

## Inmate Apology Bank (IAB) Program

- ◆ Inmates are given the opportunity to submit an apology letter to victim(s) by mailing the letter to OVA. This is a completely voluntary process and will not affect the inmate's release date, parole consideration, or any other aspects of incarceration.
- ◆ The apology letters are stored with OVA. If a victim contacts OVA and expresses an interest in receiving an apology letter, OVA may then forward the apology letter to the victim upon their request.
- ◆ This is a completely voluntary process and will not affect the inmate's release date, parole consideration, or any other aspects of incarceration.
- ◆ If you are interested in finding out if there is currently an apology letter for you on file, or if you would like us to contact you in the future if an apology letter is received, please contact OVA at 1.800.322.4472.

### Office of the Victim Advocate

1101 South Front Street  
Suite 5200  
Harrisburg, PA 17104  
1.800.563.6399 Nationwide  
1.877.349.1064 TTY (toll free)  
FAX: 717.787.0867

1920 Technology Parkway  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
1.800.322.4472 Nationwide  
1.877.349.1064 TTY (toll free)  
FAX: 717.728.0332

[www.ova.state.pa.us](http://www.ova.state.pa.us)

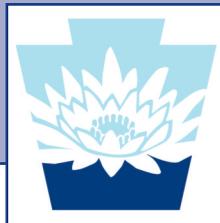
Email: [ra-ovainfo@pa.gov](mailto:ra-ovainfo@pa.gov)

### Our legislative mandate is...

"To represent the rights and interests of crime victims before the Board of Probation and Parole and the Department of Corrections."

### Our mission is...

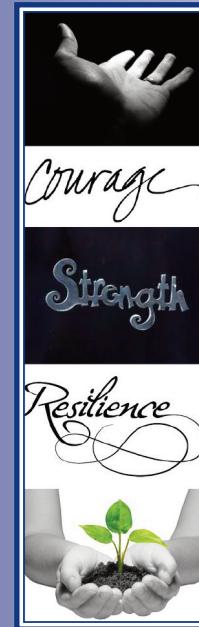
"The Pennsylvania Office of the Victim Advocate is dedicated to representing, protecting and advancing the individual and collective rights and interests of crime victims."



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PENNSYLVANIA  
Office of the Victim Advocate

# Programs and Services



*Jennifer R. Storm, Victim Advocate  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*



**pennsylvania**  
OFFICE OF THE VICTIM ADVOCATE

# OVA Program and Services

## Rights for Crime Victims After Sentencing

Pennsylvania law provides rights for victims of crime regarding the release decision of offenders who have been sentenced to a maximum sentence of two or more years. In these cases, victims have the right to provide comment or testimony to be considered in the release decision made by the PA Department of Corrections (DOC) and the PA Board of Probation and Parole (Board). This opportunity to provide comment and receive notification is facilitated through the Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA).

## Notification Services and Victim Testimony

Victims registered with the OVA will receive a variety of notifications regarding the status of the inmate, including but not limited to: State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) and Boot Camp consideration/transfer (if applicable), parole consideration, inmate death, inmate escape and recapture. Staff from OVA will assist victims in preparing their testimony, either oral or written, and identify issues of concern for the inmate's eventual release into the community.

## General Services

- ◆ Petition the Board to deny parole or set conditions of parole which address the concerns of victims.
- ◆ Advocate within the DOC and the Board on specific issues identified by victims.
- ◆ Referidos en la comunidad.
- ◆ Community referrals.
- ◆ Information and assistance in understanding victim rights and services in the probation, parole and correctional process.
- ◆ Information and assistance on restitution collection.
- ◆ Other services upon request.

## Victim Offender Dialogue Program

- ◆ Direct and indirect dialogue options.
- ◆ Victim initiated process that is voluntary for both victim and offender but must be initiated by the victim. This will not affect the inmate's release date, parole consideration, or any other aspects of incarceration.
- ◆ Trained volunteers are utilized to facilitate the dialogue after extensive preparation of both parties.

## Address Confidentiality Program

- ◆ Available to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking and their household members.
- ◆ Provides a substitute address that may be used for receipt of all first class, registered and certified mail.
- ◆ Eligible participants can use the alternative mailing address to fulfill address requirements of local, county and state government records.

## Impact of Crime Classes for Inmates

- ◆ An educational program available in each of the state prisons which educates inmates in the emotional, physical and financial impact of crime on victims and the community.
- ◆ Affords crime victims and other guest speakers an opportunity to talk to inmates about their experience.

## Capital Case Assistance

- ◆ Pennsylvania law permits up to four victims to witness an execution.
- ◆ Confidentiality of participation is protected by law.
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- ◆ Support and information services are available during this process.