



pennsylvania

OFFICE OF VICTIM ADVOCATE

Giving Crime Victims a Voice

Courage • Strength • Resilience

Your comment is important to the PA Parole Board during the decision-making process.

This is your opportunity to inform the PA Parole Board (PPB) of your position regarding parole. The Office of Victim Advocate (OVA) is available to assist and support you during the input process. You have options on how to provide input. If you decide to participate, please do so immediately.

Written Comments: You may send written comments directly to our office. We find that many people submitting comments will write it in letter form and address it to our office or the PA Parole Board. It can be as long or as short as you like. Additional information can be included such as copies of medical bills, court documents, PFA documents, community petitions, photos, etc.; however, these documents will not be returned to you.

After you've prepared your statement, please email it to ra-ovainfo@pa.gov or mail it to:

Office of Victim Advocate
1101 South Front Street, Suite 5200
Harrisburg, PA 17104

Verbal Comments: You may call our office at 1-800-563-6399 and speak to one of our Victim Assistance Coordinators who will summarize your statement and provide it to the Board in memo form.

Video Testimony: You may videotape your comments and send it directly to us on VHS/DVD/DVD-R or a jump drive. Please note this will not be returned to you.

In Person Victim Input with the Board: You may provide your statement to a panel of decision makers.

If you choose this type of input, you will be scheduled for a specific day and time to meet with the panel of decision makers to hear your statement. The offender is **not** present while you are providing your statement. The event will be video recorded and it will be made available to Board members.

**If you decide you would like to provide in person comments to the Board, please call our office at 1-800-563-6399 immediately to start the process for scheduling this interview.

Tips for Completing Your Comments

This information sheet may help you prepare your comments, written or verbal, which will be seen by the PA Parole Board. There are questions below to help you consider things that you may want to say. This is your opportunity to share information with the Board that they may not know about the background of the case, the victim(s), the offender, or how you and your family have been affected by the crime.

Please remember to provide the following information on the first page of your comments:

- your name
- your relationship to the victim (was it you? your child? your parent? etc.)
- the offender's name and DOC number/Parole number

Emotional Impact

Has the crime changed your lifestyle or that of those closest to you? Has the crime emotionally affected your ability to work, go to school, run a household, or perform other activities that you enjoy?

Physical Impact

Were you physically injured during the crime? If yes, how? What, if any, medical treatment did you receive? How long did it take for your injuries to heal? Do you have permanent physical injuries or scars from the crime? Are you still injured? Have your physical injuries affected your ability to work, go to school, or perform other activities?

Financial Impact

What, if any, have been the financial costs of the crime to you (ie counseling, medical expenses, replacement of stolen or damaged items, lost work, etc.)? What was taken and what was recovered? Were there items of sentimental value taken? Was restitution ordered by the sentencing judge? If so, how much? Have you received restitution yet?

Safety Issues

Did you know the person that committed the crime? Do you or any family members fear this offender? Has the offender made any attempts to contact you or a family member, threatening or otherwise, since their incarceration? Had the offender been abusive (sexually, physically, or verbally) before this crime incident? Has the offender ever threatened to kill you or a family member? Has the offender ever threatened to kill themselves because of you? Has the offender ever stalked you or a family member? Has the offender ever made harassing or threatening phone calls? Have friends and family members of the offender harassed or threatened you? Do you have or have you ever had a Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order filed against this offender?

You may include a request that the Victim Advocate petitions the PA Parole Board to deny parole and/or set particular conditions (ie where they should be restricted from living, not to contact you, to pay restitution) in the event the offender is granted parole.

For further assistance, please contact our office at 1-800-563-6399.