

OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES
Focusing on a brighter future

Connecticut Criminal Justice Cross-Training Conference

**Collaborative Partners Assisting Crime Victims
During the Offender Re-entry Process
August 20, 2010**

Today's Objectives

- ✓ Being responsive to victims' needs
- ✓ Community safety
- ✓ Successful community engagement by the returning offender

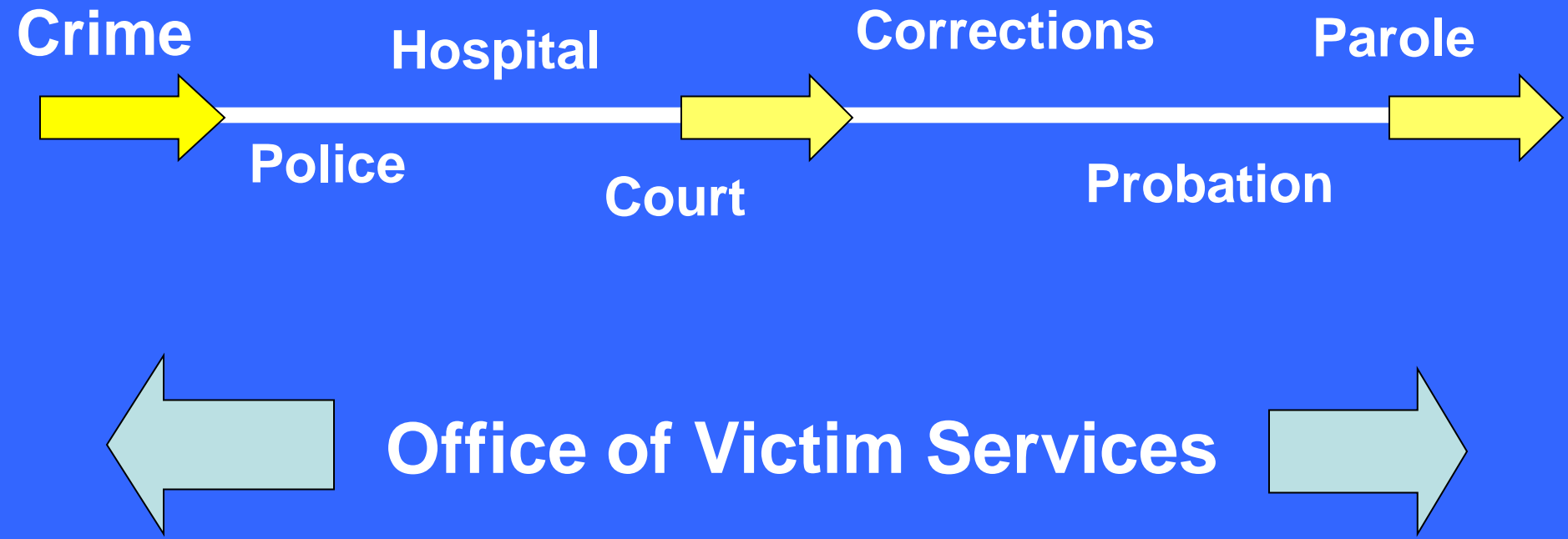
Office of Victim Services

OVS Vision Statement

Connecticut will be a state where all victims of crime are treated with respect and fairness and will receive comprehensive, coordinated, and victim-centered services.

(OVS Strategic Plan)

Crime Victim's Journey



Victims' Rights

To be treated with fairness and respect throughout the criminal justice process

Victims' Rights

To be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice process

Victims' Rights

To information about the arrest,
conviction, sentence, imprisonment,
and release of the accused

OVS Units

- Compensation Unit
- Grants and Contracts Unit
- Education and Planning Unit
- Victim Services Unit

Victim Services Unit

Helpline

- Toll-free Helpline 1-800-822-8428
8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
- OVS@jud.ct.gov
- 2,400 calls annually

Protection Order Registry Notification

- Restraining Order
- Protective Order
- Standing Criminal Restraining Order
(SCPO – October 1, 2010)

Post Conviction Notification

- Who can register
- How do I register (JD-VS-5)
- Types of notifications
- DOC Victim Services Unit

Orders of No Contact

- DOC release
- Parole release
- Office of Adult Probation supervision

Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services

What is CONNSACS?

- Statewide coalition against sexual assault
- Pass through funder for 9 community-based rape crisis centers
- Leading voice against sexual assault in CT

Sex Offender Supervision Unit Collaboration

- Court Support Services Division
- Center for the Treatment of Problem Sexual Behavior
- CT Sexual Assault Crisis Services

Why are Victim Advocates interested in being a part of this type of collaboration?

Why Do Victims Care?

- Majority of victims know the offender
- Safety concerns
- Concerns about impact on themselves and family
- Have an investment in a successful treatment outcome for the offender

Why the Need for Another Kind of VA?

- No specialized post-conviction services for sexual assault victims
- Gave victims a voice where they didn't have one

Initiate and Maintain Contact with Primary and Secondary Victims

- Definition of primary and secondary victims
- Provide info to victim and victim's family
 - Initial contact
 - VOP notification
 - Victim Impact Statement
- Help to set up restitution if ordered
- Assist in taking statements regarding violation behavior
- Provide info regarding victim compensation and civil matters

Provide Support to Victims and their Families

- Help to process information regarding the sexual assault
- Help to process information regarding probation and treatment
- Provide outside referrals when appropriate

Act as a Liaison between Victim and the Unit

- Establish a communication link whenever possible
- Give victims a voice and bring their needs and concerns to the unit
- Provide info to the victim that the unit needs them to know
- Provide information regarding the offender to the unit to help with treatment and supervision whenever possible

Form Relationships with Tertiary Victims

- Provide information, education, support, and referrals
- Act as a liaison between tertiary victims and unit
- Participate in family meetings
- Participate in the reunification process

Other VA Responsibilities

Sex offender treatment groups

- Limitations of role
- Provide feedback on victim issues

Unit meetings

- Give input in the decision making process
- Provide victim input when possible
- Provide victim perspective

Field work

- Limitations of role
- Meet offender family members

Community education

- Participate in notification process when appropriate
- Presentations to community groups
- Professional education

Why are Victim Advocates Important?

- The offender is the client of probation and treatment
- Probation officers are busy and victims' needs are often time-consuming
- Probation officers are not trained to handle victims of sexual assault
- Victims may have had interactions with the criminal justice system and can be wary of probation
- Inadequate response to victims can cause further trauma

Key Factor in Success

All who are part of the collaborative response must be committed to the success of the client (sex offender).

Victim Benefits

- Fewer long-term problems for the victim
- Victims feel as though they have a voice in the process
- Victims have a dedicated person to keep them informed and address their issues.

Team Benefits

- Better information for supervision and treatment
- Increased victim cooperation
- Increased successful sexual offender treatment outcomes

Contact Information

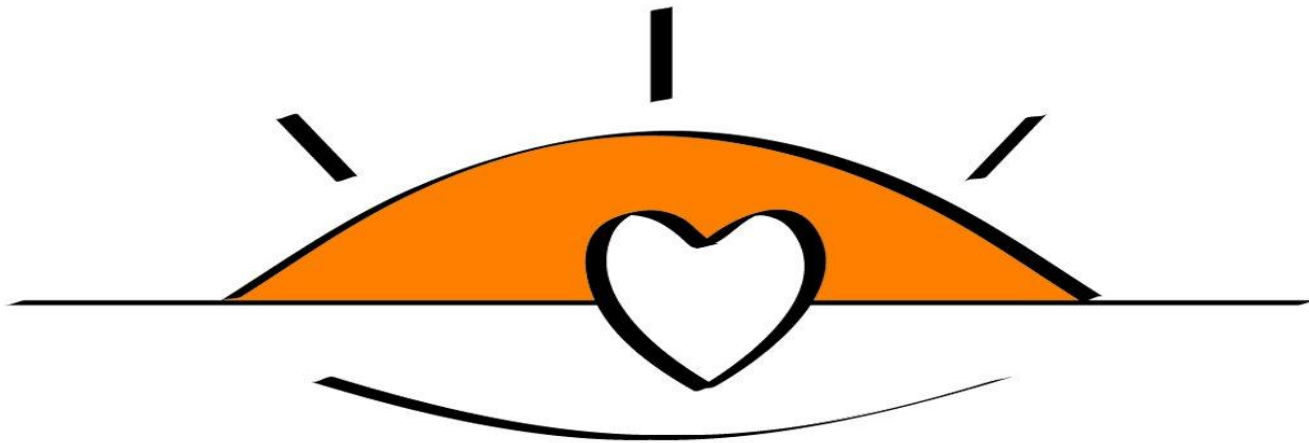
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Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

- Office of Victim Services
1-800-822-8428 or 860-263-2760
- CT Sexual Assault Crisis Services
1-888-999-5545 – English (24 hr.)
1-888-568-8332 – Spanish (24 hr.)
- CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence
1-888-774-2900 (24 hr.)

SUMMARY

- ✓ Response to victims' needs
- ✓ Community safety
- ✓ Successful community engagement



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Thank You