

OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

THE BEACON

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

FALL 2008

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF CORRECTIONS

As the Secretary of Corrections, one of my responsibilities is to ensure that Department is consistently working toward this mission:

The Department of Corrections, as part of the criminal justice system, contributes to the public safety and supports victims of crime by exercising safe and effective containment and supervision of inmates, by managing offenders in the community, and by actively encouraging and assisting offenders to become law-abiding citizens.

One of the most important phrases in our mission is "supports victims of crime." Victims are forced into this system, and reducing the devastating impact of crime is a significant objective for the Department. Victims of crime deserve our support, respect, and compassion.

By including crime victims in our mission, we are reminded every day of your experiences. We are also reminded that our work with offenders affects victims and survivors. As we implement risk reduction strategies, our ultimate goal will always be to increase the safety of Kansas communities, and in turn, increase your safety as well.



Secretary of Corrections
Roger Werholtz

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.

MESSAGE FROM JENNIE MARSH DIRECTOR OF VICTIM SERVICES

I have been with the Office of Victim Services for over 6 years, and have experienced many "firsts" as our services have developed. I am very excited about this "first"- the Office of Victim Services newsletter. We hope to use this newsletter to serve victims of crime, victim advocates, and Department of Corrections staff by providing

information and support in a new way. The Office of Victim Services is victim-focused and safety-focused, and this has driven the content of our newsletter. That being said, we welcome your suggestions and thoughts. Our goal is to meet some of your needs with this newsletter, and

only you know what you need. If there is a topic or service you would like to know more about, please let us know. The Office of Victim Services strives to provide quality services, and the newsletter will be no exception. Enjoy!

HISTORY TIMELINE OF VICTIM SERVICES BY: JENNIE MARSH

Our guiding philosophy has always been to giving crime victims a voice in the Kansas Department of Corrections. The timeline below illustrates how this has been done, with a sampling of some of the development since the creation of the Office of Victim Services.

- 2001– The Office of Victim Services (OVS) was created (four staff)
- 2002– OVS vision and mission were created. Notification was automated. Victim/Offender Dialogue, Public Comment Session Advocacy, Tours, and Apology Repository programs were created. Victim Sensitivity training for all KDOC staff was implemented.
- 2003– Notification was expanded to include six new status changes.

- 2004– Victim Services Liaison positions were created. All KDOC parole staff received domestic violence training. Websites for victims were created. Sexually Violent Predator and Interstate Compact notification was added.
- 2005– “Supports victims of crime” was added to the KDOC mission statement. Victim Services Liaison positions were expanded to meet the demand for services.
- 2006– Notification was expanded to include two new status changes. Victim Services Liaison positions were expanded to meet the demand for services.
- 2007– Victim Services Liaison positions were expanded to meet the demand for services.
- 2008– OVS has thirteen staff members stationed at parole offices, correctional facilities, and DOC central office providing services to almost 15,000 victims per year.

OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES STATISTICS

	<u>FY 2007</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>
Open Victim files	20400	20655
Registrations	2333	1832
Total Services Provided	22432	24099
Total Letters Sent	13791	14248
Total Other Requests	8465	9851
Number of Victims (Facility Liaisons)	121	445
Number of Victims (Parole Liaisons)	570	798
Staff Trained by VSL’s	773	970

“Total services provided **24099**, Total letters sent **14248**, Knowing that the Office of Victim Services is working hard to provide Kansas crime victims a voice... **PRICELESS**”

SAFETY PLANNING BY: CAMIE BORS DORF

Within KDOC Office of Victim Services we have Liaisons both in correctional facilities and in parole offices. Liaisons offer services to crime victims or their families even if there has never been a conviction for the crime committed against them. The safety of all crime victims and their concerns are important to us. All services provided by Liaisons are confidential and are not shared with the offender.

First, Liaisons can help victims plan for their safety through notification of the offender's release date and home plan. Information provided can include where the offender is releasing to and his/her release date. Liaisons can tell victims what parole office and which parole officer the offender will be reporting to. This information can help a crime victim know where the offender will be once released. Liaisons can talk with

victims about the rules and conditions an offender has to follow and answer questions. Liaisons can also provide on-going information and follow up as needed for victims as questions come up about the offender.

Second, Liaisons can help victims plan for their safety by requesting special conditions for an offender's release or parole. A special condition is a parole condition telling an offender a special rule of their parole. These types of conditions could include things such as, no contact with the victim or no returning to a specific place, such as a city or county. Special conditions will be requested by the Liaison to either the Kansas Parole Board (if the offender is still in prison) or to the parole officer directly (if the offender is on parole). Once a special condition is approved the Liaison will notify the victim.

Third, Liaisons can help a victim to

plan for their safety by helping crime victims find services in their community. Once a victim talks with a Liaison and has been given information about an offender, they may wish to speak with someone in their community that can assist them with a specific need such as a filing a protection from abuse order (PFA) or attending a DUI victim support group. Our office has extensive knowledge of resources for victims. Liaisons are available to victims as often as needed during the offender's time in a facility or on parole. If you or someone you know would like to speak with one of our Victim Services Liaisons please call our toll free line at 1-866-404-6732.

HELPFUL TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

National Children's Alliance
(800) 239-9950

National Center for Victims of Crime
(800) 394-2255

National Domestic Violence Hotline
(800) 799-7233

National Mothers Against Drunk Driving
(800) 438-6233

DUI Victim Center of Kansas
(800) 873-6957

National Council on Aging
(800) 424-9046

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
(800) 843-5678

National Sexual Violence Resource Center
(877) 739-3895

National Organization for Victim Assistance
(800) TRY-NOVA

Office of Crime Victims Advocacy
(800) 822-1067



Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAIN)
(800) 656-4673

Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse
(800) 638-8736

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information
(800) 729-6686

Stalking Resource Center
(800) FYI-CALL

HUTCHINSON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY BY: STEVE SCHNEIDER

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 nine facilities, which are Ellsworth, Norton, Larned, Topeka, Lansing, El Dorado, Hutchinson, Winfield, and Wichita Work Release. The first facility we will highlight is Hutchinson Correctional Facility. Enjoy!

The Hutchinson Correctional Facility (HCF) is a multi-security prison consisting of the maximum custody Central Unit, a walled facility formerly known as the Kansas State Industrial Reformatory, a medium custody unit located approximately two miles East of the Central Unit, and a minimum custody unit located directly South of the Central Unit.

On any given day HCF houses an average of 1725 of the more than 9000 inmates in the custody of the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC). The Central Unit has a capacity of approximately 1000 inmates. The medium custody East Unit's capacity is 480 and the minimum custody South Unit has a capacity of 288, including 48 work release inmates.

The inmates at HCF are supervised and managed by 518 State of Kansas employees, including 354 Corrections Officers. Private entities providing food service, health care, and programs under contract with the Kansas Department of Corrections employ approximately 150 additional staff at HCF.

HCF and the KDOC are committed to releasing inmates from custody better prepared for life in free society than they were when they entered prison. A variety of programs are available at HCF through which inmates may improve themselves. These programs include academic and vocational education, substance abuse programming, and sex offender treatment. There are also work programs available to

inmates that assist in the daily operation and maintenance of the facility.

Appropriate conduct by inmates is encouraged through a comprehensive system of earnable privileges designed to reinforce positive behavior. This system impacts upon an inmate's ability to own certain types of personal property, earn incentive pay, make commissary expenditures, have visitors, participate in various organizations and activities, and utilize outside funds.

Inappropriate conduct by inmates is addressed through the KDOC disciplinary process. There are three classes of rule violations, the most serious of which are the class I offenses, many of which are considered felonies which may be charged in Reno County District Court in addition to the internal administrative hearings. Courts have ruled that this does not constitute double jeopardy. Sanctions may include disciplinary segregation, restriction, monetary fines, and loss of good time.

CALANDER OF EVENTS

September 2008

National Day of Remembrance
September 25, 2008

National Campus Safety Awareness Month

October 2008

Week Without Violence
October 12-18, 2008

National Crime Prevention Month

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

November 2008

MADD, Tie One On For Safety

December 2008

National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month

HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS (PROVIDED BY THE DOUGY CENTER FOR GRIEVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES)

Holidays can be hard times for grieving families. The season is filled with family get-togethers and festive events, many of which grievers are accustomed to sharing with the person who died. Surrounded by holiday “cheer,” the pain of loss can seem overwhelming. Sometimes, a simple “Happy Holidays!” from a well-meaning friend can send you into a tailspin. It’s hard to “put on a happy face” when you’re grieving inside. Events during the holidays can stir-up intensified feelings of sadness and loss. Writing the holiday greeting cards, hearing a special carol, unpacking the ornaments, eating the holiday meal and so many other events once shared together become at best bittersweet and often daunting tasks to be avoided.

For the bereaved family member, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, New Years, and other traditional holidays may be especially difficult. You might see the perfect gift for a loved one, and then realize he or she is not here to enjoy it. Whether your grief is new or old, there are ways you can make the holidays more bearable and less fatiguing for you and your children. You may also discover ways to honor the

memory of the person who died and to begin new meaningful traditions in the family. Here are some suggestions, reminders, and activities. Take what is helpful to you.

Helpful Strategies and Reminders:

- Accept your limitations. Grief can be all-consuming, no matter what time of year it is. Holidays place additional stresses and demands on our lives. You may not be able to do all the things you’ve always done. Lower your expectations and allow yourself time and space to grieve.
- Respect everyone’s individual feelings and wishes for the holidays. Just as grief is unique for each individual, so are the expectations and desires of each family member. Be especially considerate to children. Involve them in the discussions.
- Be prepared for holiday well-wishers. Cards from people who do not yet know of the death will be addressed to the entire family. Greeting of Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays ring through the air. Everywhere you go there are tiding of joy. Brace yourself and know that others do wish you well and that their greeting are not intended as hurtful reminders.

- Be informed before attending events. It can be helpful to know some of the specifics before attending a get-together: who will be there, how long is it expected to last, do you need to do anything to prepare for it? Inform the host/hostess that this may be difficult for you and your family. Make sure to prepare the children as well for the situation, possible questions and avoidance tactics of others.

- Ask for help if you need it. There’s a good chance that friends and family are looking for ways they can be helpful to you during

the hard times. You may want to continue certain traditions around the holidays, but feel you can’t do it alone. Involve other. People enjoy supporting others in concrete ways, such as cleaning, cooking, baking, shopping and running errands. Sometimes it’s hard to ask for help because you worry about

“Whether your grief is old or new, there are ways you can make the holidays more bearable.....”

HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS CONT.

burdening others. But more often than not, they are more than happy to contribute.

- Allow for rest. The holidays can be physically and emotionally draining for us all. Grieving is tiring too. Naps, walks and other quiet activities - even for short periods of time - can be revitalizing. Encourage children to have times of rest and quiet play as well. Remember to eat well and drink plenty of fluids as well for good self-care.

- Eliminate unnecessary stress. Of course we can't entirely remove stress from the holidays. But we can set limits. Scale back and try not to do it all. For example, we all know how exhausting shopping can be, especially as we get closer to the holidays. If you plan to buy gifts, consider shopping early, buying from catalogs, or purchasing gift cards. Remember as well, that the anxiety and anticipation prior to holiday events can be particularly stressful, even more so than the event itself.

- Plan ahead. Decide ahead of time what you can and cannot do comfortably and let your friends and family know. For example, can you handle making the family dinner or should someone else

do it? You may want to make a list of all the things you usually do - greeting cards, baking, shopping, decorations, parties, dinner, etc. - and decide what you most want to do. Talk with your kids about the plans and allow them to be involved in deciding how the family spends the holiday. They will appreciate being included.

- Acknowledge the life of the person who died. There are many creative ways to honor a person's memory during the holidays. You may wish to do so by carrying on your family traditions or by creating new ones. Here are some ideas:

- Buy or make a memorial candle to light during the evening throughout the holiday season
- Observe a moment of silence or prayer before a holiday meal (or at another appropriate time) in honor of the person who died
- Make a special toast or share memories of the person who died
- Buy a gift in honor of your loved one
- Make a donation to a charity in the name of your loved one or help a family in need by making a holiday meal for them or sending presents to their children.

Remember: There is no right or wrong way to "handle a holiday". Some may wish to keep family traditions while others choose to change them. Everyone grieves differently. Honor yourself and your grieving. Have a peaceful holiday.

" A special thanks goes out to The Dougy Center for Grieving Children & Families for allowing us to publish this article."

"Talk with your kids about the plans and allow them to be involved....."

You can get other helpful information such as this by contacting them at (503) 775-5683 or toll free at (866) 775-5683. You can also visit their website at www.dougy.org



We are on the Web!

www.dc.state.ks.us/victim-services

OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

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Toll-free: 866-404-6732
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Office of Victims Services

Victim Initiated Services

Public Comment Session
Advocacy Program

Facility Tours

Victim/Offender Dialogue

Parole Liaisons

Facility Liaisons

Apology Repository

Personalized Web Page

www.dc.state.ks.us/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

**“ G I V I N G K A N S A S C R I M E V I C T I M S
A V O I C E I N C O R R E C T I O N S B Y
P R O V I D I N G I N F O R M A T I O N ,
S E R V I C E S A N D S U P P O R T W I T H
C O M P A S S I O N A N D R E S P E C T ”**

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