

# Victims' Voice NEWSLETTER



Volume #1 | Issue #1 | Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services

## *Announcement*

Because we believe that victims and their families should be supported once a court process is over, the Montana Department of Corrections has a Victim Services program to provide information to victims about the conditions of an offender's sentence, confinement, supervision and any additional community resources that may be helpful.

In this first issue we'd like to provide you with an overview of the programs offered in the Victim Services program. We hope you'll enjoy reading and learning about some of the great things DOC is doing. The primary mission of the DOC is to enhance public safety and our Victim Services program is at the core of that mission. Feel free to contact us at (406) 444-0447 or [CORVictimLiaison@mt.gov](mailto:CORVictimLiaison@mt.gov)

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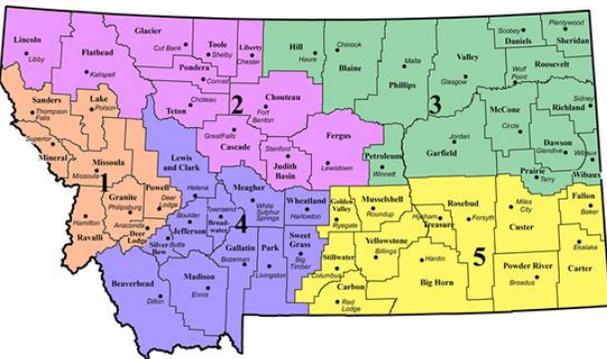
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# Victim Services Program

The goal of the DOC's Victim Services program is to help survivors and their families understand the processes that occur in corrections to help reduce revictimization during this portion of the criminal justice system. We are here to provide you with information regarding healing opportunities, notification options, and for input throughout the time frame your offender is under DOC supervision.

## Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services Regions



*“To inform, involve, and educate crime victims while enhancing community safety through positive collaboration.”*

# How to Contact Us

- Email: [CORVictimLiaison@mt.gov](mailto:CORVictimLiaison@mt.gov)
- Mail: P.O. Box 201301, Helena, MT 59620-1320
- Fax: (406) 444-4920
- Website: [www.cor.mt.gov/victims](http://www.cor.mt.gov/victims)

Our victim program office hours are 8 a.m. to 5p.m (MT) Monday through Friday except state and federal holidays.

It is our practice to return calls within 48 business hours. Please leave a voicemail to include your name, number, and any pertinent information you can provide.

- »» COVID-19 Update: During these uncertain times, DOC Victim Services is still operating our regular hours remotely and we are available to assist you in any capacity. Please reach out to
- »» [CorVictimLiaison@mt.gov](mailto:CorVictimLiaison@mt.gov) for assistance. Stay healthy and safe!

## Restorative Justice Opportunities

### **Victim-Offender Dialogue**

Provided to victims and survivors that gives them the opportunity to have a structured, facilitated meeting with the offender of their crime. Some victims want to meet with their offenders face-to-face to discuss how the crime has affected them and their loved ones, and to ask questions only the offender can answer.

### **Victim Impact Panels (VIP)**

Allows crime victims a healing opportunity by talking about the crime's impact upon themselves, their families, friends, and the community as a whole. VIPs give victims an opportunity to tell their experiences, meet other victims who might have similar experiences, and hold offenders accountable for their crimes.

### **Offender Accountability Letter Bank**

Provides offenders an opportunity to communicate to the victims of their criminal behavior their understanding of the harm caused by their actions and acknowledge responsibility for the consequence of their behavior.





## Crime Victim Rights

The Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services program is dedicated to ensuring that victims' rights are enforced, and victims and survivors have a meaningful voice within the state correctional system.

To learn more, statutes pertaining to victims are included in Title 46, Chapter 24 of the Montana Code Annotated (MCA).

## Montana Crime Victim Rights

- The right to information about all events to the case
- The right to have a prosecutor and/or victim advocate present when a victim is interviewed
- The right to know the offender's location at all times from arrest until his or her release from supervision
- The right to protection from intimidation, harassment, discrimination, and abuse throughout the criminal justice system
- The right to attend court proceedings unless the court determines that the victim's absence is necessary to a fair trial
- The right to one free copy of public documents in their case. Court documents are available from the clerk of court in the county in which the case was prosecuted
- Victims and immediate family members of sex crimes have the right to request that the sentencing judge, parole board or probation officer order the offender to have no contact with them.

## National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Seek Justice | Ensure Victim's Rights | Inspire Hope

APRIL 19-25, 2020



NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK



### Notification Services



Correctional Offender Network (CONWeb)  
<https://app.mt.gov/conweb>



VINE (Victim Information & Notification Every Day)  
[www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)

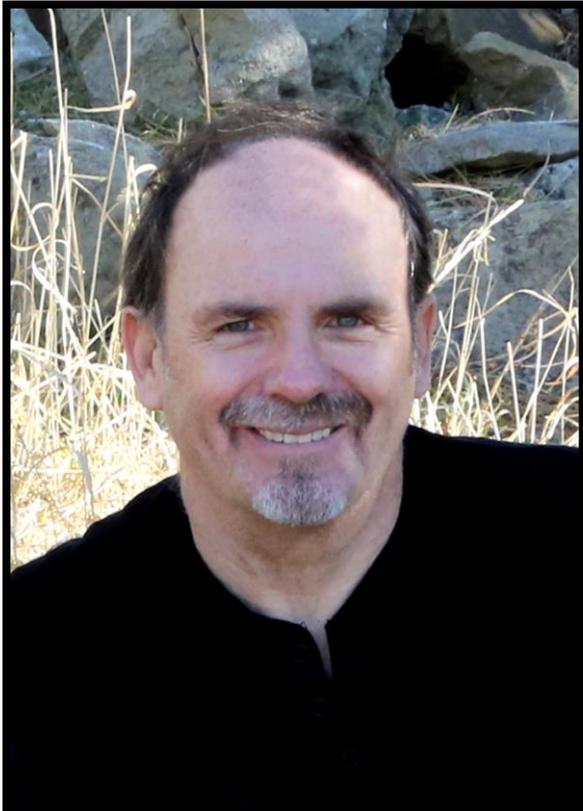


Montana Sexual or Violent Offender Registry (SVOR)  
[www.app.doj.mt.gov/apps/svor/default.aspx](http://www.app.doj.mt.gov/apps/svor/default.aspx)



## Victim Impact Panel: Speaker of the Quarter

### SCOTT DUPUIS



The Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services team wants to recognize Scott Dupuis as our first Victim Impact Panel (VIP) Speaker of the Quarter for all of his hard work and selfless dedication to restorative justice.

Thank you Scott Dupuis!

*“The VIP program helped me heal by honoring my brother’s memory and inspiring offenders to make positive changes.”*

Home Base: Billings, MT

Years Speaking: 9+

Crime Victimization: Negligent Vehicular Homicide

**What do you want other victims of crime and victim service provides to know about VIP?**

“The VIP program doesn’t just give closure to a victim; it gives them a different perspective of the situation. I encourage other victims to consider participating to assist with their own healing, and to inspire offenders to make positive changes in their lives.”

**What is a favorite memory of VIP thus far?**

“An offender from Passages sought me out later and was proud to tell me of her success, attributing it to my VIP presentation. It was such a touching moment and helped me realize that by speaking I am keeping my brother alive and honoring his memory in a profound way.”

**What encourages you to keep speaking?**

“I have found healing by presenting at every VIP. Telling my brother’s story is therapeutic and I know I am helping offenders make changes in their lives by doing so.”

## April Upcoming Events...

**National Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAPM)**, a time to recognize that we each play a part in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in our communities.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/>

**National Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)** a time to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities on how to prevent it.

<https://www.nsvrc.org/saam>

