

## **What rights do victims have?**

To be notified of the status of the investigation, defendants' arraignment and release.

To be protected from harm and provided, where feasible, a secure waiting area during court proceedings.

To be notified of all court proceedings and cancellations where the victim's presence is required.

To be informed of witness fees and restitution to which the victim is entitled.

To be provided with employer intercession services.

To have personal property returned when no longer needed as evidence.

To be informed of financial assistance and other social services.

To be allowed to address the court prior to sentencing as well as consulted for the pre-sentence report and impact statement.

To be informed of the case disposition.

To be notified in felony cases whenever the defendant is released from custody at the Department of Corrections.

If you were the victim of a felony crime in Rhode Island and would like to know when the inmate is released from the Department of Corrections, please call the office of Victims Services at **(401) 462-5203**.

## **Resources**

**Victims of Crime Helpline**  
(24-hours a day) (800) 494-8100

**VINE – Victim Information and Notification Everyday**  
(24 hours a day) 1-877-744-8463

**RI Department of Attorney General  
Victim Witness Assistance Unit**  
(401) 274-4400

**RI Parole Board –** (401) 462-0900

**RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence**  
(401)467-9940

**RI Domestic Restraining Orders**  
(401)458-3372

**Day One, the Sexual Assault & Trauma  
Resource Center**  
(401) 421-4100

**RI Treasury Dept – Crime Victim  
Compensation Fund**  
(401) 222-8590

**RI Dept of Children – Youth & Families**  
(DCYF) (401) 528-3548  
Hotline 1-800-742-4453

**RI Dept of Elderly Affairs**  
(401) 462-3000

**Justice Assistance –** (401) 781-7000

**MADD –** (401) 421-0800  
Hotline – 1-800-242-MADD

**Center for the Study and Practice of Non  
Violence –** 401-785-2320, 401-943-9266



## **OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES**

A Program of the  
RI Department  
of Corrections

As a  
Victim of Crime-  
You have  
**RIGHTS!**

18 Wilma Schesler lane  
Cranston, RI 02920  
Tel (401) 462-5203  
(Monday – Friday)

## ***What is the Office of Victim Services?***

The office of Victim Services is a community-based program designed to serve crime victims and their family members and act as a liaison with the victim service agencies throughout Rhode Island. The program is a collaboration between the RI Department of Corrections & Day One.

### ***What can the Office of Victim Services offer you?***

- ➔ Victim assistance with questions relating to incarcerated and community-based offenders.
- ➔ Connections with community victim support agencies to identify areas of need and develop additional programs.
- ➔ Information about felony offender releases.
- ➔ Advocacy for legislation to improve victim rights.
- ➔ Crisis intervention and support to victims.
- ➔ Links to judicial and community service resources.
- ➔ Encouragement with victim empowerment and contributions to restorative justice.

## **Important Terms You Should Know....**

Felony – A crime for which a person may be sentenced to one year or more in prison and/or fined more than US \$1000.

Restorative Justice – An approach that incorporates crime prevention, violence reduction, offender accountability, victim assistance, and public safety.

Bail – A way to assure the defendant will voluntarily return to court when required.

Pre-Conviction – The period prior to conviction when there is no final decision whether an offender is guilty or innocent. However, there is enough evidence to arrest the offender. The offender may be permitted bail during this time and released from the Department of Corrections.

Post-Conviction – The period following the final conviction (guilty verdict) when the offender is confined to the Department of Corrections.

Probation – An offender is sentenced to community supervision by a probation agency often as a result of suspending a sentence of confinement.

Parole – When at least one-third of the sentence has been served, the offender is eligible to appear before a parole board which may grant release from prison. The offender has to abide by terms and conditions set by the Parole Board for the remainder of the term of sentence.

RI VINE – (RI Victim Information & Notification Everyday) – A free, anonymous, computer assisted service that provides victims of crime with offender custody information and notification of changes in custody status.

Custody Status – Events that may occur during an offender's incarceration. Examples of events include completion of sentence, parole, or home confinement placement, parole hearings, court releases, escape, death, transfer, or qualification for work release.