

MS 461 Crimes Against Volunteers and Trainees

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MS 461 Crimes Against Volunteers and Trainees Procedures

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1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this Manual Section is to set out the Peace Corps policy on reporting and responding to Crimes (*see* definition in subsection 3.0(c)) against Volunteers/Trainees (V/Ts), to define the roles and responsibilities of those who provide services in support of V/Ts who are victims of Crime, and to establish a standard for response and the continuum of support for V/Ts who are victims of Crime.

In addition to the guidance in this Manual Section, certain Crimes or Incidents (*see* definition in subsection 3.0(e)) are also subject to specific policies, including the following:

- (a) Sexual assault Incidents are governed by MS 243 *Responding to Sexual Assault*;
- (b) Stalking Incidents are governed by MS 242 *Stalking of a Volunteer*;
- (c) In the case of sexual misconduct by a Volunteer against another Volunteer, *see* IPS 1-12 *Volunteer/Trainee Sexual Misconduct*;
- (d) MS 265 *Death of a Volunteer*;
- (e) MS 466 *Kidnapping of a Volunteer/Trainee*;
- (f) 12 FAM Exhibit 451.6, Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security and the Peace Corps on Security Support Abroad (the DS MOA); and
- (g) MS 861 *Office of Inspector General* subsection 7.0 requires reporting to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of suspected Crimes against a Volunteer committed by another Volunteer or staff member, contractor, or other individuals conducting transactions with the Peace Corps.

2.0 Authority

Peace Corps Act, 22 U.S.C. 2503(b) and 22 U.S.C. 2507a-i.

3.0 Definitions

- (a) **CARS** means the Coordinated Agency Response System, which may be initiated in response to an Incident. *See* subsection 5.0.
- (b) **CARS Team** is the multidisciplinary team that facilitates the CARS process to ensure continued and coordinated support, including after service, as necessary and appropriate, to V/Ts who have been the victims of Crime. The core members of the multidisciplinary team include the Designated Security Specialist (DSS), Peace Corps Medical Officer (PCMO), Safety and Security Manager (SSM), and a representative from the Office of Victim Advocacy (OVA). Additionally, members can be added to the team on an as-needed basis

according to specific situations (e.g., Regional Security Advisor, Peace Corps Safety and Security Officer (PCSSO), Country Director, Regional Director, a representative from the Behavioral Health and Outreach Unit (BHO), or designees of other relevant positions).

- (c) **Crime** means an act that is prohibited by local or U.S. law and that makes the offender liable for punishment.
- (d) **Designated Staff** means:
 - (1) at Post, PCMOs, Sexual Assault Response Liaisons (SARLs), SSMs, back-up SSMs as needed, PCSSOs in some circumstances; and
 - (2) at Peace Corps Headquarters in Washington, DC (Headquarters), the Director of OVA, the Victim Advocate in OVA who is assigned to a particular case, the DSS who is assigned to a particular case, the BHO personnel who are assigned to a particular case, and the Office of Health Services' (OHS') Field Support Unit personnel who are assigned to a particular case.
- (e) **Incident** means a situation or event where the Volunteer is a victim of a Crime or experiences a safety and security Incident as outlined in the Office of Safety and Security (OSS) Security Incident Reporting Guide (SIRG).
- (f) **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)** is defined in the SIRG.
- (g) **Personally Identifiable Information (PII)** is information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, either alone or when combined with other information that is linked or linkable to a specific individual. PII for a Volunteer who is a victim of a Crime includes their first and last name, home or physical address (including site location), contact information (such as postal address, email, IP address, telephone, or fax number), social security number, date of birth, ethnicity, race, religious affiliation, the specific location of the Incident, sector, entry on service date, close of service date or time since swearing-in, and any other information that, either individually or in combination with other information, would serve to identify the Volunteer or is likely to disclose the location of the Volunteer.
- (h) **Specific Need to Know** means, with respect to particular information, that an individual is unable to perform a specific task that is part of that individual's official duties without knowledge of that particular information.
- (i) **Third Party** means an individual other than the Volunteer victim of a Crime. The Third Party could be, for example, another Volunteer, host family member, bystander, neighbor, or local official. The recipient of a report from a Third Party could be any employee of the Peace Corps, including Designated Staff, Country Director, Post staff, or the OIG.
- (j) **Volunteer** means a Volunteer or Trainee.

4.0 Policies

4.1 Jurisdiction

In most instances, Crimes committed against V/Ts fall under the legal jurisdiction of the host country and any subsequent investigations, evidence collection, and criminal justice proceedings are the responsibility of the host country authority. In some circumstances, Crimes committed against V/Ts and contributing factors, such as IPV, may also fall under U.S. legal jurisdiction. Regardless of the jurisdiction, roles, and responsibilities for responding to Crimes against V/Ts and contributing factors will be as set out in this Manual Section.

4.2 Reporting Incidents

- (a) The Peace Corps is committed to creating an environment that encourages V/Ts to report Incidents committed against them so that the necessary and proper support can be provided.
- (b) Each Post will report Incidents in accordance with the SIRG and applicable Peace Corps guidance and procedures.
- (c) If the Incident was committed by another Volunteer, a Peace Corps staff member, or any contractor or other individual conducting transactions with the Peace Corps or receiving Peace Corps funds, it must be reported as soon as possible to the OIG in accordance with MS 861 unless it is a sexual assault that is the subject of a Restricted Report, as described in MS 243.

4.3 Responding to Incidents

- (a) Responding to any immediate, life-threatening need of a Volunteer who is a victim of a Crime will take precedence over all other considerations.
- (b) The Volunteer Safety and Security Support System that each Post is required to establish pursuant to MS 270 *Volunteer/Trainee Safety and Security*, subsection 3.2.4, must include actions to be taken in response to Incidents reported by V/Ts.

4.4 Support for V/Ts

The Peace Corps recognizes that Crime may have a lasting impact on a Volunteer, may disrupt the Volunteer's service, and may undermine the Volunteer's sense of safety and security. Each Incident and Volunteer is unique. The response and support by the Peace Corps to an Incident should help a Volunteer who is a victim of Crime regain a sense of control by (i) taking into consideration the preferences of the Volunteer in the decision-making process; (ii) providing the Volunteer with a transparent response and decision-making process; and (iii) providing the Volunteer with choices consistent with Peace Corps obligations and limitations. The Peace Corps' support of a Volunteer who is the victim of a Crime may include the following:

- (a) Providing support that meets the clinical, legal, security, and advocacy needs of the Volunteer in accordance with Peace Corps policies and procedures;

- (b) Making appropriate efforts to support the Volunteer through the criminal justice process, within the limits and constraints of the local legal system;
- (c) Retaining legal counsel and providing other logistical resources and support to assist the Volunteer in legal processes in accordance with MS 774 *Retention of Counsel and Payment of Expenses*; and
- (d) Prioritizing a Volunteer's return to service when the Volunteer chooses to return, and the Peace Corps determines their service can be completed safely.

4.5 Third Party Reports

- (a) In cases where a Third Party discloses to Post, Headquarters, or the OIG that a Volunteer is a victim of an Incident, the Country Director must be informed as soon as possible of the Third Party report. The Country Director will contact the Volunteer to determine the safety status of the Volunteer and confirm the occurrence of the alleged Incident. If an alleged Incident is confirmed and is governed by MS 243, Designated Staff should follow those policies and related procedures.
- (b) If the alleged Incident is confirmed, Post staff will follow MS 461 *Crimes Against Volunteers and Trainees Procedures*. If an alleged Incident is confirmed and is governed by MS 243, Designated Staff should follow those policies and related procedures.
- (c) If the Volunteer indicates that an alleged Incident has not occurred, Post staff must provide the Third Party report and the Volunteer's response to the Country Director, and in cases where a sexual assault is alleged to have occurred but indicates otherwise, Designated Staff shall follow requirements regarding Third Party reports as set forth in subsection 1.8 of the MS 243 Procedures on Third Party Reporting.
- (d) If the Third Party report involves an allegation that the perpetrator is a Volunteer, staff member, or contractor, the OIG must be notified as described in MS 861 regardless of the Volunteer's decision to file a report.
- (e) Staff shall adhere to the principles of confidentiality as set forth in MS 271 *Confidentiality Protection* when a Third Party report is made by a currently serving Volunteer (not involved in the Incident) or Peace Corps staff member.

4.6 Training

- (a) All V/Ts must be trained during pre-service training on the procedures for reporting Incidents at their Post of service. During service, V/Ts will be provided with subsequent training on reporting Incidents, and protocols for reporting will be outlined in their Volunteer Service Handbook and MySafety Guide.
- (b) All staff at Post will be trained on applicable Incident reporting and response procedures based on their duties and responsibilities and receive refresher training on a regular basis.

- (c) Staff at Headquarters who are involved in the response, support, or management of Incidents will be trained on the Peace Corps policies and reporting and response procedures.

4.7 Confidentiality

- (a) The Peace Corps will maintain the confidentiality of V/Ts who have been victims of Crime and will not, without the Volunteer's prior written consent, disclose the PII of the Volunteer or details of the Incident to anyone within or outside of the Peace Corps who does not have a Specific Need to Know.
- (b) The Peace Corps will not, without the consent of the Volunteer who is a victim of a Crime, report Incidents to host country authorities except in cases involving the death of a Volunteer, where required by law, where there is a compelling government interest, or where there is an ongoing security threat or concern to the Volunteer or others. *See Safety and Security Instruction (SSI) 202 Response to Threatening Situations.*

5.0 Coordinated Agency Response System

CARS is a protocol under which a multidisciplinary team comes together to manage various elements involved in responding to an Incident. The CARS Team ensures continued and coordinated support, including after service, as necessary and appropriate, to V/Ts who have been the victims of Crime. The CARS process will normally be used in cases of Incidents that pose an ongoing security threat or concern that cannot be solely mitigated by the Volunteer or require an enhanced Peace Corps response. *See MS 461 Procedures.*

6.0 Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 Country Director

In accordance with MS 270 and other agency policies and procedures, the Country Director has responsibility for the management of Post's Incident reporting and response systems. Except in the case of a Restricted Report of sexual assault, as provided for in MS 243, the Country Director is responsible for:

- (a) Reviewing their role and responsibilities as set forth in this Manual Section and all other applicable Peace Corps policies and procedures related to Crimes against V/Ts.
- (b) Ensuring that all Post staff are properly trained and prepared to respond to an Incident, including those staff who may serve as Acting Country Director, Acting SSM, and Duty Officers.
- (c) Ensuring that the SSM, PCMOs, and Post management team review the Post's Legal Environment Survey on an annual basis. *See SSI 500 Local Legal Environment Survey Guidelines and Template.*

- (d) Ensuring V/Ts are provided training on the Post's Incident reporting procedures and that these procedures are readily accessible.
- (e) Ensuring that Incidents are reported by Post in accordance with the SIRG.
- (f) If the Crime was committed by another Volunteer, a Peace Corps staff member, or a contractor or other individual conducting transactions with the Peace Corps or receiving Peace Corps funds, reporting the Crime to the OIG in accordance with MS 861.
- (g) Coordinating support for the Volunteer in consultation with OSS, the U.S. Embassy's Regional Security Officer (RSO) (as set out in the DS MOA), and host country authorities, as appropriate.
- (h) Notifying the RSO immediately of serious Crimes or Incidents listed in Section IV, Subsection D, of the DS MOA, which includes the following serious Crimes:
 - (1) A missing or isolated Peace Corps Volunteer;
 - (2) The death of a Peace Corps Volunteer;
 - (3) A life-threatening injury to a Peace Corps Volunteer resulting from a Crime;
 - (4) The rape or sexual assault of a Peace Corps Volunteer;
 - (5) The kidnapping or hostage-taking of a Peace Corps Volunteer;
 - (6) Any other Crime or Incident involving a Peace Corps Volunteer considered to be serious by the Country Director; or
 - (7) Any Crime or attack that is potentially motivated by politics, terrorism, or hate.

However, in the case of sexual assaults classified as Restricted Reports, the RSO shall only receive the notification provided in accordance with subsection 4.5 of MS 243.

- (i) Providing for the ongoing safety of all V/Ts who could be at-risk in accordance with SSI 202.
- (j) Making the final decision about a Volunteer's ability to remain at site or continue service. This decision will be made in consultation with the Regional Director and with input from the CARS Team.
- (k) Participating as a member of the CARS Team, as appropriate.

6.2 Office of Victim Advocacy

OVA is responsible for assisting V/Ts who are victims of Crime throughout the response process by educating them on the services available and facilitating their access to such services. OVA

gives priority to cases involving sexual assault, stalking, and other serious Crimes. When a Volunteer has chosen to engage the services of OVA, OVA is responsible for:

- (a) Reviewing and being knowledgeable about agency policies and guidance related to crimes against V/Ts.
- (b) Advocating for V/Ts who are victims of crime.
- (c) Ensuring the preferences of V/Ts are heard and taken into consideration in decisions affecting clinical care and medevacs (except in acute or emergency cases), choice of reporting options, site and housing changes, continued service in Peace Corps, and long-term support.
- (d) Advising, as appropriate, and coordinating with other offices involved in providing response and support services to V/Ts.
- (e) When requested or as necessary, accompanying a Volunteer in country or in the U.S. to proceedings related to the criminal justice process.
- (f) In coordination with OSS and Post, ensuring that V/Ts receive updates regarding the criminal justice process.
- (g) Participating as a member of the CARS Team, as appropriate.

6.3 Office of Safety and Security

OSS has the primary responsibility for overseeing and directing the overall agency response to Crimes against V/Ts. OSS will mobilize necessary resources to support the investigative, judicial, or security response to a Crime and give priority to cases involving Crimes that it considers to be serious as set forth above in subsection 6.1(h). Except for a Crime that is suspected of having been committed by another Volunteer or a Peace Corps staff member (including a contractor), OSS will be the primary liaison between the Peace Corps and other U.S. Government and foreign investigative agencies. Specifically, OSS is responsible for:

- (a) Establishing and maintaining the agency's system for reporting Incidents through the Security Incident Management System (SIMS) and SIRG and developing the policies and procedures for that system, including the distribution of Incident reports.
- (b) Collecting and analyzing Crime data and producing annual statistical reports.
- (c) Developing the agency's policies and procedures for responding to Incidents.
- (d) Providing direction to Post in the aftermath of Incidents, in accordance with established policies and procedures.
- (e) Coordinating with and providing guidance to other offices regarding the investigative, judicial, and security response to an Incident.

- (f) Coordinating with Post to conduct a Post-Incident Assessment, as appropriate.
- (g) Regularly monitoring the status of a case and maintaining records regarding the case disposition.
- (h) Coordinating with Post and the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) for the retention of legal counsel for a Volunteer, in accordance with MS 774.
- (i) Making notifications and providing updates to relevant Headquarters offices, as appropriate.
- (j) As described in SSI 500, jointly with OGC, establishing and maintaining the process for conducting Legal Environment Surveys at all Posts.
- (k) Administering the Centrally Managed Account to fund investigative support activities, including retention of legal counsel and travel expenses, as appropriate.
- (l) Coordinating with the Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security for investigative support as required, in accordance with the DS MOA.
- (m) Participating as a member of the CARS Team.

6.4 Peace Corps Safety and Security Officer

PCSSOs are responsible for:

- (a) Reviewing their role and responsibilities set forth in MS 461 and all applicable Peace Corps policies and procedures related to Crimes against V/Ts.
- (b) Monitoring Incidents at their assigned Posts and initiating follow-up, as appropriate.
- (c) Providing direction and support to Post to enhance Volunteer safety and security.
- (d) Coordinating with host country authorities and the U.S. Embassy's Regional Security Office, as appropriate per the DS MOA.
- (e) Lead the process, in conjunction with OGC, for conducting and updating Legal Environment Surveys at Posts.
- (f) Participating on the CARS Team, as necessary or required.

6.5 Safety and Security Manager

SSMs are responsible for the overall management of a Post's Crime reporting and response systems, in accordance with agency policies and procedures. *See* the list in subsection 1.0 above. Specifically, SSMs are responsible for:

- (a) Reviewing their role and responsibilities as set forth in MS 461 and all applicable Peace Corps policies and procedures related to Crimes against V/Ts.

- (b) Supporting efforts by the Country Director, except in the case of a Restricted Report of sexual assault, as provided for in MS 243, to ensure that Post staff respond to Incidents promptly in accordance with Peace Corps policies and procedures and systems established at Post.
- (c) Coordinating with other staff at Post, the U.S. Embassy (as set out in the DS MOA), and host country authorities, as necessary, to provide timely and appropriate support to a Volunteer who is the victim of a Crime.
- (d) Assessing the circumstances of Crimes against V/Ts and advising appropriate people to the ongoing safety of the victims and/or other V/Ts.
- (e) Coordinating with other Post staff, OSS, the Region, and host country authorities, as necessary, to ensure the ongoing safety of V/Ts in accordance with MS 270 and SSI 202.
- (f) Reviewing on an annual basis the Post's Legal Environment Survey.
- (g) In conjunction with Post staff, providing Volunteer victims with information about the local legal process to enable them to make an informed decision about filing a report with the authorities.
- (h) Assisting a Volunteer to file a report with host country authorities if the Volunteer so chooses.
- (i) Accompanying, or arranging for another appropriate staff member to accompany, the Volunteer at all meetings and legal proceedings related to a police report filed by the Volunteer.
- (j) Coordinating with the PCMO and OSS to conduct a Post-Incident Assessment, as appropriate.
- (k) Coordinating with OSS, the U.S. Embassy (as set out in the DS MOA), host country authorities, and other law enforcement authorities on all matters related to the investigation and prosecution of a Crime, or ongoing security concern, against a Volunteer.
- (l) When the suspected perpetrator is another Volunteer or a Peace Corps staff member (including a contractor), coordinating with OIG.
- (m) Regularly monitoring the status of a case and providing updates to OSS.
- (n) Participating as a member of the CARS Team.

6.6 Office of Health Services

OHS is responsible for overseeing the provision of medical and mental health support services to V/Ts who are victims of Crime through the Office of Medical Services (OMS) and BHO. In addition, OHS and BHO are responsible for managing the agency's Medical Evacuation Program

(Medevac) and ensuring a Volunteer's access to clinical care after service, as appropriate. Specifically, OHS is responsible for:

- (a) Reviewing and being knowledgeable about all applicable Peace Corps policies and procedures related to Crimes against V/Ts.
- (b) Overseeing the care and services provided to a Volunteer by the PCMO and providing guidance, as appropriate.
- (c) Coordinating with the PCMO to develop a clinical treatment plan for a Volunteer.
- (d) Determining, in consultation with the PCMO, if Medevac is warranted and the most appropriate location to provide the required treatment. OHS must communicate with OVA, with the exception of acute or emergency cases, to ensure the Volunteer's preferences are considered.
- (e) Determining, with input from the PCMO and OVA as appropriate, the need to appoint a medical or non-medical escort to accompany a Volunteer during Medevac travel. (NOTE: Special provisions apply if the Volunteer is the victim of a sexual assault, *see MS 264 Medical Evacuation.*)
- (f) Determining whether a Volunteer can continue service based on a medical or mental health assessment and communicating such determination to OVA as soon as reasonably possible.

6.6.1 Peace Corps Medical Officer

PCMOs are responsible for the health and well-being of the Volunteer by ensuring the provision of clinical care and support, as needed, for a Volunteer at Post. Specifically, PCMOs are responsible for:

- (a) Reviewing their role and responsibilities as set forth in MS 461 and all applicable Peace Corps policies and procedures related to Crimes against V/Ts.
- (b) In conjunction with the SSM and PCSSO, supporting the Country Director in the annual review of the Post's Legal Environment Survey.
- (c) In coordination with OHS, providing appropriate clinical services to V/Ts.
- (d) Initiating and coordinating, when appropriate, the Medevac of a Volunteer, in accordance with MS 264 and Technical Guideline (TG) 380 *Medical Evacuation*.
- (e) Accompanying a Volunteer who requires medical services to local medical facilities, when practicable.
- (f) Providing, in coordination with the OHS Field Support Clinicians (FSCs), the Post-Service Unit (PSU) in OHS, and OVA, information to a Volunteer regarding clinical care options within the Peace Corps and post-service health care benefits.

- (g) Educating V/Ts on how to provide feedback about the care V/Ts receive.
- (h) Participating as a member of the CARS Team.

6.6.2 Field Support Clinicians

FSCs serve as primary clinical liaisons between the PCMO and other coordinating offices involved in the response and support of Volunteers who have been victims of Crime. Specifically, FSCs are responsible for:

- (a) Reviewing their roles and responsibilities as set forth in MS 461 and all applicable Peace Corps policies and procedures related to Crimes against V/Ts.
- (b) Assisting the PCMO in developing a clinical treatment plan for the Volunteer as appropriate.
- (c) Coordinating with the PCMO, the Medevac Team Lead, the Medevac Program Specialist, and OVA regarding travel arrangements, accommodations, and any additional individualized support that may be required for V/Ts.
- (d) Serving as the case manager responsible for coordinating the clinical care of V/Ts who are Medevac'd.
- (e) Providing V/Ts on Medevac with information regarding their options for clinical care and ways to provide feedback about the care received.
- (f) Coordinating with BHO for the provision of services by outside mental health providers, as appropriate.
- (g) Providing updates to OVA on the medical clearance status of V/Ts.
- (h) Assisting the PCMO in providing information to V/Ts, in coordination with OVA, regarding healthcare delivery options.
- (i) Assisting the PCMO in providing information to a Volunteer, in coordination with PSU and OVA, regarding post-service health care benefits.
- (j) Participating as a member of the CARS Team, as appropriate.

6.6.3 Behavioral Health and Outreach Unit

BHO is responsible for providing mental health services to V/Ts who have been the victims of Crime. BHO provides counseling in-person or by phone and coordinates, along with an assigned FSC, counseling services provided by outside mental health service providers, either in the country of service or at a Medevac location. BHO also manages the agency's Medevac Program. Specifically, BHO is responsible for:

- (a) Reviewing their roles and responsibilities as set forth in MS 461 and all applicable Peace Corps policies and procedures related to Crimes against V/Ts.
- (b) Providing a clinical assessment for V/Ts when clinically indicated.
- (c) Providing guidance and recommending treatment options to PCMOs and V/Ts regarding mental health services.
- (d) Aiding V/Ts in decision making about Medevac choice.
- (e) Determining, in consultation with the PCMO, the need for a Medevac for mental health services.
- (f) Determining, with input from the PCMO and OVA as appropriate, the need to appoint a medical or non-medical escort to accompany a Volunteer during Medevac travel.
(NOTE: Special provisions apply if the Volunteer is the victim of a sexual assault, *see* MS 264.)
- (g) Coordinating with the FSC for the provision of outside mental health services, as may be required.
- (h) In collaboration with the FSC, providing V/Ts on Medevac with information regarding their options for psychological care and avenues by which to provide feedback about the care received.
- (i) Participating as a member of the CARS Team, as appropriate.

6.6.3.1 Medevac Team Lead

The Medevac Team Lead is responsible for managing the overall Medevac Program, including coordinating with the PCMO, the FSC, the Medevac Program Specialist, and OVA regarding travel arrangements, accommodations, and any additional individualized support that may be required by the Volunteer. The Medevac Team Lead is specifically responsible for ensuring that V/Ts Medevac'd to Washington, D.C. are met at the airport and that transportation is provided to a lodging. *See* MS 264 for the responsibilities of the Medevac Team Lead and Medevac Program.

6.6.4 Post-Service Unit

In collaboration with PCMOs, FSCs, and OVA, PSU is responsible for assisting V/Ts who have been victims of Crime in educating them about, and providing them with access to, Peace Corps post-service health benefits. PSU assists returned V/Ts in submitting Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) claims to the Department of Labor and acts as a liaison between the Peace Corps and the Department of Labor, as needed, regarding FECA benefits. As appropriate, PSU participates as a member of the CARS Team.

6.7 Office of Global Operations

The Office of Global Operations (OGO), through the Regions, has overall responsibility for ensuring that Posts follow established policies and procedures in cases of Crimes against V/Ts. As needed, Regions, in coordination with OSS, will provide guidance and support to Posts in response to Incidents. Representation from the appropriate Region (usually the Regional Director or Chief of Operations and the Regional Security Advisor) will participate as a member of the CARS Team, as appropriate.

6.8 Office of the General Counsel

OGC is responsible for providing legal advice and policy support to Post and Headquarters staff. OGC assists in the retention of local counsel to represent a Volunteer who has been the victim of a Crime pursuant to MS 774. As described in SSI 500, OGC, jointly with OSS via the PCSSOs, establishes, produces, and maintains the process for conducting Legal Environment Surveys at all Posts.

6.9 Office of Inspector General

Except as provided in MS 243 regarding Restricted Reports of sexual assault, in the case of a Crime, which is suspected of having been committed by another Volunteer, Peace Corps staff member, contractor, or other individuals and entities conducting transactions with the Peace Corps or receiving Peace Corps funds, the OIG is responsible, in accordance with the DS MOA, for:

- (a) ensuring investigation of the Crime takes place as appropriate;
- (b) coordinating with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, the RSO, and other federal agencies; and
- (c) to the extent necessary, serving as a liaison with host country law enforcement officials.

7.0 Rewards

- (a) The Peace Corps may offer a reward for information regarding a Crime committed against a Volunteer in consultation with the Embassy. No reward offer should be made public until it has been officially authorized as provided for in this Manual Section.
- (b) If the Country Director deems a reward advisable, the Country Director must make a request to the Regional Director for authority to offer the reward, stating the reasons for a reward and the amount to be offered, either in cash or in goods according to accepted cultural practice. In evaluating the request, the Regional Director must consult with the Associate Director for OSS, OGC, and other offices, as appropriate.

- (c) The Regional Director is authorized to make the final determination to offer an award valued at up to \$10,000. A reward in excess of \$10,000 must be submitted through the Associate Director for OGO and approved by the Peace Corps Director.
- (d) Either the Regional Director or Peace Corps Director, as determined by subsection 7.0(c) above, shall make the final determination on whether to pay the reward, taking into account all relevant factors.
- (e) This Manual Section is not intended to affect the authority of the OIG to provide rewards pursuant to MS 861 and the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended.

8.0 Procedures

Procedures for implementing this Manual Section will be developed by, and require the approval of, the Offices of Safety and Security, Global Operations, Health Services, Victim Advocacy, and the General Counsel. Proposed procedures that affect the OIG must be approved by the OIG.

9.0 Effective Date

The effective date of this Manual Section is the date of issuance.