencies, and serve as a national clearinghouse for information about the most effective approaches to realizing fully the rights of victims of violent crime.

To achieve these objectives, I expect you to identify funding needs where and as appropriate. Please report to me in writing as soon as possible on the specific steps you will take to achieve these goals.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 27, 1996

June 27, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: Renewing our Commitment to Crime Victims

We have made tremendous progress over the last 3 years in reducing crime and making America safer. Nonetheless, crime continues to affect the lives of millions of Americans, greatly diminishing their sense of safety and security.

For too long, the rights and needs of crime victims and witnesses have been overlooked in the criminal justice system. Through the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 and the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, we have begun to address this problem. But those important measures are not enough.

As important as the protections those laws provide are, they do not -- and cannot -- give victims equal status with the accused. That's the next step we need to take.

I strongly believe that victims should be central participants in the criminal justice system, and that it will take a constitutional amendment to give the rights of victims the same status as the rights of the accused. In the interim, I want my Administration to do everything possible to ensure that victims' rights are respected and that victims' participation in the criminal justice process is encouraged and facilitated. Our Federal investigators and prosecutors should not simply comply with the letter of the law, they should also fulfill the spirit of the law.

That is why I am directing you to take a number of important steps that will improve the treatment of victims in the Federal, State, military, and juvenile criminal justice systems.

First, I am directing you to undertake a system-wide review and to take all necessary steps to provide for full victim participation in Federal criminal proceedings. I want you to hold the Federal system to a higher standard of victims' rights than ever before. In particular, I want you to adopt a nationwide automated victim information and notification system so that we can better inform and protect crime victims.

Second, I would like you to work with other Federal agencies whose missions involve them with crime victims in order to ensure that a common and comprehensive baseline of participation for victims can be achieved.

Third, I want you to review existing Federal statutes to see what further changes ought to be made. For example, I would like you to consider legislation that would prohibit employers from dismissing or disciplining employees who are victims of crime and whose participation as victims in criminal proceedings requires them to take time away from their employment.



U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D.C. 20530

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: Dennis Burke

FROM: Nicholas M. Gess
Director
Public Liaison and Intergovernmental Affairs
TELEPHONE: (202) 514-3465
FACSIMILE: (202) 514-2504

DATE: July 22, 1996

SUBJECT: see attached

PAGES: (Including this cover sheet)

REMARKS: Dennis - Materials sent to the field. Also provided
to Marcia Hale and Alexis Herman.



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Director

Washington, D.C. 20530

July 22, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR: Marcia L. Hale
Assistant to the President and Director of
Intergovernmental Affairs

FROM: Nicholas M. Gess
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

SUBJECT: Message Amplification - Child Support Recovery
Act

Attached is a copy of materials which we have provided to the relevant groups dealing with child support issues in light of the President's announcement concerning child support in Denver, Colorado yesterday.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Enclosure



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Director

Washington, D.C. 20530

July 22, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR: Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President and Director of
Public Liaison

FROM: Nicholas M. Gess
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

SUBJECT: Message Amplification - Child Support Recovery
Act

Attached is a copy of materials which we have provided to the relevant groups dealing with child support issues in light of the President's announcement concerning child support in Denver, Colorado yesterday.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Enclosure



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Director

Washington, D.C. 20530

July 22, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR: Interested Organizations

FROM: Nicholas M. Gess
Director

SUBJECT: Criminal Child Support Enforcement

We are pleased to forward a copy of the recent directive that the President issued regarding criminal child support enforcement. The directive instructs the Department of Justice to accomplish four tasks, listed in the attached memorandum.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me, or Assistant Director Jennifer Jaffe on 202-514-3465.

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 21, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: Criminal Child Support Enforcement

I am proud of the progress we have made over the last 3 years in addressing the problem of child support enforcement.

While State and local agencies have and must have primary responsibility for child support enforcement, the Federal Government has a crucially important role to play. One aspect of that role involves bringing prosecutions under the Child Support Recovery Act of 1992, which for the first time created a Federal criminal offense for interstate cases, where persons willfully fail to pay child support for their child who lives in another State.

The Department of Justice, working through the local United States Attorneys' offices, has brought child support cases across the Nation to get the message out that a person who willfully avoids child support payments for a child in another State runs a grave risk of Federal prosecution. Each U.S. Attorney's office has a child support coordinator; the Federal Bureau of Investigation has committed its resources; the Department of Justice has authorized the Department of Health and Human Services' Inspector General to investigate these cases.

But these important measures are not enough.

The Department of Justice, working with the Department of Health and Human Services and the States, must pursue all available measures to punish those who have tried to evade their child support obligations.

Therefore, I direct you to take the following important steps to strengthen our child support enforcement efforts.

First, I direct you to convene a task force consisting of Federal, State, and local prosecutors, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the State agencies responsible for child support enforcement to enhance criminal prosecution of child support debtors. You should consider:

- o measures to improve the process of referring appropriate cases for Federal, State, or local criminal enforcement;

- o the adequacy of all applicable Federal and State laws;
- o the availability and appropriate allocation of resources; and
- o ways to coordinate Federal, State, and local efforts to make enforcement most effective.

Second, I direct you to review the sentences that have been imposed upon those convicted under the Child Support Recovery Act, including restitution orders, incarceration, and community service, with the goal of identifying novel and effective sentencing options, and send guidance to Federal prosecutors setting forth factors to consider when seeking sentencing orders from courts.

Third, I direct you to draft legislation to amend the Child Support Recovery Act to establish a felony offense for a person who willfully fails to pay child support for a child in another State where there has been an egregious failure to meet child support obligations.

Fourth, I direct you, as part of your effort to enforce criminal laws, to cooperate with the Department of Health and Human Services to place on their Internet child support page the names of persons who have been indicted under Federal law for willfully failing to pay child support and have fled in an attempt to escape criminal prosecution.

Finally, I direct you to report back to me within 90 days on the actions you have taken to fulfill this directive.

William J. Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 19, 1996

January 19, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Missing Persons or Children Notices in Federal Facilities

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to provide for the posting of missing persons or children notices in buildings owned or controlled by the Federal Government, I hereby direct as follows:

Section 1. Posting of Missing Persons or Children Notices in Federal Facilities. Executive departments and agencies possessing custody or control over buildings or facilities occupied by Federal employees shall take such actions as are reasonable, necessary, and appropriate to provide for the posting of missing persons or children notices in public and other appropriate areas of such domestic buildings or facilities, as determined by the Federal official having primary responsibility for management and operation of the building or facility involved.

Sec. 2. Duties of Federal Official. Such official shall maintain, or shall designate a representative to maintain, the physical area upon which missing persons or children notices may be placed. The official or the designated representative shall give priority and special prominence to notices involving missing children who are believed to have been abducted by non-family members or otherwise are in imminent physical danger.

Sec. 3. Exceptions. Nothing in this memorandum shall require an executive department or agency to provide public access to its buildings or facilities if such access could impede or disrupt the performance of official duties by government employees or potentially be harmful to the national security.

Sec. 4. Consultation. Executive departments and agencies shall consult with the Department of Justice and the General Services Administration in carrying out the purposes of this memorandum.

Sec. 5. Judicial Review. This memorandum is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government, and is not intended, and should not be construed, to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or its employees.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#

DATE:

6/26/96

TO:

David Fein
Rahm Emanuel Bruce Reed
Vicki Radd & Dennis Burke

218

FROM: Staff Secretary

Crime Victims Directive
with edits incorporated,
Please call me with
comments.

S. Helen
6-2702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: Renewing our Commitment to Crime Victims

We have made tremendous progress over the last 3 years in reducing crime and making America safer. Nonetheless, crime continues to affect the lives of millions of Americans, greatly diminishing their sense of safety and security.

For too long, the rights and needs of crime victims and witnesses have been overlooked in the criminal justice system. Through the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 and the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, we have begun to address this problem. But those important measures are not enough.

As important as the protections those laws provide are, they do not -- and cannot -- give victims equal status with the accused. That's the next step we need to take.

I strongly believe that victims should be central participants in the criminal justice system, and that it will take a constitutional amendment to give the rights of victims the same status as the rights of the accused. In the interim, I want my Administration to do everything possible to ensure that victims' rights are respected and that victims' participation in all stages of the criminal justice process is encouraged and facilitated. Our Federal investigators and prosecutors should not simply comply with the letter of the law, they should also fulfill the spirit of the law.

That is why I am directing you to take a number of important steps that will improve the treatment of victims in the Federal, State, military, and juvenile criminal justice systems.

First, I am directing you to undertake a system-wide review and to take all necessary steps to provide for maximum victim participation in all Federal criminal proceedings. In particular, I want you to adopt a nationwide automated victim information and notification system so that we can better inform and protect crime victims.

Second, I would like you to work with other Federal agencies whose missions involve them with crime victims in order to ensure that a common and comprehensive baseline of participation for victims can be achieved.

Third, I want you to review existing Federal statutes to see what further changes ought to be made. For example, I would like you to consider legislation that would prohibit employers from dismissing or disciplining employees who are victims of crime and whose participation in criminal proceedings requires them to take time away from their employment.

Finally, I want you to work with State officials -- governors, attorneys general, legislators, district attorneys, and judges -- to identify the needs, challenges, best practices, and resources necessary to help achieve a uniform national baseline of protections for victims. In addition, the Department of Justice should provide technical assistance to State and local law enforcement, as well as other Federal agencies, and serve as a national clearinghouse for information about the most effective approaches to realizing fully the rights of victims of violent crime.

To achieve these objectives, I expect you to identify funding needs where and as appropriate. Please report to me in writing as soon as possible on the specific steps you will take to achieve these goals.

- Requirement on Fed funds
that pay for Social workers

- Child welfare -

↙ Social workers to do police work
~~workers~~ so that police
don't have to do it

July 8

Tracking

July 20

Truancy

July 23 26

ATM

Toy Guns

Voluntary rating system on the
Industry (- NV - label)

July 23
Holding parents
civilly liable
for crimes
of their kids
July

- Drug Testing Parolees

- Brady Bill

- Police Academy

- Cop in Every School

} funding

July 18th

Cell phones

- July 31st event - Cops in Schools

- July 17th ~~to~~ Squeezing

Finally, I want you to work with State officials -- governors, attorneys general, legislators, district attorneys, and judges -- and victims' rights advocates to identify the needs, challenges, best practices, and resources necessary to help achieve a uniform national baseline of protections for victims. The Department of Justice should provide technical assistance to State and local law enforcement, as well as other Federal agencies, and serve as a national clearinghouse for information about the most effective approaches to realizing fully the rights of victims of violent crime.

To achieve these objectives, I expect you to identify funding needs where and as appropriate. Please report to me in writing as soon as possible on the specific steps you will take to achieve these goals.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#

Final Draft
July 5, 1996

Memorandum on Reducing Illegal Firearms Trafficking

July 8, 1996

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General

Subject: Implementation of the Administration's Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative

Firearms violence is a scourge on our society. Homicides committed by young people with firearms have nearly tripled since 1985, and other types of gun-related violence have been on the rise. Too many guns are in the hands of our nation's children.

Through the Brady Law and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, we have reduced criminals access to firearms, including military style assault weapons. The Gun-Free Schools Act is working to take guns out of schools, making schools a safer learning environment for our children.

In addition, working in cooperation with state and local law enforcement in unprecedented fashion, federal investigators and prosecutors have successfully disrupted numerous illicit gun markets across the country over the last three years. We need to strengthen our efforts to clamp down on these illegal markets, especially those that provide crime guns to children.

The Department of Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) has developed a pilot program that will trace all guns used in crime that are seized by federal, state and local law enforcement officers, and use that trace information to help identify illegal gun traffickers. The project utilizes an innovative computer software system that examines crime gun trace information and provides law enforcement officers with crucial investigative leads about the sources of these guns. By analyzing patterns of gun trafficking that exist in an area, we are developing more effective law enforcement strategies to target illegal gun traffickers for prosecution, particularly those who put guns into the hands of our nation's young people.

I am directing both of you to implement this project in seventeen pilot cities. In addition, you should work with local, state and federal law enforcement in each of these cities to ensure that all crime guns seized in their cities are traced and to develop joint investigative and prosecutive strategies to combat the problem of illegal gun trafficking. Your efforts should build upon existing partnership programs with state and local law enforcement officers, such as the Anti-Violent Crime Initiative.

You should jointly report to me in writing by August 8, 1997, on the first-year accomplishments of this project.

William J. Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 19, 1996

January 19, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Missing Persons or Children Notices in Federal Facilities

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to provide for the posting of missing persons or children notices in buildings owned or controlled by the Federal Government, I hereby direct as follows:

Section 1. Posting of Missing Persons or Children Notices in Federal Facilities. Executive departments and agencies possessing custody or control over buildings or facilities occupied by Federal employees shall take such actions as are reasonable, necessary, and appropriate to provide for the posting of missing persons or children notices in public and other appropriate areas of such domestic buildings or facilities, as determined by the Federal official having primary responsibility for management and operation of the building or facility involved.

Sec. 2. Duties of Federal Official. Such official shall maintain, or shall designate a representative to maintain, the physical area upon which missing persons or children notices may be placed. The official or the designated representative shall give priority and special prominence to notices involving missing children who are believed to have been abducted by non-family members or otherwise are in imminent physical danger.

Sec. 3. Exceptions. Nothing in this memorandum shall require an executive department or agency to provide public access to its buildings or facilities if such access could impede or disrupt the performance of official duties by government employees or potentially be harmful to the national security.

Sec. 4. Consultation. Executive departments and agencies shall consult with the Department of Justice and the General Services Administration in carrying out the purposes of this memorandum.

Sec. 5. Judicial Review. This memorandum is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government, and is not intended, and should not be construed, to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or its employees.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 25, 1996

June 25, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: Development of a National Sexual Offender
Registration System

One of the most important duties of government is to provide safety and protection for our children from sexual offenders. Sex crimes and sex offender recidivism present very real and substantial challenges to law enforcement in protecting vulnerable populations and preventing crime. Law enforcement data show that, as a group, sex offenders are significantly more likely than other repeat offenders to commit additional sex crimes or other violent crimes, and that tendency persists over time.

One of the most significant provisions in the "Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994" (Crime Bill) was the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act (Wetterling Act). It promotes the establishment by States of effective registration systems for child molesters and other sexually violent offenders.

In addition, I recently signed "Megan's Law," which builds upon the Crime Bill by making community notification concerning registered sex offenders mandatory. Megan's Law will require States to make public relevant information about child molesters and sexually violent offenders who are released from prison or placed on parole.

Sex offender registration systems can greatly assist the investigation of sex crimes. In addition, creation of State-based registration systems is crucial for enabling State law enforcement agencies to communicate with each other regarding sex offenders who cross State lines. When sex offenders move, the law should move with them.

It is time to take the next step. That is why I am directing the Department of Justice to develop a plan for the implementation of a national sexual predator and child molester registration system. This system should build upon the Wetterling Act -- which is already establishing 50 separate sex offender registration and notification systems -- by combining this information into a national system.

I want the Department to work with all 50 States, the Congress, the Judiciary, and all appropriate Federal agencies on a plan for such a system so that law enforcement officers at every level will have access to information on all sexual offenders in the United States and share this information with one another.

Please report to me in writing by August 20, 1996, on the specific steps you will take to develop this policy. Thank you for all the work you and the Department have done to date, and for the work it will take to put this important piece in place.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#