



Lauren Norcom...

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excited about the opportunities associated with it.

She said she is there to offer victims information about the different options available to them and to support their decision making. Advocates do not tell victims what to do.

Norcom said she is committed to maintaining the highest possible levels of confidentiality in their communications with victims.

"If you are a victim, it may be difficult for you to reach out for help," she said. "But you may find that we can offer you information, support and access to helpful services you might not know about."

Norcom said victims are often relieved to know that agencies in their community want to make sure they are safe and have the help they need to recover from the impact of the crime.

Norcom and her husband, Bryce, live in Stillwater and are expecting their first child toward the end of July.

Lauren Norcom fights crime in Noble County

Victim Advocate funded by grant

Dana Hill
City Editor

Victims of crimes in Noble County have a new weapon on their side and her name is Lauren Norcom.

Filling a new position with the Noble County District Attorney's office that is funded by a grant, Norcom is a victim advocate.

Victim advocates are professionals trained to support victims of crime. Advocates offer victims information, emotional support and help finding resources and filling out paperwork.

Sometimes advocates even go to court with victims. They might also contact organizations, such as criminal justice or social service agencies, to get help or information for victims.

Some advocates staff crisis hotlines, some run support groups and some provide in-person counseling.

Advocates work in many different locations, some are paid and some are volunteers. Many advocates have academic degrees that prepare them to work with victims. They may have studied social work, criminal justice, education or psychology.

Norcom has a bachelor of science degree in psychology from Oklahoma State University.

She said it is now her job

to establish relationships with victims of crime in Noble County.

"Most of the victims of crimes that I work with are domestic in nature," Norcom said.

She said she is also in charge of restitution, which is money paid in compensation for loss or injury.

Norcom said she is becoming educated on the cycle of abuse and it is her goal to help people learn how to get out of it.

She said she has actually been in this position since the first week in October.

"When I first started, I trained for two weeks in Kay County with their victim advocate and victim/witness coordinator," Norcom said. "We've never had this position in Noble County before, but in Kay County there has been someone in that position for years."

She said training in Kay County, she learned both the protective order process and the court proceedings process. She was also trained in how to file certain information and how to write letters designed to keep her in contact with victims.

Norcom said she has settled into her new position and is

See 'Lauren Norcom'