

"I think that we get just as much from presentations as the inmates do. We've walked away from each presentation rewarded-with the hope that maybe one of the inmates present will take a little of our kids with them and always remember that crime involves so much more than the offender and the victim – the rippling effect just keeps rolling."

Warren and Pat Lupson | Surviving Victims of Homicide

Inmates who have participated in the Impact of Crime Class have:

- ◆ Donated money to MADD to help a victim pay for an autopsy report for her son who was killed by a drunk driver.
- ◆ Have paid mileage reimbursement for victim speakers and for lodging in those instances where the victim had a far commute.
- ◆ Have donated money to local victim service agencies including domestic violence and sexual assault centers.

"Having victims come into class and reveal their personal stories, served to give us inmates a behind the scenes look at the destructive nature our criminal conduct inflicts upon the innocent victims and the aftermath harms crimes cause."

DOC Inmate

"I have been enrolled in various treatment programs for offenders but no other program had had such a profound effect on me."

DOC Inmate

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PENNSYLVANIA
Office of the Victim Advocate

Impact of Crime Class



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pennsylvania

OFFICE OF THE VICTIM ADVOCATE

Impact of Crime Class

What is ICC?

The Impact of Crime Class started in 1996. The Office of the Victim Advocate and the Department of Corrections developed a curriculum which reflects what victims and victim advocates throughout Pennsylvania want inmates to know about the effects crime has on victims. The curriculum used in Pennsylvania focuses on the following offenses:

- ◆ Property Crimes
- ◆ Aggravated Assault & Robbery
- ◆ Sexual Violence
- ◆ Hate and Bias Crime
- ◆ DUI
- ◆ Homicide
- ◆ Domestic Violence and Stalking

This comprehensive curriculum relies on group activities, videos, lectures and speaker presentations. The speakers are victims and survivors of crime who enhance the program through sharing their experience of crime and their journey of recovery.

The Impact of Crime Class is offered throughout the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. This is a voluntary, interactive and educational program designed to raise inmate's awareness about the impact of crime on victims. The goal of the class is to increase the inmate's level of accountability and empathy for those they have harmed, while providing a healing platform for victim of crime to tell their stories.

What is ICC?

Instructors for the Impact of Crime Class are Department of Corrections' staff: counselors, unit managers, chaplains, drug and alcohol specialists, etc.

All instructors must complete a week long training organized by the Office of the Victim Advocate.

"ICC is the most amazing, heart-wrenching, motivating, and deeply moving group I have ever been involved with. Helping to build the vessel that allows survivors to share their experience, strength, and hope is an opportunity that I am forever grateful to be part of. Watching the inmate's faces when they finally begin to come to terms with the harm they have done to others is a deeply moving experience."

Bill Woods | ICC Instructor

"Impact of Crime Class reminds me of why I do the job that I do."

Karla Webb | ICC Instructor

Department of Corrections (DOC) and Victim Service Agencies Working Together

Instructors work with local victim service agencies to identify victims interested in speaking and can accompany the victim/survivor to the prison. Victim service agencies and DOC staff work together to educate inmates on the emotional, financial and physical impacts of crime.

Victim service providers can also be utilized as speakers to talk about the impact crime has had on victims.

"There is something special about bringing in survivors that brought to life the importance of what we do. There was something special about looking in the eyes of the survivor, hearing the story of the survivor, and reliving the actual impact of each person's crime. The ICC Instructor experience instilled in me an obligation to do all that I can for "one less victim in the world!"

John Thomas | Former ICC Instructor and Current Superintendent of SCI Chester

"Participating in the ICC Classes has been extremely rewarding on many levels. Survivors, inmates, trainers—everyone learns and walks away with a nugget of hope because we are doing something positive."

Rebecca Shaver | Former Executive Director, PA MADD

How can the Impact of Crime Class help Victims?

- ◆ Empowers victims to share their story in the hopes that it will have a positive effect and prevent crime in the future.
- ◆ Enables victims/survivors to honor their loved ones who have been victimized by crime.

"This has been my best day since Mason was killed."

A victim/survivor at an ICC Class whose 9 year old son was killed by a drunk driver