

Virginia Department of Corrections



Victim Services Unit

Virginia DOC Victim Services Unit



Virginia Code Section: §19.2-11.01

- ▶ *victim" means a person who has suffered physical, psychological or economic harm as a direct result of the commission of a felony or certain misdemeanors; including family members and legal guardians*

Virginia DOC Victim Services Unit



Virginia Code Section: §53.1-133.02

- ▶ *Notice to be given upon prisoner release, escape, etc.*

Virginia Code Section: §53.1-160

- ▶ *Notice to be given upon prisoner release, escape, etc.*

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Notification

- ▶ *Transfer*
- ▶ *Name Change*
- ▶ *Work Release*
- ▶ *Advance Release/Release*
- ▶ *Death*
- ▶ *Parole Interview*
- ▶ *Parole Decision*
- ▶ *Escape*
- ▶ *Return to Custody*

Total Victim Registrations=~11,000

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Victim Services (Oct. 2014–Sept. 2015)

- ▶ 1,395 New Victims Registered
- ▶ 2,428 Release Notifications
- ▶ 131 Death Notifications
- ▶ 4,804 Parole Interview Notifications
- ▶ 7,712 Transfer Notifications
- ▶ 2,509 Advance Release Notifications
- ▶ 4,637 Parole Decision Notifications
- ▶ 111 Name Change Notifications
- ▶ 66 Work Release Notifications

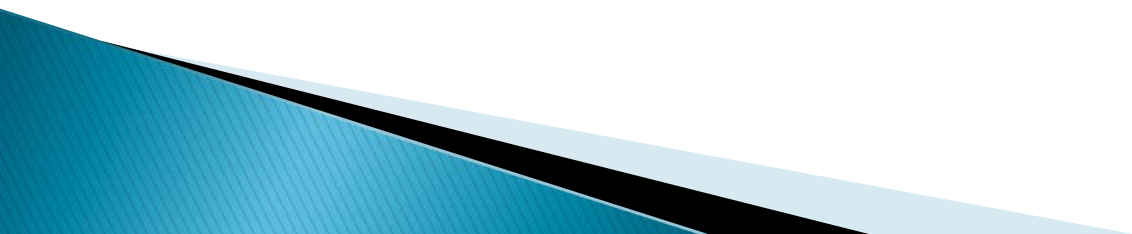
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Concerns Expressed by Victims

- ▶ Geriatric Parole–New Law Offenders
- ▶ Plea Agreements
- ▶ Nolle Prosequi
- ▶ Parole Eligibility–New Law Offenders

Wendy Lohr Hopp
Victim Services Director
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Virginia Parole Board

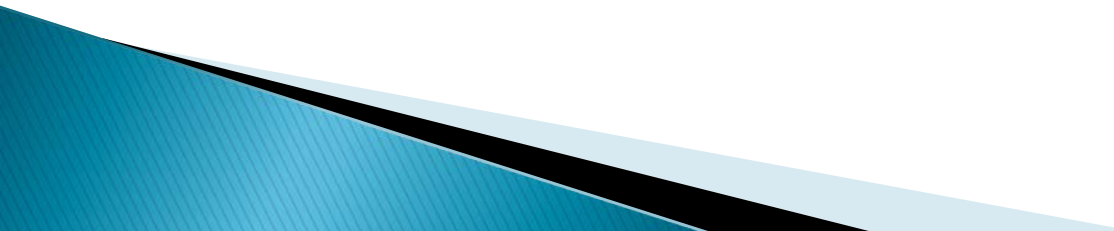


Victim Services

Virginia Parole Board Victim Input Program

Virginia Code Section: 53.1-155

The Board shall endeavor diligently to contact the victim prior to making any decision to release any inmate on discretionary parole



Virginia Parole Board Victim Input Program

"I have often thought it may have been better to have died during this attack... The offender will never suffer the anguish, fear and terror I have faced during and since his violent attack." -Rape

"Though it was in 1987, I can no longer sleep in that house...I will never feel safe in that house again." -Burglary and breaking and entering

"I was very fearful for a long time, unable to return to the house I had lived in for more than 50 years for quite a while after the crime."

-Breaking and entering

Virginia Parole Board Victim Input Program

- ▶ Input by appointment, written statement, or verbal statement
- ▶ More than **700** victims have provided input in the last year

"I hope you never know the hurt and pain that comes with having to relive that horrible night every time this parole time comes up."

-Homicide

"This is an impossible letter to write, as it seems so unjustly unfair to endure the hardship this process causes each time it comes around."

-Child sexual assault

Virginia Parole Board Victim Input Program

“Although he is in prison for what he did, I have also been punished, as he has successfully imprisoned me in a psychological prison from which I will never be paroled, will never escape, and will never find release so long as I am still alive.” -Rape

“How I wish my case was under Truth in Sentencing guidelines, which would relieve me of my duty to attend to parole matters...As a victim of a violent sexual assault, I’m forced to relive the assault at parole time, and brood over the possibility of his release from prison until I get a call with the Board’s decision.”

“My mother never got over the fear he created. It wrecked her life from 1995 until her death in 2014.”

-Breaking and entering

"The sentencing must be carried out or all the court rituals, lawyers, time, and meetings have been a waste of time."

"The offender made the conscious decision that my loved ones didn't deserve to see age 60-65. Has the passing of time diminished the seriousness of his crime? Are my son's and nephew's any lives less significant now than when the offender was sentenced to serve 2 life terms?"

"Please don't do this to us. We have hurt enough."

"How dare you! This is an insult to the victim's family."

Virginia Parole Board
Victim Input Program

While we cannot take back what has happened, we CAN:

- Ensure we do not further victimize or re-traumatize those who are already suffering
- Deeply and carefully consider the impact any new laws and policies will have on victims of crime
- Not disregard the lifelong suffering that these crimes have caused, and the continual involvement of the criminal justice system in the lives of those trying to heal and move forward

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