## **IFH Survivor Outreach Letter**

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Dear [Name]:	_
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August 22, 2019

When someone you love is murdered, the pain and grief can feel overwhelming and unbearable. Your wellbeing is important to us, and in an effort to provide additional support to families who have lost a loved one to homicide, we are reaching out to check in with you and your family regarding [decedent]. Whether the murder happened years ago or recently, no one can understand what you have experienced and what you continue to go through each day. We share our most heartfelt compassion regarding your loved one being taken from you, and we would love to provide support to you and your family that you may want or need at this time.

The Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia (AVP) has been serving families of murder victims and victims of crime for 30 years, and you may be eligible for assistance related to victim compensation/reimbursement and being connected to free therapy.

Attached to this letter is a flyer inviting you to participate in a survivor-centered research effort working to improve how community agencies within the city of Philadelphia provide services to families who are survivors of homicide. AVP knows that the voices of families who have had a loved one killed must be uplifted in order to improve services for families who will unfortunately experience similar tragedies.

Participation in this research effort is voluntary and includes an opportunity to share your experiences interacting with individuals and systems such as homicide detectives, the medical examiner's office, the criminal justice system, the media, and others. Your experiences will help agencies do a better job of supporting survivors of homicide. Interviews can take place at a time and place that are convenient for you, and you will receive a \$25 gift card for your time.

If you are interested or have any questions about available services, please contact the Intra-Familial Homicide (IFH) team to schedule an interview date. You have experienced a nightmare that has changed your life permanently, and while there is nothing we can say to bring back your loved one, we care about you. Take care and be encouraged.



Warmly, Kendra Van de Water, LSW Director, IFH Initiative Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia Cell: (267) 469-3002

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