



News Release



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For Immediate Release

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Financial Planners Offering Free Advice to Recipients of Victims' Fund Distributions to Help Them Avoid Mistakes Legal Aid Center Attorney On-Site Daily at Vegas Strong Resiliency Center

Financial advisors from across the nation are offering a unique, free service called The Las Vegas Survivors Project to the approximate 532 claimants to the Las Vegas Victims' Fund (LVVF).

LVVF recently announced that more than \$31.4 million has been donated to help the families of the deceased and survivors of the 1 October tragedy. Distributions of these funds began this month. Approximately 40 registered financial advisors from various states, including Nevada and California, have agreed to provide a minimum of four hours of free financial advice to any of the LVVF recipients as part of The Las Vegas Survivors Project. The purpose of the Survivors Project, established in early February, is to offer sound guidance and financial expertise to those who receive a distribution. The Survivors Project is comprised of members of the Institute for the Fiduciary Standard and three other fee-only groups that do not sell insurance or investment products. The effort was organized by Knut A. Rostad, President of the Institute for the Fiduciary Standard, and Benjamin Edwards, Associate Professor of Law at the UNLV Boyd School of Law. Las Vegas-based financial planner Greg Phelps offers a unique perspective as a 1 October survivor and volunteer in the project.

"I've seen people make a lot of financial mistakes upon receiving a one-time distribution of funds like this," said Phelps, who was in attendance at the Route 91 Harvest festival with family members when the mass shooting happened. "Depending on your financial goals and needs, proper planning can help you avoid mistakes from tax standpoint, college savings standpoint, and other areas of concern."

LVVF recipients can locate a pro bono financial advisor by going to the Project's website: www.LVSurvivors.org and searching under the list of financial advisors. Volunteer advisors are listed by state but it is not necessary to be in the same state as the advisor. For more information about the project, contact info@LVSurvivors.org.

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The Las Vegas Strong Resiliency Center serves as a free, one-stop resource and referral hub for anyone impacted by 1 October including survivors, family members of victims, responders and anyone dealing with effects from the attack including hotel workers, taxi cab drivers or bystanders who tried to help victims. An online intake form is posted on the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center's website at www.VegasStrongRC.org. Staff will follow up with you to assess needs, connect you with available resources you may be eligible for, and provide updates. The Vegas Strong Resiliency Center is located at 1524 Pinto Lane and is open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. It can be reached by phone at (702) 455-2433 (AIDE) or toll-free at (833) 299-2433 and by email at: vegasstrongresiliencycenter@clarkcountynv.gov. It also has a Facebook page at: www.Facebook.com/VegasStrongResiliencyCenter.

Free legal services are available at the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. Attorney Tennille Pereira, Esq. is on-site each day to discuss any legal or financial issues affecting those who were impacted by the mass shooting. A specialist in consumer affairs matters, topics Pereira has assisted survivors with include medical bills, insurance, housing issues, employment questions, family law, eviction, and more. Her hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. She can be reached by phone or appointment through the resiliency center's main number. The Legal Aid Center is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization providing free civil legal services to those in need. Please visit www.lacsn.org for more information. The Legal Aid Center also is working with the State Bar of Nevada to help connect victims and survivors located outside of the Las Vegas area with free legal resources in their home states.

Other available services at the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center include victim advocacy and support, counseling and spiritual care referrals, and help applying for funding you may be available through the Nevada Victims of Crime Program. Anyone who was present during the Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting on Oct. 1, 2017, has one year within the date of the incident, **until Oct. 1, 2018**, to apply with the program. Funds from the program may be available to help reimburse you for out-of-pocket expenses resulting from the crime such as medical bills or counseling co-pays not covered by insurance. Even if you don't have any eligible expenses now, survivors are encouraged to apply for the program before the deadline in case they incur future expenses that may be covered by the program.

The Vegas Strong Resiliency Center also is helping to connect survivors with counseling referrals locally and in other communities nationwide. Support groups facilitated by local therapists are meeting in the Las Vegas Valley. The Resiliency Center also is working to keep track of resources available in other states and communities, so it can refer survivors to support available closer to home. A list of coping tips available on the Resiliency Center's website may be helpful to those who affected by 1 October. Suggestions include:

- **Reach out for help.** Feelings of sadness, anger, anxiety and depression are common after a traumatic event. When you feel distressed, don't be alone. Talk to someone who is understanding and cares about you including a friend, family member, pastor or therapist. After hours on weekends or holidays, call the national Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 to talk with a trained crisis counselor.
- **Seek Counseling.** If you are struggling with memories, flashbacks or reminders of the violent event, counseling can offer some coping strategies. It's not uncommon for survivor of mass violence to seek out counseling months or even years after an event.
- **Stay in your normal routine as much as possible.** Even if you don't feel like it, go back to work, to school and try to carry on with your usual chores. It will help to reduce stress if you continue doing the things you would normally do every day. Anniversaries and special events like holidays or birthdays may be particularly difficult, especially for those who lost a loved one. To cope, plan to be with people who care about you and plan an activity together. #####

Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 14th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2.25 million citizens and 45.5 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 8th-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The County also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to 1 million residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.

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