

APAI Crime Victims Committee Survey

Responses = 21

Parole Board of Canada
Connecticut Board of Pardons and Paroles
Alaska Board of Parole
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
South Carolina Probation, Parole and Pardon Services
New Jersey State Parole Board
Mississippi State Parole Board
New Zealand Parole Board
Illinois Prisoner Review Board
Wyoming Board of Parole
Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles
Florida Parole Commission
Michigan Department of Corrections
Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole
New York State Department of Corrections - Board of Parole
State of Alabama Board of Pardons & Paroles
Indeterminate Sentence Review Board
Rhode Island Parole Board
Maryland Parole Commission
Ontario Parole Board
Minnesota Department of Corrections

STAFFING

#1

Does your Paroling/Releasing Authority have staff members that are designated to assist victims and survivors of crime?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	90.5%	19
NO	9.5%	2
<i>answered question</i>		21

Mississippi and Alaska report that they do not have staff designated to assist victims.

#2

If you answered "Yes" to Question #1 do you have a designated Victim Assistance Unit?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	78.9%	15
NO	21.1%	4
<i>answered question</i>		19

#3 If you answered "YES" to question #1, how many staff do you have designated to assist victims and survivors of crime?

- approximately 40
- 3 - 2 are employees of another state agency (CT Office of Victim Services), 1 is a Parole Manager
- We have an Office of Victim Services with advocates
- 5
- two
- I have answered yes, but the staff is employees of the Department of Corrections but report to me. There is 2 staff dedicated to this work as well as a number who have a liaison role with victims in prisons and the Community Probation service.
- 3
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Victims Services division has a staff of 30 full time employees.
- 2 1/2 positions
- 5
- 2 full time and 14 part time
- two
- At present 1.5 FTE
- 2
- six
- Three

VICTIM/SURVIVOR INFORMATION AND REFERRALS

#1

Does your Paroling/Releasing Authority website include information about crime victims' rights and services?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	94.7%	18
NO	5.3%	1
<i>answered question</i>		19

#2 If "yes, to Question #1 above" please provide the URL for this type of information

Parole Board of Canada: <http://pbc-clcc.gc.ca/victims/victims-eng.shtml>

Ohio: <http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/victim.htm>

South Carolina: www.dppps.sc.gov

New Jersey: www.state.nj.us/parole

New Zealand: www.paroleboard.govt.nz

Illinois: www.state.il.us/prb

Wyoming: www.boardofparole.wy.gov

Texas: <http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/victim/victim-home.htm>

Florida: <http://fpc.state.fl.us/victims.htm>

Michigan: <http://www.michigan.gov/corrections/0,1607,7-119-1384---,00.html>

Tennessee: http://www.tn.gov/bopp/bopp_bo_vs.htm

New York: www.parole.state.ny.us/victimimpactunit

Alabama: www.pardons.state.al.us/alabpp

Washington: <http://www.srb.wa.gov/victim/>

Maryland: http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/victimservs/vs_mpc.shtml

Ontario: www.opb.gov.on.ca

#3

Does your Paroling/Releasing Authority have a brochure or fact sheet that provides victims with information about their rights and services available, throughout the parole process?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	89.5%	17
NO	10.5%	2
<i>answered question</i>		19

#4

Does your Paroling/Releasing Authority have a brochure or other information for crime victims and survivors that explains the parole hearing process, what to expect, how to prepare, etc.?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	73.7%	14
NO	26.3%	5
<i>answered question</i>		19

VICTIMS' RIGHTS

#1

Does your Paroling/Releasing Authority notify victims about parole hearings?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	95.0%	19
NO	5.0%	1
<i>answered question</i>		20

Alaska responded "No"

#2

If "yes," to Question 1 above how long in advance of the hearing do you provide notice?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0 - 15 days	5.3%	1
16 - 30 days	26.3%	5
31 - 60 days	47.4%	9
61 - 90 days	5.3%	1
Longer	26.3%	5
<i>answered question</i>		19

#3 If your answer to the question #2 above was "Longer" please describe

- we may issue month of hearing if known, but hearing dates change frequently and more info is provided as we near hearing
- 5-7 months prior to parole consideration
- Letters are sent to victims 4 to 6 months in advance of the parole review in order for them to send correspondence to the file. In addition, those victims who have requested to speak to the Parole board member are sent a letter 2 weeks in advance of the decision.
- approximately 6-8 months
- 120 day prior to an open eligible hearing (violent crimes)

#4

Do you provide victim notification of parole hearings by (check all that apply):		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Personal telephone call.	36.8%	7
Letter	94.7%	18
Email	21.1%	4
Text/SMS	0.0%	0
Automated system	10.5%	2
Other	10.5%	2
<i>answered question</i>		19

#5 If your answer to question # 4 above was "other" please describe:

- Notification by telephone and e-mail are by special request.
- Newspaper

#6

How do you obtain victim contact information?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Department of Corrections	55.0%	11
Prosecutor/district attorney	65.0%	13
Enrollment by victim	85.0%	17
Other	15.0%	3
<i>answered question</i>		20

#7 If your answer to Question #6 above was "Other" please describe

- We search for victims in cases such as murder cases where the next of kin is deceased. We access death certificates, obituaries and news articles.
- Inquiry calls from victims/survivors
- Police reports

#8

Does your agency track statistics related to the number of victim contacts by victim advocates?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	55.0%	11
NO	45.0%	9
<i>answered question</i>		20

#9

What types of victim impact statements (VIS) does your Paroling/Releasing Authority accept?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Oral (in person)	90.0%	18
Written	100.0%	20
Audiotape/DVD	45.0%	9
Videotape/DVD	65.0%	13
Personal visits by parole board members to victims/survivors	5.0%	1
Personal visits by victims/survivors to parole board members	75.0%	15
Teleconference/VIS from remote sites	45.0%	9
Other	5.0%	1

#10 If your answer to Question # 9 above was "other" please describe

- Videoconference

#11

If your Paroling/Releasing Authority allows in person victim impact statements do you reimburse or arrange reimbursement for the travel expense of victims to provide such in person statements?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	26.3%	5
NO	73.7%	14
<i>answered question</i>		19

#12

Do you also track the percentage of victims who exercise their right to provide an impact statement in person and in other forms?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	36.8%	7
NO	63.2%	12
<i>answered question</i>		19

#13

Does your Paroling/Releasing Authority have a formal process by which you evaluate the victim's satisfaction with the victim notification/impact statement process?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	15.8%	3
NO	84.2%	16
<i>answered question</i>		19

Parole Board of Canada, South Carolina and Maryland responded "Yes"

#14

Does your Paroling/Releasing Authority have and accept pre-parole investigative (PPI) reports or Pre-sentence reports (PSI) to inform your decision-making?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	100.0%	20
NO	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		20

#15

If your answer to Question # was "yes," do your PPIs or PSIs contain specific information about the impact of crime on victims?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	80.0%	16
NO	20.0%	4
<i>answered question</i>		20

RESTITUTION AND OTHER FINANCIAL/LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

#1

Does your Paroling/Releasing Authority have the authority to order restitution or other financial/legal obligations (such as child support, housing or rent payments, etc.) as a condition of parole?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	50.0%	10
NO	50.0%	10
<i>answered question</i>		20

#2

If your answer to Question # 1 was "yes," do you have a document that helps victims/survivors document their losses for the purpose of restitution or other financial/legal obligation?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	36.4%	4
NO	63.6%	7
<i>answered question</i>		11

#3

Does your Paroling/Releasing Authority generally get adequate information from court orders to include restitution and other financial/legal obligations as a condition of parole supervision?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	66.7%	12
NO	33.3%	6
<i>answered question</i>		18

PROTECTION/SAFETY

#1

Does your Paroling/Releasing Authority have the authority to include orders of protection (i.e., no contact, stay-away orders, and other protective orders) as a condition of parole?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	89.5%	17
NO	10.5%	2
<i>answered question</i>		19

#2

Does your Paroling/Releasing Authority generally have adequate information from court orders to include victim protection orders as a condition of parole supervision?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	73.7%	14
NO	26.3%	5
<i>answered question</i>		19

VICTIM'S COMPENSATION

#1

In violent crime cases, does your Paroling/Releasing Authority refer victims and survivors to your state's Crime Victim Compensation Program?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
YES	65.0%	13
NO	35.0%	7
<i>answered question</i>		20

BEST PRACTICES

#1 If your agency has implemented a promising practice or program of victim services in parole/release that you would be willing to share with other paroling authorities please explain:

New Jersey:

At the time of sentencing, victims are provided a registration form by the Victim Services Unit of the County Prosecutor's office. The victim completes the form and sends it to the State Parole Board (SPB). The SPB acknowledges receipt of the registration and informs the victim they will be contacted 5-7 months prior to the offenders parole consideration. When the offender is eligible for parole consideration, the victim is notified by letter and asked to notify the SPB of their preferred method for providing input. The victim can submit their input in writing, by video recording, to a Hearing Officer or Board Member by phone or in person. After a parole decision is made the victim is notified of the decision by phone and in writing. The SPB also meets quarterly with the County Prosecutor Victim Witness Coordinators to address and issues. (New Jersey)

Florida:

We are constantly trying to locate victims on old cases in which complete information was not captured originally. We also have quite a few murder cases where the next of kin are now deceased. Our agency has implemented a promising practice by using resources such as obtaining death certificates, obituaries, and news articles to identify survivors and search for them using Florida driver's license information, court records, the internet, accurint and DFACTS search engines. This practice has been very successful in locating victims who were unaware of the offenders' status, but very interested in being informed and having input (Florida)