

A faint, stylized image of a pair of scales of justice is visible in the background, centered behind the text. The scales are rendered in a light blue color, matching the overall theme of the slide. The background is a solid dark blue.

The Victim Role in Offender Reentry & Community Corrections

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Learning Objectives

- Describe the core victims' rights that apply throughout the reentry process
- Identify victims' most salient needs throughout reentry, and how to address them
- Describe how to build partnerships among victim service providers, justice officials and community members in order to enhance the reentry process for crime victims and survivors

New Handbook on Victims, Survivors & Reentry

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/jc/category/reentry/nrrc/>



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Victim-centric Definition of Reentry

“Reentry is the process of someone who has been incarcerated returning to the community. Reentry services for offenders involve the use of evidence-based programs that promote their successful reintegration as law-abiding citizens. Reentry services for crime victims and survivors provide opportunities to implement victims’ rights; identify and meet victims’ needs; promote their personal safety and security; and keep them informed about and involved in reentry processes, if they so desire. Individual, community and public safety is the ultimate goal of our reentry program.”

Victims' & Survivors' Rights throughout Reentry

- Notification
- Information
- Input
- Participation
- Restitution
- Protection/safety
- Victim Transition Protocol



Notification



- Notification as “threshold right” that can lead to implementation of other rights
- Systems to deliver notification by automation, telephone, letter or calls
- Specialized notification:
 - Sex offender notification
 - Interstate Compact requests

Information

*What **Victims** Need to Know...*

- Offender risk and needs assessment
- Offender supervision and programming
- Conditions of supervision
- Victim access to offender information
- Reentry programming for offenders



For Example, *OFFENDER PROGRAMMING*

- Education
- Vocational development
- Mental health treatment and programs
- Accountability
- Community programs
- Gender-responsive programs (often in partnership with victim assistance programs)



*What Reentry Programs Need to Know about **Victim Services***

- Victims' rights laws
- Victim assistance services and programs
- The range and scope of crime victim services
- Victims' basic needs
- How to identify crime victim services in a jurisdiction
- "Frequently Asked Questions"



Input (VIS and PSIs)



- Describe the offense
- Emotional impact
- Physical impact
- Financial impact
- Spiritual impact
- Any concerns about safety/security?
- Any protective measures requested?
- What has changed in your life between the time the crime occurred, and NOW?
- Opportunity for victim/offender programming
- Input into community service
- Anything else?

Participation throughout Parole and Reentry Processes

- Info about paroling/reentry authority
- How hearing dates are set
- What happens at hearings?
- How parole decisions are made
- The victim's role



APAI Survey of Parole Boards and Members

- Short- and long-term impact of crime
- Relationship between victim and inmate (if applicable)
- Details about the crime
- The ways the crime changed the victim's life
- How has/has the victim "recovered"?
- Input into conditions of release



Restitution



- It's a **RIGHT**, not a **RECOMMENDATION!**
- Original court orders and any authority from parole/reentry agency
- Systems for collecting and dissemination
- Complete review of offender's assets and capacity to pay

Safety and Protection

Reentry-specific Safety Planning

Provides an opportunity between
reentry, corrections and community
corrections professionals
and
victim assistance professionals
to
collaborate on safety planning

Elements of Reentry Safety Planning

- Providing the victim with contact information for supervising agency/officer
- Documentation of inmate's behavior in prison
- Victims' rights relevant to safety
- Safety in the victim's residence
- Safety considerations for children and family
- Safety for transportation
- Safety at work
- Safety in public
- Preparing for and responding to attempted unwanted contact by the offender, his/her family or friends
- Online privacy and safety

Victim Transition Protocol



Goals of the VTP



- Educate victims about offender reentry programs and processes, and all opportunities for them to be involved and informed
- Ensure that their rights under law are observed
- Promote victims' autonomy and their choice whether to be involved in reentry processes

Goals of the VTP (*cont.*)

- Promote confidentiality of victim information
- Identify and address specific safety concerns through victim needs and safety assessments and planning
- Offer victims information about and access to supportive services in the community to help them prepare for their offender's return to the community

TIMEFRAME

The VTP runs concurrently with the time period during which the offender is transitioning back to the community (usually 90 to 180 days)



Initial Steps in the VTP



- Partnerships with victim services
- Identify and locate victims
- Initial victim outreach and documentation

Basic Victim Needs Assessment

- Basic needs
- Medical/mental health
- Social support
- Information
- Input
- Personal safety and security
- Needs of special victim populations
- Victim assistance or social services
- Legal/financial obligations
- Victim/offender programming
- Any additional needs



Implementation of Victims' Rights & Services

- Notification
- Information
- Input
- Protection/safety
- Restitution
- Access to services provide by:
 - Reentry agencies and programs
 - Crime victim/survivor services



GROUP DISCUSSION

Who are the

KEY PARTNERS

to assist victims and survivors
throughout reentry?



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In Conclusion.....

- Reentry can provide many **options** and **opportunities** for victims and survivors
- An **informed survivor** can become a **proactively-engaged survivor**

Collaborations
and
partnerships
are essential to success!



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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