



Ten Core Principles for Ensuring Crime Victims' Rights are Honored and Upheld in Parole/Release Processes

1. Understand the importance of victim autonomy and empowerment as a basis for proactively engaging victims and survivors in parole processes.
2. Review guiding statements – including mission, vision, values and/or guiding principles – to ensure that crime victims' concerns and rights are included and addressed.
3. Develop and adhere to policies that reflect the implementation of victims' core constitutional and statutory rights – including information, notification, reasonable protection, participation, restitution and victim compensation – and the provision of high quality victim/survivor services.
4. Provide information about parole, release, and violation or revocation processes to crime victims, survivors and their families that is easy-to-understand and available in both electronic and paper-based formats, as well as in multiple languages.
5. Promote policies and practices that provide for victim accompaniment to parole proceedings by a victim advocate or other support persons.
6. Ensure that victims receive timely notification about parole/release/violation proceedings and relevant information about their role; and timely notification of decisions in their cases.
7. Provide opportunities for parole board members and the staff of paroling/releasing authorities to receive training about victims' rights and services that are evidence-based and trauma-informed, through a variety of training formats, to include in-person or virtual courses.
8. Develop partnerships with allied justice system and corrections agencies, and community-based victim advocacy organizations that can help identify gaps in victim services and assist in filling them.
9. Promote victim and public awareness of paroling/releasing authorities' commitment to the fair and sensitive treatment of crime victims and survivors.
10. Collaborate with victim assistance organizations within your jurisdiction to promote victim-related commemorative observances, including National Crime Victims' Rights Week and Sexual Assault Awareness Month (both in April), Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October), and National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims (September 25), among other national and local observances (see "Commemorative Calendar" at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2014/pdf/DevelopingYourCampaign.pdf>).