

## **Section 4 Handout – Information for Victims of Crime From the West Virginia Division of Corrections/Parole Supervision**

While there is some information about convicted offenders that is **not** accessible under law to victims of crime in West Virginia, there is much information that **can** be shared with them. This document highlights what information can be shared with victims, and what information is confidential by law.

### **What Information *Can* Be Shared With Victims of Offenders Who Are Under Our Supervision**

#### *General Information*

- Anything that is considered “public record” relevant to criminal justice or parole.
- The offense of conviction.
- Information about and referrals to the WV DOC Victim Assistance Program.
- Information about and referrals to the WV Parole Board.
- Information about and referrals to the WV Child Support Division.
- Court-ordered conditions of the sentence, and how to access this information from the court of commitment or magistrate.
- Standard basic rules and regulations of parole supervision, *without* the offender’s name and/or contact information.
- The types of offender programming, including treatment, which are available to offenders under our supervision (without disclosing *actual participation* of a specific offender).
- Efforts by the WV DOC to hold offenders accountable for their crimes.
- Contact information for the supervising parole officer and office.
- Information about and referrals to system- and community-based victim assistance programs (including crime victim compensation).

### *Victims' Rights Information*

- Whether the offender is incarcerated, or is under parole supervision.
- If the offender is incarcerated:
  - The location and contact information of the prison.
  - For commitments to jail, provision of the regional jail web site (that includes status information and a current photograph).
- For cases involving custody in the DOC, information about how to register with the VINE program for victim notification and information.
- Length of the sentence and information related to parole eligibility.
- Whether a protection order, or “no contact” order, has been issued.
- Information related to parole violations, or if the offender has absconded.
- Victim restitution:
  - The amount that was ordered (if a specific amount was included, or information about restitution orders that are “to be determined” by the court).
  - The role of Court Clerks in collecting and distributing restitution, and contact information for Court Clerks.
  - Information about what victims can/should do if they have *not* received court-ordered restitution, or if a restitution payment is late.
- In cases where the offender wants to move to another state, compliance with the provisions of the Interstate Compact that notify the victim that the offender is seeking to move, and notification that s/he has *actually moved* to another state.

### **What Information *Cannot* Be Shared With Victims of Offenders Who Are Under Our Supervision**

- Whether or not offender is participating in Batterer Intervention and Prevention programming (BIPPS). This information *can* be provided by BIPPS to a community-based victim assistance program and, then, to the victim.
- Whether or not the offender is complying fully with the conditions of parole supervision.
- Parole agreement (except information specifically about a “no contact” order).

- Alcohol or other drug use by the offender.
- Progress in any treatment programs (although you can provide information in general about the *availability* of treatment programs).