



State of Vermont

Department of Corrections

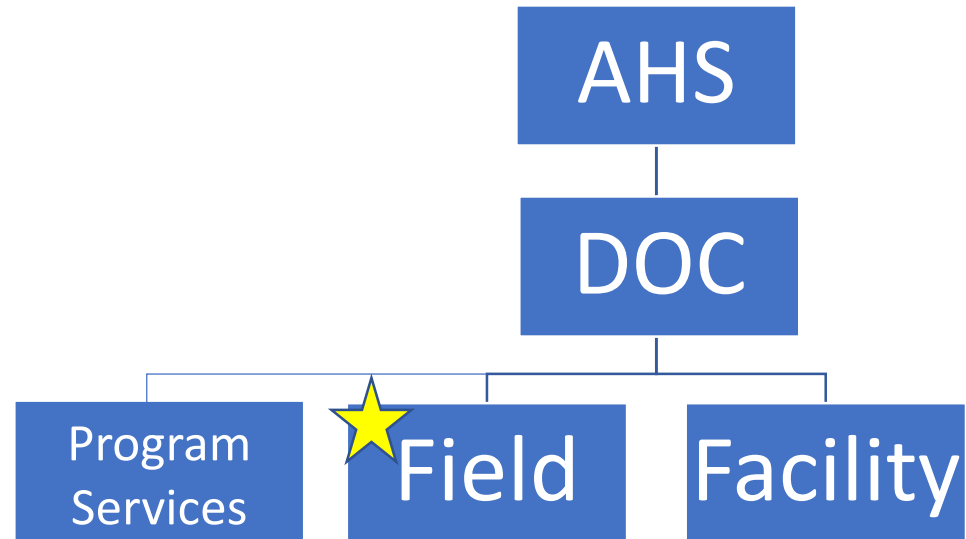
Victim Services Program

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Victim Services Specialist (VSS)





DOC Victim Services in Context

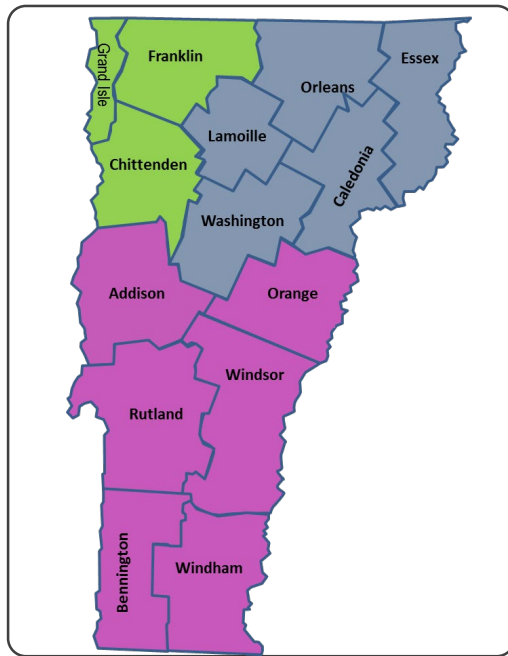


10 Field Offices (P&P) → 250 staff

8 Facilities + OOS → 640 staff

DOC Victim Services in Context

Measure	FY2007	FY2016	FY2017	% Change Past Decade	% Change Past Year
# Offenders Supervised in the Community = 7500 / Incarcerated = 2050					
Incarceration	2,165	1,791	1,784	-17.5%	-0.4%
Reentry	986	913	983	-0.3%	7.6%
Intermediate Sanctions	794	901	782	-1.5%	-13.2%
Parole	988	994	947	-4.1%	-4.7%
Probation	7,326	5,174	5,133	-30%	-0.7%
Housed under OOS	559	252	269	-51.8%	7.1%



Responsibilities include:

- ✓ *Direct provision of information and support services to crime victim/survivors.*
- ✓ *Case consultation to field and facility staff.*
- ✓ *Management of the VANS Program.*
- ✓ *Provision of victim-specific training to all DOC staff.*
- ✓ *Providing educational trainings and awareness-building presentations to state agency and community-based partners.*
- ✓ *Representation of DOC at community-based forums, meetings, and events.*

DOC Victim Services in Context



Getting Connected: DOC Victim Services Program

Victims information is not automatically provided to the DOC Victim Services Unit

SAVA

VANS

DOC VS Connect with victim/survivors through:

1. Automatic Case Assignments--4 internal designations, based upon:
 - a. Degree of victim and/or community harm, trauma or risk
 - b. High level victim or trauma informed training and skill required (ex. high level of trauma)
 - c. Complex coordination of services needed as part of release planning process
2. Internal (DOC) case referral or consultation
3. Proactive assignment by VS Director
4. VANS—Vermont Automated Notification Service
5. State's Attorney's Advocates
6. Direct referral
7. Community Providers (Network Advocates)
8. Community Justice Center—CoSA, Reentry
9. State Agencies (DCF)



Victim/Survivors &
Affected Persons

Legal Definition



Victim & Affected Persons—Legal Definitions

13 V.S.A. § 5301— Definitions (see handout)

- Direct Victims (aka: *Adjudicated Victim, Victim of Record, Named-Victim*)
- Affected Persons (Non-adjudicated Victims)
- Note: “Affected person” means any of the following persons *who has requested notification in writing from the court or the department of corrections.*



Provide Support and
Information | vs: Pre & Post
Conviction



DOC-VS: Pre-Conviction Victim Services

- Pre-conviction services provided are related to offenders who are
 - Incarcerated—Detainee, HWB, Violations resulting in new charges (ex. parole revocation)
 - In Community--Bail, Conditions of Release
- Pre-conviction Victim Services include:
 - Pre-Sentencing Investigations (PSI)
 - Visitation Requests
 - Automated Notifications





DOC-VS: Post-Conviction Victim Services

Most people equate DOC VS with VANS notification...

DOC-VS also provides:

1. General information about the DOC, including:

- DOC practices & policies

- DOC structure and staffing (ex. caseworker, PO, CSS)

- Opportunities for participation in DOC processes

- Sentence information (min vs max release)**

2. Support

- PSI

- Parole Board Hearing

- Pre-release outreach

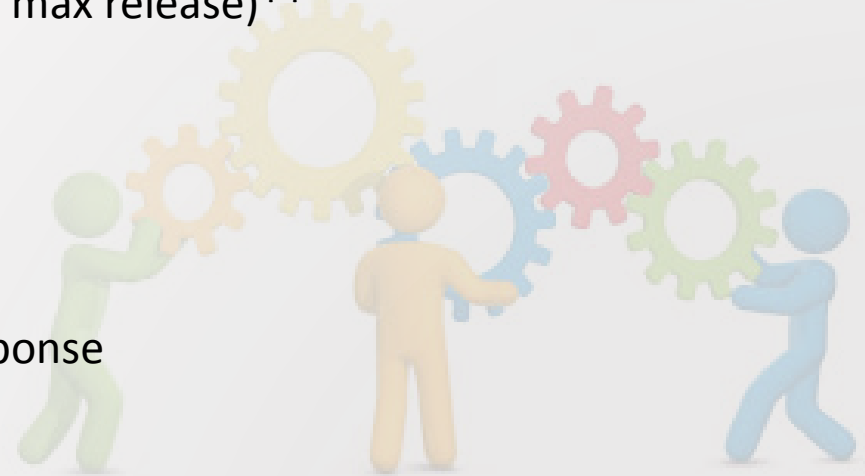
- Coordinated Community Response


3. Specialized Victim Services

- Apology Letter Bank

- Victim-Offender Dialogue (VOD) & Conference

- Photo Waiver & Visitation Requests





Statutes Informing DOC's Work with Victims

Victim Rights Protected by Statute

Release & Post-Conviction

13 V.S.A. § 5301: Definitions

13 V.S.A. § 5305: Information concerning release from custody

13 V.S.A. § 3272: Community reentry and prerelease planning

13 V.S.A. § 5315: Information concerning appeal or post-conviction remedies

28 V.S.A. § 204: Right to provide comments for pre-sentence investigation report

28 V.S.A. § 502, 507: Notice and right to participate in parole board proceedings

28 V.S.A. § 721: Right to participate in offender re-entry

28 V.S.A. § 910a: Right to participate in reparative board proceedings

28 V.S.A. § 205: Right to request information about compliance with probation conditions



DOC Automated & Non-Automated Notifications



Release from Custody

13 V.S.A. § 5305

1. release on bail or conditions of release,
2. Furlough or other community program,
3. upon termination or discharge from probation, or
4. whenever the defendant escapes, is recaptured, dies, or receives a pardon or commutation of sentence.

DOC Automated & Non-Automated Notifications

Automated Notifications	
1.	Release
1.	Escape
1.	Return from Escape
1.	Return to Custody
1.	Death
1.	Unsupervised Custody
1.	Unsupervised Custody – Parole Granted
1.	Transfer
1.	Out to Court
1.	Returned From Court
1.	Advanced Parole Hearing
1.	Parole Hearing Result
1.	Revocation Hearing
1.	Furlough Escape
1.	Eligible for Community Rel./Furlough – 30 Day
1.	Eligible for Community Rel./Furlough – 120 Day
1.	Imminent Release
1.	30 Day Advanced Release
1.	Discharged from Parole Supervision
1.	Transfer to Field Facility
1.	Eligible for Release
1.	Pre-Max Advanced Release
1.	Advanced Probation
1.	Released from Court
1.	Released on Bail
1.	Parole Hearing Scheduled

VANS



Access to Information & Notification for
Offender Custody Status

*Victims have the
right to know.*



1-866-976-VANS

TOLL-FREE 1-866-976-8267

TTY: 1-866-847-1298

www.vinelink.com

A service provided by the:
Vermont Department of Corrections
Victim Services Program 1-888-810-1847

DOC Victim Services: Automated Notification

- Notification requested by victim/affected person
- Vermont Automated Notification Service (VANS)

To Register:

866-976-8267 (VANS)

www.vinelink.com



Access to Information & Notification for
Offender Custody Status

*Victims have the
right to know.*



866-976-VANS

DOC Automated & Non-Automated Notifications

Parole Board Hearing & Outcomes *13 V.S.A. § 5305*



Notification of Parole Hearing at least 30 days in advance.

- Victim has a right to participate
- Options for participation

Of note:

Open to the Public

PB independent of DOC--DOC makes recommendations—no obligation to follow



“...whose offender is
in the custody, or under the
supervision of the DOC”

Offender Legal
Status



DOC Victim Services in Context: Field Services

Community-Based Supervision--provided
by Field (P&P) Offices

14 legal statuses:

- **Probation (Court)**
- **Parole (Parole Board)**
- **Furlough (DOC)**
- Supervised Community Sentence
- Home Detention (Court)



DOC Victim Services Contact Information

VT DOC Victim Services:

- Phone: 888-810-1847
- Email: AHS.DOCVictimServices@Vermont.gov

Thank you!

Scenarios

Each group is provided a scenario.

Read through the details of the scenario and discuss:

- Where does this scenario fit within the continuum of services?
- What are some potential needs of victims and affected persons in each scenario?.
- What are some additional resources that victim/survivors you could help coordinate?



Scenario #1: Pre-Sentencing Investigation

A defendant is found guilty in a road rage shooting. The date for a sentencing hearing is set and a pre-sentencing investigation is ordered.

Friends and family have been actively involved in the case since the beginning.



Scenario #2: Restitution

A burglary victim receives a Vans notification informing them that the offender in their case is no longer under doc supervision.

The victim calls the doc victim services unit to report that they have only received partial restitution.



Scenario #3: Offender Visitation

A defendant is lodged in a facility pending Aggravated domestic assault charges.

The victim calls the facility requesting visitation and they refer the victim to DOC Victim Services.



Scenario #4: Visitation Request

An offender is sentenced to serve 18 months in jail for aggravated domestic assault.

The listed victim in the case requests to visit the offender in the facility.



Scenario #5: Max Out

A non-compliant High risk sex offender is being released into the community after being incarcerated for more than two decades.

The offender has refused Sex Offender treatment while incarcerated and will be maxing out.



Scenario #6: Apology Letter Bank

A woman with an extensive criminal and substance abuse history steals from her grandfather in order to feed her addiction. She is found guilty of theft along with several other drug-related charges

She spends 6 months in jail, followed by probation.

As part of her probation she attends substance abuse treatment programming. Part of that program requires she write a letter of apology to persons she has harmed, including her victim(s).



Scenario #6: Apology Letter Bank

A woman with an extensive criminal and substance abuse history steals from her grandfather in order to feed her addiction. She is found guilty of theft along with several other drug-related charges

She spends 6 months in jail, followed by probation.

The grandfather would like to resume contact with his granddaughter but worries that she is upset with him for reporting her to the police. He wants to know if she understands how her behavior has affected him and whether she is truly sorry for her choices.



Scenario #7: Violation of Probation

An Offender with an extensive criminal history including multiple drug-related and violence charges violates his probation conditions by Using Illegal Substances



Scenario #8: Violation of Abuse Prevention Order

An offender convicted of domestic assault is on Probation.

Part of the conditions of probation include no contact with the victim.

He contacts his victim.

There is an active relief from abuse order in place.



Scenario #9: Parole Board Hearing

An offender on furlough requests to be seen by the parole board.

The offender has been successful under supervision and is in compliance with all current conditions.

The
caseworker is making a positive recommendation for parole.

The victim is Afraid and does not want the Offender to be paroled.

Contact Information

VT DOC Victim Services:

Phone: 888-810-1847

Email: AHS.DOCVictimServices@state.vt.us

Jessica.dorr@Vermont.gov

Thank you!