



*Victims Helping Victims
Together We Are Making A Difference*

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The Effect of Crimes on Victims and Their Families

International Cruise Victims is an advocacy organization formed by victims and/or the families of victims of crimes or other tragedies on cruise ships. The circumstances may be varied—ranging from sexual assault, to murder, from sub-standard medical care to a disappearance but the effects are universally devastating, especially when the ship returns home but our loved ones do not. The mother of one such victim, Sandra Roman, recently wrote the following.

May 6th, 2018 was International Bereaved Mother's Day. It is set aside for us moms with a child in heaven. This is not the life any of us would choose—but on this day we get to pay homage to our child and the precious time we got to spend being the mom of our child.

So, this is for all the beautiful bereaved moms out there. Post a picture, say your child's name, tell your favorite Mother's day story about your child. For all our wonderful, supportive, and invaluable friends and family, please take a moment and pray for our child, pray for us and remember that our child lived; a child who is so very missed and loved every day.

“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you” Isaiah 66:13

The photos below represent but a few of the unique and tragic stories out of the many occurring each year.



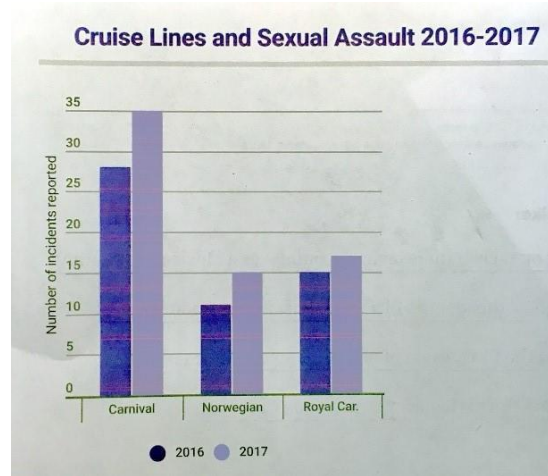
Update on Crimes on Cruise Ships

The goal of ICV is to take the necessary action to support victims and to pass legislation that will improve the safety of cruise ship passengers. In addition to communicating with victims during very difficult times, ICV's efforts resulted in the passage of the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act (CVSSA) in 2010.

The CVSSA prescribes security and safety requirements for most cruise ships that embark and disembark in the United States. The Act (as amended in 2014) mandates the reporting of missing persons and certain alleged criminal activity occurring on board applicable cruise vessels to the FBI. Because of the CVSSA, a quarterly report is then made public and issued by the Department of Transportation, providing a numerical accounting of all incidents of missing persons and alleged crimes reported under the relevant provisions of the CVSSA without regard to the investigative status of the incident.

According to new data from the U.S. Department of Transportation in an article published in Fast Company, ***“Commercial cruise lines reported 76 incidents of alleged sexual***

assault to the FBI last year, a 23% increase over the year before and further proof that sexual violence remains the most commonly reported serious crime at sea.”



What does this report issued for the first quarter of 2018, indicate? It also shows that sexual assault crimes represented 61.5% of reported crimes, Carnival Cruise lines represented 50% of the sexual crimes and Royal Caribbean represented 25%.

In addition to sexual crimes, reports by Dr. Ross Klein in Cruise Junkie indicate that as of May 16, 2018, --4 1/2 months into the year, 9 persons have gone overboard since January 1.

New Update on the Efforts to Further Improve Safety on Cruise Ships

The work of ICV continues. In April of 2017, the Cruise Passenger Protection Act (H.R. 2172– S.965) was updated and reintroduced by Representatives Doris Matsui (D-CA), Ted Poe (R-TX) and Jim Himes (D-CT) in the House, and Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Edward Markey (D-MA) in the Senate.

In addition, ICV is working with the International Standards Organization which evaluates systems designed for the detection of persons while going overboard from ships (Man overboard detection), including how the system is expected to perform in a range of environmental conditions and incident profiles. New publicly available specifications can be found here [ISO/PAS 21195](#).

Robin Townsend, Chair of *ISO/TC 8/SC 1*, the ISO subcommittee [which included ICV members] that developed the standard, said “this is the first document of its kind to standardize and clearly define technical specifications for such systems in the cruise ship

industry.”

The next time you become aware of a new victim, please keep them in your thoughts and prayers, as well as the work and efforts of ICV.

The support of our members and friends has been essential in helping to cover the expenses necessary for ICV to move forward. We are a grassroots organization made up of volunteers with a passion to improve safety and security on cruise ships. Join us, won't you? And help us make a difference in the world.

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Checks can be mailed to the address above or Credit Card, (please click below) Most donations are tax deductible! Please know that every gift is meaningful and important and that we are grateful for your time and your caring. We extend to you a most sincere thank you.



As shown on our donation page when you “CLICK HERE TO DONATE,” contribution to our nonprofit organization is a qualified, 501 c3 tax deductible corporation. Or, to help enable our work with legislators, please consider making a separate contribution to help defray the lobbying expenses on behalf of ICV. Those contributions made to our 501c4 corporation are not deductible.

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