

DOC Victim Services

- ✓ **Victim Registration and Notification** - of upcoming release dates for offenders, furloughs and escorted visits, escape and death.
- ✓ **Crisis Intervention** - to address safety or other concerns resulting from crime, or referrals to local victim service providers.
- ✓ Information regarding the status of offenders in prison or under supervision of the Department of Correctional Services.
- ✓ **Restitution** - collected and paid to victims.
- ✓ **Victim Impact Panels** – victims who speak in our Victim Impact Classes for offenders.
- ✓ **Victim Offender Intervention Services** – direct and indirect victim/offender communication services – including our Apology Letter Bank.

Other services

The Office of Victim Programs (OVP) provides education to Department staff to increase awareness of victims' issues.

The OVP solicits input from crime victims, the community, victim advocacy agencies and other interested professionals regarding the Department's victim programs via its **Victim Advisory Council**.

Please visit our website for additional program and services information: www.doc.state.ia.us

Commonly asked questions....

As a crime victim, will I be notified of upcoming parole hearings or release dates for the offender?

To receive notification of upcoming parole hearings, release dates, death of an offender or escape of an offender, you **must** register as a victim with the **County Attorney's Office** handling the case. Your registration information will then be sent to the Department of Corrections, the Board of Parole and the Department of Justice.

Am I entitled to receive restitution from the inmate who committed the crime against me?

Yes. Restitution must be ordered at the time of sentencing. Once restitution is ordered the Department of Corrections collects restitution from inmates to be paid to their victims.

May I let the Parole Board know how I feel about a possible release of an offender?

Any citizen may send information to the Parole Board at any time regarding their feelings about an inmate's release. It is possible in Iowa that the offender's sentence does not include eligibility for parole, but may still be reviewed.

I have been receiving threats or unwanted calls or letters from an offender. What can I do?

Call the Office of Victim Programs for help at 1-800-778-1182.

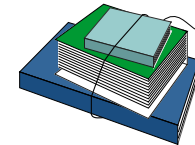
Victim Offender Intervention Services

Call the Office of Victim Programs for information on our Victim Offender Intervention Services (VOIS) program at 1-800-778-1182. VOIS allows for both direct (face-to-face) and indirect (letter writing, "shuttle" dialogue) communication between victims and offenders. These services involve careful planning and preparation, and are facilitated by a trained professional.

Victim Impact Classes/Panels

Some crime victims want to tell offenders what it is like to be victimized and how their lives have been changed as a result of the crime.

Call the Office of Victim Programs for information about **Victim Impact Panels** presented to people on probation, parole or inmates in prison.



The March/April, 1999 issue of *Crime Victims Report* states that "developing empathy in offenders, as a major goal in rehabilitation, should be a prerequisite for parole."

Who better to help awaken feelings in offenders than those victims whose lives have been changed forever because of crime? Who better to make a difference and help develop empathy within offenders? The Office of Victim Programs is committed to victims to allow that to happen.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Office of Victim and Restorative Justice Programs is to build mutual understanding and open communication among Department of Corrections' employees, victims, their families and community victim advocacy groups. The Office facilitates victims' access to the Department by giving them opportunities to participate in decisions concerning an offender's liberty and providing them support, information and restorative justice programs as appropriate.



DOC Victim Advisory Council

Please contact our office if you are interested in becoming a member of our Victim Advisory Council. Our mission is...

...To strengthen the voice, increase the presence, and promote the interests of those harmed by crime in the policies, programs and practices of the Iowa Department of Corrections.

Statewide Reference Numbers

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OFFICE OF VICTIM PROGRAMS

510 E.12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Toll free (800) 778-1182
(515) 725-5742
Fax (515) 725-5799
www.doc.state.ia.us

IOWA BOARD OF PAROLE
(515) 725-5757

IOWA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE DIVISION
(800) 373-5044

IOWA STATEWIDE DOMESTIC
ABUSE HOTLINE
(800) 942-0333

IOWA STATEWIDE SEXUAL
ABUSE HOTLINE
(800) 284-7821

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SERVICES
CHILD & DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE
24 Hour Hotline
(800) 362-2178



State of Iowa
Department of Corrections

Office of Victim and Restorative Justice Programs

Justice with compassion for victims....
Together, we can make a difference!



Terry E. Branstad – Governor
Kim Reynolds – Lt. Governor
John R. Baldwin – DOC Director
Mary Roche – Victim Programs Director