



# THE BEACON

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

WINTER 2008/2009

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## Our Mission

Kansas Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services serves as a liaison between victims and department staff, the Kansas Parole Board, and victim service providers. We are committed to providing crime victims the opportunity to express their ideas and opinions. We will approach our work from a victim-focused perspective.

## A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR: JENNIE MARSH

Recently the world of corrections in Kansas, and the nation, has begun a fundamental change in philosophy. The Kansas correctional system has re-focused efforts from basic containment of offenders, to the idea of reducing the risk an offender presents to the community. More than 95 percent of offenders will be released from prison at some point, and will be living in our communities. When considering the safety of crime victims and the public in general, simply containing and then releasing offenders without addressing the roots of the criminal behavior is not the safest option. While containment limits the environment in which negative behavior occurs, risk reduction seeks to reduce the likelihood of negative behavior regardless of the environment.

Over the past several years, principles of "risk reduction" have taken hold in the correctional system. This approach begins the moment an offender enters the correctional facility and continues throughout his incarceration and release. The research-based risk factors that an offender poses are assessed and addressed using risk reduction tools. A new way of thinking and a reduction in further criminal behavior are central goals of this work.

So what does this mean for crime victims? It means that victim safety is a central and primary factor to the work of reducing offender risk, and victims' voices in the process are imperative. It means that communication between victims, victim services agencies, and Department of Corrections staff has dramatically increased, which leads to higher accountability because everyone has more information. It means that the number of new felony offenses committed by offenders has been consistently decreasing in recent years, therefore the number of new victims and the number of people re-victimized has also decreased.

Nothing can ever take away the victimization that an offender perpetrated, but together we can work to reduce the chance of it happening again. The voices of victims and victim services organizations are crucial, and we want to continue hearing from all of you.

Jennie Marsh, Director of the Office of Victim Services

## WINTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

Crime Stoppers Month  
 Crime Stoppers International  
 800-850-7574  
 www.c-s-i.org

National Mentoring Month  
 MENTOR  
 703-224-2200  
 www.mentoring.org

National Stalking Awareness Month  
 National Center for Victims of Crime  
 Stalking Resource Center  
 202-467-8700  
 www.ncvc.org/src

February

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Week  
 Texas Advocacy Project, Teen Justice Initiative  
 February 2-6, 2009  
 512-225-9579  
 www.texasadvocacyproject.org

March

National Youth Violence Prevention Week  
 March 23-27, 2009  
 National Association of Students Against Violence  
 Everywhere (SAVE) and GuidanceChannel.com  
 800-999-6884 ext. 3037  
 www.violencepreventionweek.org

**12TH ANNUAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS CONFERENCE**

The 12th Annual Crime Victims' Rights Conference hosted by Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Attorney General Stephen Six is **April 15-16, 2009** at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita, Kansas. This year's conference theme is *"25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act"* and official conference colors are **blue** and **cranberry red**. The conference theme and colors mirror the National Crime Victims' Rights Week activities, which take place **April 26-May 2, 2009**. The conference will feature six dynamic national speakers, more than 25 exciting workshops and will provide the opportunity to network and learn how to better serve crime victims. For conference updates visit the Governor's website at: [http://www.governor.ks.gov/grants/grants\\_training.htm](http://www.governor.ks.gov/grants/grants_training.htm) or call 785-291-3205 for more information.

"25 Years of  
 Rebuilding Lives:  
 Celebrating the  
 Victims of Crime  
 Act"

**CRIME VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS (K.S.A. 74-7333)**

1. Victims should be treated with courtesy, compassion and with respect for their dignity and privacy and should suffer the minimum of necessary inconvenience from their involvement with the criminal justice system.
2. Victims should receive, through formal and informal procedures, prompt and fair redress for the harm which they suffered.
3. Information regarding the availability of criminal restitution, recovery of damages in a civil cause of action, the crime victims compensation fund and other remedies and the mechanisms to obtain such remedies should be made available to victims.
4. Information should be made available to victims about their participation in criminal proceeding and the scheduling, progress and ultimate disposition of proceedings.
5. The views and concerns of victims should be ascertained and the appropriate assistance provided throughout the criminal process.
6. When the personal interest of victims are affected, the views or concerns of the victim should, when appropriate and consistent with criminal law and procedure, be brought to the attention of the court.
7. Measures may be taken when necessary to provide for the safety of victims and their families and to protect them from intimidation and retaliation.
8. Enhanced training should be made available to sensitize criminal justice personnel to the needs and concerns of victims and guidelines should be developed for this purpose.
9. Victims should be informed of the availability of health and social services and other relevant assistance that they might continue to receive the necessary medical, psychological and social assistance through existing programs and services.
10. Victims should report the crime and cooperate with law enforcement authorities.

\*\*This information was provided by the Kansas Attorney General's website. [www.ksag.org](http://www.ksag.org)

**HELPFUL TOLL-FREE NUMBERS**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| National Children's Alliance<br>(800) 239-9950              | National Council on Aging<br>(800) 424-9046                           | Rape, Abuse, and Incest<br>National Network (RAINN)<br>(800) 656-4673        |
| National Center for Victims of<br>Crime<br>(800) 394-2255   | National Center for Missing &<br>Exploited Children<br>(800) 843-5678 | Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse<br>(800) 638-8736                             |
| National Domestic Violence<br>Hotline<br>(800) 799-7233     | National Sexual Violence<br>Resource Center<br>(877) 739-3895         | National Clearinghouse for<br>Alcohol and Drug Information<br>(800) 729-6686 |
| National Mothers Against Drunk<br>Driving<br>(800) 438-6233 | National Organization for Victim<br>Assistance<br>(800) TRY-NOVA      | Stalking Resource Center<br>(800) FYI-CALL                                   |
| DUI Victim Center of Kansas<br>(800) 873-6957               | Office of Crime Victims Advocacy<br>(800) 822-1067                    | Kansas Crisis Hotline<br>(888) 363-2287                                      |

## EL DORADO CORRECTIONAL FACILITY BY: SUSAN GIBREAL

In every OVS newsletter we will highlight a different facility to provide our readers with a better understanding of the facilities located throughout Kansas. We have eight facilities, which are Ellsworth, Norton, Larned, Topeka, Lansing, El Dorado, Hutchinson, and Winfield.



The El Dorado Correctional Facility (EDCF) is a men's multi-security facility built in 1991. Perimeter security includes manned towers, two wire perimeter fences designed to maximize retention with razor wire, an I-intrusion detection system, a monitored camera system, a roving perimeter vehicle and a vehicle heartbeat detection system. Our secure perimeter allows inmates autonomy within the compound to participate in programming which may reduce criminal thinking and begin preparation for release. EDCF supports crime victims by providing risk containment through management of inmates in a safe and secure environment. A responsibility/accountability model promotes compliance with rules and regulations. A total of 347 uniformed staff provide security in the inmate housing units and other areas of the compound 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Appropriate behavior is role modeled and cognitive intervention is utilized to promote decreased antisocial behavior. The facility was

designed to house the state's Long-term Administrative Segregation inmates. Currently three cell houses (365 beds) are dedicated to Administrative Segregation. Inmates who pose security risks are housed in long-term segregation housing units. These units include enhanced search and restraint procedures, specialized training for staff working in the unit and special procedures for the management and control of these inmates. EDCF has several programs designed to address the cognitive and social needs of long term administrative segregation inmates. EDCF adopted the Behavioral Modification Program (BMP) from Larned Correctional and Mental Health Facility in March 2008. The BMP is a program designed to deal with transitioning segregation inmates in a stratified program based on increased steps of privileges for demonstrated appropriate behavior. An addition was added to the program of monitoring the inmates for an additional six months by implementing a program called Intensive Supervision. The Segregation to Society program is a cognitive-based transitional program which focuses on inmates assigned to Administrative Segregation who are approaching release into society. There is an obvious need to improve the success of inmates releasing from Administrative Segregation in order to improve public safety. There was a 58% recidivism rate from this group. Secure program rooms have been constructed to facilitate this program and others.

The North and East minimum units, previously known as the El Dorado and Toronto Honor Camps respectively, were merged with the unit in July 1992. These work

camp provide inmate labor to the facility, local community projects and to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for the maintenance of the El Dorado and Toronto Reservoirs. Minimum custody inmates performed 147,591 hours of community service work, valued at \$863,407 in Fiscal Year 08. In 1995, the facility added a 115-bed dormitory. Two additional cell houses were completed in February 2001 to accommodate the State Reception and Diagnostic Unit (RDU). RDU is the intake facility for the Department of Corrections and performs physical, social and psychological evaluations of offenders sentenced to the custody of the Secretary of Corrections. RDU has processed approximately 300 inmates annually since it began operations at EDCF on February 2, 2001. The addition of RDU increased the capacity of the EDCF to 1,350 inmates. Currently there are eight living units. A, B, and C cell houses are designated as Administrative Segregation Units. The Reception and Diagnostic Units consists of D and E cell houses which have a total capacity of 320. The general population cell houses, consisting of East A, East F living units and U-Dorm have a collective capacity of 493 beds. We realize our work with offenders affects victims and survivors. Through programming, including academic and vocational education, life skills, cognitive skill, self-help groups and mental health programs, skills are developed which enhance both risk reduction and successful reentry into society. A specialized Release Planning & Reentry Team, in conjunction with facility case managers, coordinates overall offender reentry efforts.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION &amp; OPEN RECORDS BY: BILL MISKELL

The Kansas Department of Corrections' mission is to help make Kansas a safer place to live, work and raise a family. As one of the state's largest public safety departments, members of the public often have a personal stake in understanding how the Department of Corrections carries out its mission.

The Department's Public Information Office responds to questions by the public and the media for information about Department operations, policies, programs and the inmates incarcerated by the Department. The Public Information Office also ensures that the Department's public records are accessible in accordance with the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA).

One of the Department's most useful tools for locating information about an offender is the Kansas Adult Supervised Population Electronic Repository (KASPER). Located on the Department's web site at <http://www.doc.ks.gov/kasper>, KASPER contains information on offenders who have been committed to the custody of the Secretary of Corrections since approximately 1980 and offenders sentenced to Community Corrections Intensive Supervised Probation since approximately 2002. Information that is available regarding individual inmates includes:

- The offender's name and KDOC registration number;

- Physical description;
  - The offender's photograph;
  - Location (Current location and movements, including movement dates) (This does not include the location of an inmate housed in another state under provisions of the interstate corrections compact. The Secretary of Corrections has discretion not to release this information for security purposes.) or supervising parole office;
  - Conviction history (crime(s) of conviction, county, case number);
  - Custody or supervision level;
  - Sentence duration;
  - Parole eligibility date;
  - Supervision conditions with the exception of substance abuse and mental health evaluation treatment conditions;
  - Supervision condition violations that resulted in revocation;
- History of disciplinary reports while incarcerated for which the offender has been found guilty.

The address of release for an offender whose crime was committed after July 1, 1997 is available through the Department. The public also may access statutes, agency budget documents and departmental policies and regulations. The Department's Internal Management Policies and Procedures that are available for public review are located on the Department's web site at: <http://www.doc.ks.gov/kdoc-policies>.

However, certain Department records contain information that has been established by state or federal law as confidential or privileged. Those include:

- Medical treatment and offender program information;
- Records protected by attorney-client privilege;
- Criminal investigation information;
- Records regarding identifiable offenders, including Social Security number;
- Security information, procedures or plans about jails, prisons and detention facilities;
- Supervision history of identifiable post-release offenders. See also K.S.A. 22-3711;
- Preliminary drafts and notes, unless such items are cited publicly by the head of the agency;
- Computer information, if its disclosure would jeopardize a computer system or its data;

**"The address of release for an offender whose crime was committed after July 1, 1997 is available through the Department."**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION & OPEN RECORDS (CONT')**

- Records prepared in actual anticipation of a lawsuit under the direction of a lawyer advising the government agency;
- Personnel information of public employees;
- Records containing personal information compiled for Census purposes;

Information that another law says may be kept secret. Information obtained from victims of crime is also kept confidential.

Kansas statutes protect most of the information utilized by the Kansas Parole Board, including the pre-sentence report, the pre-parole report, the pre-post release supervision report and the supervision history. While parole hearings and Board deliberations are not subject to

attendance by the general public, those wanting to comment on an offender's parole suitability can attend Public Comment Sessions. The Board holds monthly sessions one month prior to an offender's parole hearing. A representative from the Department's Office of Victim Services attends each session to provide instruction and assistance.

Many issues that the Board discusses with the offender during the parole hearing cannot be released to the public. However, those who speak at the Public Comment Sessions can ask the Board to talk with the offender about any issue that the Board cannot discuss publicly.

If a request for records from the Public Information Office is denied in

whole or in part, the Department will identify generally the records denied and the specific legal authority for the denial.

Anyone with questions about the Kansas Department of Corrections may contact the Public Information Office at:

Kansas Department of Corrections  
 Landon State Office Building  
 900 S.W. Jackson St. 4th Fl.  
 Topeka, Kansas 66612-1284  
 Phone: (785) 296-3317  
 Fax: (785) 296-0014  
 E-mail: [KDOCPUB@doc.ks.gov](mailto:KDOCPUB@doc.ks.gov)  
 Web: [www.doc.ks.gov](http://www.doc.ks.gov)



**CHECK IT OUT!!!!  
 THE OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES HAS AN AWARD!!!!**



The Office of Victim Services is pleased to announce the creation of our very first award named the Champion of Justice Award. This will be given in honor of our first "Champion of Justice" Debi Holcomb. Debi was the first Director of the Office of Victim Services who assured KDOC staff worked to support victims and their safety while working to reduce the risk of further offenses causing more victimization.

The criteria for this award are as follows:

- OVS staff submits nominations
- Only KDOC staff are eligible to be nominated
- OVS staff should nominate KDOC employees who are working diligently for the

safety of crime victims and/or public safety in general, while supporting offender success.

- The award can go to individuals for help provided on a particular case, demonstrating a consistent commitment to safety and success, or for a program that has been implemented.

Our first award nominee will be named in our Spring 2009 newsletter.



We are on the Web!

[www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services](http://www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services)

**OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES**

Kansas Department of Corrections

Office of Victim Services

900 SW Jackson 400-N

Topeka, KS 66612-1284

Phone: 620-331-7787

Toll-free: 866-404-6732

E-mail: [victimwitness@doc.ks.gov](mailto:victimwitness@doc.ks.gov)



Office of Victim Services

Victim Initiated Services

Public Comment Session  
Advocacy Program

Facility Tours

Victim/Offender Dialogue

Parole Liaisons

Facility Liaisons

Apology Repository

Personalized Web Page

[www.doc.ks.gov/victim/victim.asp](http://www.doc.ks.gov/victim/victim.asp)

Notification Services

Public Comment Session

Release Status - Parole,  
Conditional Release or  
Post-Release

Assignment to a Work Release  
Program

Eligibility for a Community  
Service Work Assignment

Application for Clemency

Supervision Revocation

Expiration of Sentence

Death of inmate

Escape

Application for Early Discharge

Interstate Compact

Absconders

Sexually Violent Predator

“ GIVING KANSAS CRIME VICTIMS  
A VOICE IN CORRECTIONS BY  
PROVIDING INFORMATION,  
SERVICES AND SUPPORT WITH  
COMPASSION AND RESPECT ”

**VICTIM SERVICES LIAISONS**

Facility Liaison Services

Visitation/Contact Screening

Release Plan Screening

Cease Correspondence

Facility Tours

Attend Public Comment Sessions

Assistance with Navigating the System

Parole Liaison Services

Safety Planning

Family Reintegration

Assistance with Investigations/Sanctions/  
Revocations/Morrissey Hearings

Work Closely with Community Partners

Provide Referrals