



## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE/VICTIM PROGRAMS

**Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services (MDOC VS)** staff serve some of the most traumatized victims throughout the State of Montana and victims who reside out of the state and country, for the longest periods of time in the criminal justice system. MDOC initiated programs for victims and established policy in 1998.

### Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services 2021:

- **DOC Victim Services served a total of 5,567 victims in 2021 for an average of about 1,400 victims per quarter.**
- **During 2021 DOC Victim services provided 83,536 services for of an average of about 20,880 services per quarter.**
- Most victims are survivors of domestic violence/stalking/harassment, assault, sexual assault/abuse, burglary/robbery/property crime and homicide co-survivors.
- Many victims are not involved in the criminal justice system but come forward after the offender is convicted. They are not the victim of record and many have never reported the crime committed against them.
- There are victims who have been working with MDOC VS for 20+ years as their offenders have

**Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services implements person-centered, trauma-informed strategies to assist victims of crime who have experienced traumatic events. MDOC recognizes ongoing interaction with the criminal justice system, including events while the offender is under the supervision of MDOC, can retrigger trauma. Some services provided are:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trauma informed victim support/counseling</li> <li>• Information about criminal justice processes</li> <li>• Victim Notifications</li> <li>• Information and referral to local services</li> <li>• Assistance with Victim Impact Statements</li> <li>• Assistance with Pecuniary Loss Affidavit Form</li> <li>• Provide Victim &amp; Witness Advocacy and support</li> <li>• Court Attendance</li> <li>• Sentence Review support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training, education and public awareness</li> <li>• Assistance with Orders of Protection, Parenting Plans and other civil legal paperwork</li> <li>• Develop collaborative partnerships with victims, victim advocates, criminal justice agencies, community-based organizations and other community members</li> <li>• Address unwanted contact from offender</li> <li>• Crisis Intervention</li> <li>• Information regarding the offender's parole release and supervision</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supreme Court Hearing Support</li> <li>• BOPP Hearing support</li> <li>• Crime Victim Compensation assistance</li> <li>• Safety Planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referrals to resources for specialized services</li> <li>• Individual Advocacy</li> <li>• Risk Assessments</li> <li>• CDFS/EDFS Victim Impact Statement Assistance</li> </ul>
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## VICTIM RESTORATIVE JUSTICE/HEALING OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED

**NOTIFICATION** via Victim Liaisons and VINE that offers security and safety by ensuring victims are aware of the status and location of the offender for which they are registered.

**Victim Offender Dialogue:** Victim driven. Both the victim and offender must be willing participants. Information is not provided to the Parole Board, so it has no impact on parole. Healing opportunity that takes 6 months to two years of preparation.

**Victim Impact: Listen & Learn-Panelists:** Victim volunteers travel to tell their stories about the ripple effect on the crime in their lives to 13 different locations. For many victims, the ability to tell their stories is empowering and a healing activity. The BOPP Board asks offenders during parole hearings to identify the most impactful programming they have attended. Victim Impact is #1 response.

**Accountability Letter Program:** Not the same as an apology letter required by the Court. Very stringent guidelines. If Victim Services has the victim's address, we notify the victim a letter is available to them. The victim chooses if they receive the letter, or not.

**Family Group Team Meeting (FGTM):** Used seldom. Used when there is no condition in the Judgment limiting or forbidding contact in cases that are high risk and it is necessary to mitigate the risk when there are no barriers to contact or the victim and offender residing together. Evidence based. Practiced in 22 countries throughout the world. Practiced in every state of the US in one venue or another and in Canada.

**Victim Wrap Around Meeting:** Includes victim's support network, P&P Officer, local advocacy agency if requested by the victim, local County Attorney's Office (if victim requests), local law enforcement with victim approval, Child and Family Services with victim approval, Victim Liaison and other community stakeholders as requested by victim. The meeting is confidential, and the offender is never notified or told of the meeting.

**Empty Place at the Table:** An exhibit presented in honor of crime victim/survivors represented through place settings as a reminder of the empty places at the table due to crime. The Victim Services Program would like to thank all the victim/survivors who have shared their stories, their place settings, and their trust in us to make this exhibit a reality. It is through their courage that we find inspiration for our work and we thank them for the gifts that they share with us every day.