

**OVS MISSION**

*The **Office of Victim Services** is devoted to protecting the rights of victims of crime, assisting them in obtaining meaningful services, and locating appropriate resources throughout the community, while being sensitive to the needs of victims.*

*The **Office of Victim Services** further provides timely information and services aimed at enhancing and improving the victim's knowledge of New Jersey's correctional system.*

The New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) is committed to ensuring that crime victims and witnesses are accorded the rights and services required by law. Historically, victim services were primarily placed on the trial and sentencing phases of the criminal justice process.

Federal laws have begun to expand the scope of victims' rights by addressing victim notification, victim impact statements, protection, and restitution throughout the correctional process.

In order to strengthen the NJDOC's role in responding to the needs of victims, the **Office of Victim Services (OVS)** was established through the Division of Programs and Community Services in 2000.

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**CONTACTS:**

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**New Jersey Department of Corrections  
Office of Victim Services**

P.O. Box 863  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625  
(609) 292-4036 x5299 or  
toll free in NJ (800) 996-2029  
fax (609) 984-4635

[www.state.nj.us/corrections](http://www.state.nj.us/corrections)

**New Jersey State Parole Board  
Victim Services**

609-292-4582

**State of New Jersey Victims of  
Crime Compensation Office (VCCO)**

877-658-2221

**New Jersey State Office of  
Victim-Witness Advocacy**

609-896-8855

**Office for Victims of Crime  
Directory of Crime Victim Services**

<http://ovc.ncjrs.org/findvictimservices>

**New Jersey Department of  
Community Affairs**

**Domestic Violence Hotline**

800-572-SAFE (7233)

**Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
(MADD) Hotline**

800-438-MADD (6233)

**New Jersey Coalition against Sexual  
Assault Hotline**

800-601-7200



**NJ DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

**DIVISION OF PROGRAMS &  
COMMUNITY SERVICES**



**OFFICE OF  
VICTIM SERVICES**

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## NEW JERSEY CRIME VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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Crime victims are entitled to the following rights:

- ◆ To be treated with dignity and compassion by the criminal justice system;
- ◆ To be informed of the criminal justice process;
- ◆ To be free from intimidation;
- ◆ To have inconveniences associated with participation in the criminal justice process minimized to the fullest extent possible;
- ◆ To be informed about available remedies, financial assistance and social services;
- ◆ To be compensated for their loss whenever possible;
- ◆ To submit a written statement about the impact of the crime to a representative of the county prosecutor's office which shall be considered prior to the prosecutor's final decision concerning whether formal criminal charges will be filed.
- ◆ To make, prior to sentencing, an in-person statement directly to the sentencing courts concerning the impact of the crime.

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## SPECIFIC SERVICES OFFERED

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- ◆ Assist victims with inquiries related to the offender's custodial status within the New Jersey Department of Corrections.
- ◆ Provide assistance to all affected individuals of crime and act as a referral agent to assist victims in obtaining resources.
- ◆ Collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies in order to increase awareness of victims' issues.
- ◆ Assist victims as it relates to the Department's community release notification process.
- ◆ Provide a Victim-Impact Program entitled "*Focus on the Victim*" (FOV) to offenders assigned to New Jersey's adult state correctional institutions. The FOV Program seeks to raise the offender's understanding and awareness of the long-term impact of his/her actions on victims of crime and society as a whole. Facilitated by trained staff members, the FOV Program outlines the impact of crime on victims, communities, as well as the victim's family members.
- ◆ **Volunteer Guest Speaker Network** – One of the most significant aspects of the Focus on the Victim Program is the volunteer guest speaker network. We continuously recruit both victim and professional guest speakers throughout the community who have been impacted by crime.

For more information concerning our Volunteer Guest Speaker Network, please contact us at (800) 996-2029 or (609) 292-4036 x5299.

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### **How can I locate information regarding an inmate's location, status and sentencing information?**

The NJDOC operates a website that provides information on the offender's status, location, release dates and sentence. To access this website, enter the following address:

*[Www.njdoc.gov](http://www.njdoc.gov)*

### **What is Vine and what will it do for me?**

The VINE (Victim Information Notification Everyday) system provides victim notification 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. More information can be found at [www.victimwitness.nj.gov/vine](http://www.victimwitness.nj.gov/vine)

### **If I am notified by the Prosecutor's office that an inmate is eligible for community release, what can I do?**

Forward your comments in writing regarding the release of an inmate into a community setting to the Office of Victim Services. The Department has established a Victim Notification Classification Committee that meets to address concerns expressed by victims regarding the Potential release of an inmate into the community.

### **What other resources can I be provided with as a victim of a crime?**

OVS staff is available to assist victims in locating appropriate resources and making referrals throughout the community. OVS maintains a directory of victim related