

**Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys**  
**Victim Services Best Practices Subcommittee**  
**(Employment)**  
**(Approved August 2016)**

*NOTICE: A best practices recommendation by the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (MAPA) is the product of careful consideration by experienced prosecuting attorneys. However, it is only a recommendation. A best practices recommendation may or may not be feasible or desirable to implement in every county. There may be other methods in local jurisdictions to reach the same or similar objectives.*

**RECOMMENDATION #10: (Prosecutor Based Victim Advocate)**

**10.1 - Prosecutors should hire an individual to be a victim advocate who will fulfill the requirements of Chapter 595 of the Missouri Revised Statutes and the program standards for service provision and staff development as delineated by the Missouri Department of Public Safety Crime Victim Services Unit.**

*Commentary: Section 595.21.1, RSMo states: Each prosecuting attorney shall create and maintain, but not be limited to, a program to afford victims and witnesses of crimes the rights and services described in sections 595.200 and 595.215. It is the duty and privilege of Missouri Prosecutors to uphold these statutes. A crucial key to successful prosecution is a victim who is cooperative; and with the support of an advocate, that goal is more likely to be achieved.*