
Victim Services Mission Statement

Mission: To work with applicable laws within the Department of Correction serving victims' interests in promoting public safety while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.



Victim Services

Victim Services Director

Tennessee Department of Correction
320 Sixth Avenue North
5th Floor Rachel Jackson Building
Nashville, TN 37243-0465

Phone: 615-741-1000 *8145
Fax: 615-741-1055
Email: Victim.Notification@tn.gov

Website:
<http://www.tn.gov/correction/victiminformation/victimservices.html>

Government Agencies

Board of Probation and Parole

404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1300
Nashville, TN 37243-0850
Phone: 615-741-1150 / Fax: 615-741-5337
Email: victim.witness@tn.gov
Website: www.tn.gov/bopp/victims

TN District Attorney General Conference

Phone: 615-741-1696 / Fax: 615-741-7459
Email: contact@tndagc.org
Website: <http://www.tndagc.com/>

Criminal Injury Compensation

Division of Claims Administration
Phone: 615-741-2734 / Fax: (615) 532-4979
Email: Criminal.Injury@tn.gov
Website:
<http://www.treasury.tn.gov/injury/index.html>

State Attorney General

Victim Liaisons
Phone: 615-741-2805 / 615-532-1971
Website: <http://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/>

Crime Survivor's Guide

**Available from the website below*

You Have the Power, Inc.

2814 Twelfth Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37204
Phone: 615-292-7027 / Fax 615-292-4088
Email: Verna.Wyatt@yhtp.org
Website: www.yhtp.org



VICTIM SERVICES

A Division of Rehabilitative Services

Derrick D. Schofield
Commissioner

Jim Cosby
Assistant Commissioner of
Rehabilitative Services

"Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Martin Luther King



Services available to Crime Victims through TDOC

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions.
- Community referrals and assistance with concerns related to offenders under the Department's jurisdiction.
- Registration for victim notification regarding any hearings, decisions, release dates, movement to a prison designated with a lower security level, escape of an offender, or pending execution.
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender.

Other Victim Services Activities

- Community education programs.
- Coordinates with the Board of Probation and Parole, the Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's office to respond to victims' concerns.
- Provides education to Department staff to increase awareness of victims' issues.
- Collaboration with other victim advocates.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."
~Martin Luther King

Programs facilitated by the Victim Services Department

○ Victim Impact Classes for Offenders

Classes for offenders from research-based curriculum teach offenders about the impact of crime on victims, victim families, and the families of the offender. The class is taught as:

- A 12-week class, in therapeutic communities, substance abuse programs, transition programs, and release readiness classes.

Victims/survivors of crime who are willing to speak to an audience of offenders are invited to come into the prison and speak about the impact crime has had on his/her life, and the lives of their loved ones.

Victim Awareness

Create awareness regarding the harm experienced from crime and victim issues to the community, victim advocacy agencies, universities, and to Department staff.

○ Victim Offender Dialogue

Victim Offender Dialogue is a process in which the victim of a violent crime and the offender who committed the offense meet. The focus is on the harm done to the victim and the offender's responsibility in the reparation of that harm.

Frequently 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, escape of an offender, or pending execution, you must request registration through Victim Services of either the Tennessee Department of Correction, or the Board of Probation and Parole. Registration forms are also available on-line from the TDOC website:

<http://state.tn.us/correction/voice.html>

Remember, to remain on the mailing list, it is your responsibility to inform Victim Services of any changes in your address.

If I register, will my contact information be safe?

As of July 1, 2009, all contact information from interested persons requesting notification about inmates is maintained as confidential.

Why was the offender moved to a prison with a lower security designation?

TDOC moves offenders for many reasons. Lower Security Designation does not mean the facility is less secure; it refers to a prison that houses those with a lower custody level than where the offender was located before.

Why does the offender's release date continue to change to an earlier date?

Most judgment orders for offenders provide for that person to serve a percentage of the whole sentence. Times are governed by state law; even most offenders with a 100% sentence must serve 85% of that time.