How Victim Advocacy Improves the Work of Reentry Staff

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If you experience technical difficulties during the presentation, please email kthornton@csg.org

Participants will be able to enter questions in the chat box. I will monitor the questions and pose them to the panelists, as pace allows.

As time allows, questions not answered during the presentation will be addressed before the conclusion of the webinar.

Any questions left unanswered at the end of the webinar may be posted and answered with the webinar recording and tools shared during the presentation.

The presentation and tools shared during the webinar will be available after today’s event.
Workshop Objectives
Participants will be able to:

- Understand the role and critical importance of victim services in reentry processes for all reentry providers
- Have knowledge of how victim services can help reentry providers in their work
- Recognize services and needs victims may have at different points in the criminal justice and reentry process AND why it matters to reentry providers
- Identify promising practices and tools used for successful victim advocacy during reentry in Minnesota and Washington States
Who Benefits When Victims Are Involved in Offender Reentry?

Victims

Criminal Justice Professionals

Community

Offenders

Others?
Core Victim Rights and Offender Reentry

- Notification
- Information
- Participation & Input
- Compensation
- Restitution
- Safety & Security
Victim input is VALUABLE for successful reentry: Offender

- Programming
- Conditions of Supervision
- Reunification or Parenting
- Compensation Obligation
- Housing & Employment
- Reduce Recidivism
Victim input is VALUABLE for the Community and Criminal Justice Professionals

- Collaboration
- Community Safety
- Criminal Justice Professionals
- Treatment
- Victim Support
- Offender Support
Victim Rights vs. Victim Needs

- Notification
- Information
- Participation
- Financial Assistance

- Safety and Security
- Ventilation and Validation
- Prediction and Preparation
- Information and Education
- Financial and Advocacy Support
Victim Services can help reentry providers by:

- Sharing victim information from pre-conviction through offender reentry
- Acting as a conduit for information sharing between criminal justice professionals
- Improved case management and supervision
Who are the Victim Advocates?

- System Based Advocacy (Victim Witness/DOC/Attorney General)
- Community Based Advocacy (Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, General Crime, Homicide and DWI)
- Corrections Based Advocacy
Criminal Justice Continuum

Decision Points for Victim Involvement

- Arrest → Pretrial Status → Diversion or Deferred Prosecution → Charging
- Plea ← Trial → Sentencing → Local or State Confinement
- Parole Hearings → Release from Confinement
- Community Supervision
- Community Treatment
- Discharge from Supervision
- Violation of Supervision

National Institute of Corrections Broadcast
Participation & Input

- Safety Concerns (Protective Orders)
- Programming
- Case Management/Release Planning
- Restitution
- Reunification/Parenting
- Victim Offender Contact
- Restorative Justice
Participation & Input

- There must be processes for victims to provide input and participate in post conviction processes including at time of offender reentry.
- Victim impact statements offer vital information to pretrial, probation and parole officer's that can improve offender case management and supervision in the community.
- Victim input at time of offender intake and prior to reentry provide opportunity to participate beyond court processes.
### Victim Offender Contact: Challenges/Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victims that <strong>have safety concerns</strong></th>
<th>Victims that <strong>WANT contact</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Challenges</strong></td>
<td><strong>Challenges</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- How do “we know?”</td>
<td>- Some victims don’t see themselves as victims</td>
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<td>- What can “we do?”</td>
<td>- Some victims are “family”</td>
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<td>- Who are “our partners?”</td>
<td>- Some victims remain at high risk</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Identifying “coercive contact vs. desired contact.”</td>
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<td><strong>Opportunities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Opportunities</strong></td>
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<td>- Victim Notification provides a foundation</td>
<td>- Providing “support” to those not identifying as victims</td>
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<td>- Incarceration can provide “time”</td>
<td>- Providing information to victims about reentry “rules” prior to reentry</td>
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<td>- Incarceration behavior can be utilized for additional charges, sanctions, supervision structure</td>
<td>- Reunification collaboration</td>
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<td>- Victims can be the best source of information for corrections</td>
<td>- Collaboration between incarceration staff and community supervision staff prior to offender release</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Restorative Justice options</td>
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Victim Offender Visiting
- Differences in policy/philosophy/process
- Victim physical and emotional safety when visiting during incarceration is permitted
- Challenges when contact rules during incarceration are inconsistent with rules upon release/supervision
- Challenges with victim identification
- Role of Victim Assistance Program
- Opportunity for Restorative Justice
Each state’s protective order laws are different

Most states have both criminal and civil protective orders

Most states have “probationary” protective orders which are no longer enforceable once an offender is incarcerated

Many states face challenges “knowing” about valid/invalid orders

Many victims are unsure about the validity of protective orders when an offender is incarcerated or released
Protective Orders: Promising Practices

- Screen offenders at intake for active orders
- Develop a “no contact” order for incarcerated offenders
- Collaborate with court services to automate protective orders with corrections
- Develop a process for communication with victims at or prior to offender intake about protective orders
- Collaborate with prosecutors on protective orders/stalking charges if unwanted continued contact takes place during incarceration
- Develop training for correctional officers and parole agents about protective orders
There must be clear guidelines and processes for victims on how to utilize crime victim compensation funds for post conviction impacts and support.
RESTITUTION

There must be due diligence in ordering monitoring, collecting and disseminating the legal and financial obligations of offenders including victim restitution and child support.
Victims' safety should be the primary focus of all reentry decisions and planning at the point offender reentry.

Police or court documents rarely provide the detailed information that might be critical in making decisions about offender supervision and programming. Providing mechanisms for victims to provide input into reentry is critical.
When Should Advocates and other Criminal Justice Professionals begin Involving Victims in the Offender Reentry Process?
How can we Involve Victims in Offender Reentry?

- Identifying core rights
- Ensuring mechanisms are in place to afford those rights
- Identifying collaborative partners in the process
- Informing victims of options throughout the continuum
- Engage collaborative partners in the process throughout the continuum
- Developing tools to assist victims in providing input
- Developing mechanisms to provide input to stakeholders
What can or should we do with victim input?

- **Transparency**: Always be sure victims know what/how information will be utilized – and how won’t it be used.

- **Confidentiality**: Always be sure victims know who will be able to access the information they provide.

- **Communication with stakeholders**: Always be sure stakeholders that have access are aware of how information should be used and who should have access.
Prior to Offender Intake

- Law Enforcement
- Community Based Advocates
- Corrections (PSI staff)
- Notification
- Invitation letters/information
Intake

- Victim impact statements
- Notification enrollment
- Restitution
- No contact or safety issues
  - Promising Practice: Minnesota Victim Input at Intake
Incarceration

- Offender Programming
- Restitution
- Victim safety
- Visitation
- Reunification
- Restorative Justice
- Reentry planning
Probation and Parole

- Parole/Release Hearings
- Parole/Release Decisions
- Conditions of Supervision
- Victim Safety
- Violations
- Access to information
Impact Statements
Restitution Orders
Protective Orders
Police Reports
Revocation Reports
Safety Concerns
Collaborative Partners

- Prosecutors
- Victim Witness
- Community Advocates
- Law Enforcement
- Courts
- Adult Protective Services

- Mental Health
- Compensation Program
- Child Protective Services
- Child Support Enforcement

- Compensation
- Restitution
- Safety & Security
Promising Practices for Effective Victim Centered Case Planning

- Advocate Exit Checklist
- Victim Input at Intake
- Victim Input at Reentry
- No Contact Directive
- Threat Assessments
- Wrap Around Processes
Minneapolis’s Input at Reentry

Victim Assistance & Restorative Justice Program
Registrant/Victim Reentry Statement

Your Name

Victim Name (if applicable)

Offender Name

Offender Identification Number (OID)

Date of Document

1. Do you have concerns about where the offender will reside? □ YES □ NO
2. Do you have concerns about where the offender will be employed? □ YES □ NO
3. Do you and the offender have any children in common? □ YES □ NO

Names of the child(ren) Date of birth of the child(ren)

4. Do you have a child that is not his/her?

5. Are there any court orders regarding custody and parenting time for the children you have with the offender? □ YES □ NO

In what county was the order issued? ________________________________
Please provide a general explanation of the order.
Victim Input at Reentry: Minnesota Model

Victims and community members may want to provide information, especially about safety concerns, when an offender is being released from a correctional facility on supervised release in the community. The Minnesota Department of Corrections encourages victims and community members to provide information to facility case managers and supervising agents as the information is helpful in understanding victim needs and facilitating offenders release planning and supervision.

For more information, you can go to the ‘Reentry Resources’ page to learn more about the reentry process.

If you have information or safety concerns that you would like to share, please complete a Reentry Statement Form.

How to Complete a Reentry Statement Form:
1. Click on Download Reentry Statement Form
2. Complete the form and save the form to your computer.
3. Click on Upload Related Documents button if you want to provide documents that you believe helpful or important in the reentry planning process. These documents will be shared with the offender’s case manager and/or agent.
Minnesota’s No Contact Directive

REQUEST FOR NO CONTACT DIRECTIVE
(This is separate from an order issued by the court)

Individuals who do not want to receive contact or receiving unwanted contact from an offender incarcerated in a Minnesota correctional facility may submit a request for a no contact directive. A no contact directive includes written and verbal messages. By submitting a request you are acknowledging that you understand the directive cannot be changed for six months and is separate from an order issued by the court. Once your request has been received, the offender will be served with the directive. Requests may be submitted by mail, fax, or email. The Minnesota Department of Corrections will acknowledge receipt of your request within 10 business days.

Date

Contact Information
First Name _________________________ Last Name _________________________
Street Address _________________________
City _________________________ State _________________________ Zip Code _________________________
Email Address (es) _________________________
Phone Number(s) _________________________

If unwanted contacted has occurred, please describe:

If

Offender Information (Provide as much information as is known)
First Name _________________________ Last Name _________________________
OID _________________________ Date of Birth _________________________
Victim Wrap Around Process

- Washington
- Minnesota
FINAL THOUGHTS .... QUESTIONS ... TAKE AWAYS ...
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