



Department of Corrections

Victim Services Unit

October 9, 2025

DOC Victim Services Overview



- DOC staff (Probation & Parole Officers, Case Workers, Victim Services Specialists) support victims, survivors, and their families after adjudication and throughout the offender's sentence
- Services include:
 - Information sharing
 - Release and safety planning
 - Parole hearing support
 - Restorative justice opportunities
- DOC's Victim Services Unit creates and supports staff trainings, including Survivor Centered Communication and Intimate Partner Violence
- Implemented Victim Notification Information Everyday (VINE) in 2010 to help DOC meet its statutory obligations for victim notification
 - VINE is a helpful tool to supplement existing communication from DOC staff

VINE Language Changes and Updates



- In partnership with the Victim Notification Task Force, DOC is updating the language of VINE notifications to be more trauma informed
 - Updates will apply to:
 - Email notifications
 - Text notifications
 - Message recordings

New Services for Victims



Victim-Offender Dialogue Program

- This is a carefully structured process where, if victims choose, they can engage in a safe and guided conversation with the individual who harmed them. This can be a meaningful step for those who are seeking accountability, answers, or closure.

Apology Letter Bank

- Incarcerated individuals may choose to write letters of apology. These letters are held confidentially by trained staff and are never sent to victims without their consent. If victims want to access apology letters, it is available to them at any point.



Questions?

Contact



Isaac Dayno

Executive Director of Policy

(802) 793-4392 • isaac.dayno@vermont.gov

Haley Sommer

Director of Communications & Legislative Affairs

(802) 793-9075 • haley.sommer@vermont.gov

Constituent Services

ahs.docconstituentmanagement@vermont.gov