

# OUTREACH NEWS

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## GET READY...IT WON'T BE LONG...

By Trish Miles

Some of you may have heard that we will be implementing an online claim form. As you know, we currently have an application available on our website (<http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Joint/Victims/main.cfm>) that you can print out, complete, and mail in, but this new online form will also allow the user to fill out the form and submit it online! It may appear slightly different, but it is still the same basic form. This will allow our office to get information faster, and help to expedite the claim process. I am happy to say that the

electronic claim form is currently being tested, and once the bugs are worked out, we will allow access to it on our website. It is our goal to make the filing process easier for everyone, and it is our belief that there will be many users who will find it better to type information in rather than having to submit a handwritten form. I am sure that this will generate a lot of questions, but please know that the information required has not changed. Many people have already asked about the required notarized signature, and yes, it still is a requirement.



Once you submit the form online you will be directed to print out the notary page to be completed and mailed to our office. As the form becomes accessible statewide, we will be available to walk you through the process and answer any questions you may have.



January is National Stalking Awareness Month, a time to focus on a dangerous crime that affects 3.4 million victims in one year. This year's theme, "Stalking: Know It. Name It. Stop It.," summons the nation to fight stalking by

learning more about it. Stalking can happen to anyone, not just celebrities. And it's a crime in all 50 states. Stalkers are hard to stop, and they may hurt or even kill their victims. The more you know about stalking, the more you can do to

stop it. This information was provided by The National Center for Victims of Crime. For more information visit <http://stalkingawarenessmonth.org>



# HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT VICTIM SERVICES IN CORRECTIONS?

By Sandi Jaynes, Division of Corrections

## WV Division of Corrections Mission Statement

To enhance public safety by providing a safe, secure, humane correctional system, including an effective community supervision program, opportunities to prepare offenders for successful re-entry, and sensitivity and responsiveness to victims of crime.

## Division of Corrections Victim Services Mission Statement

The West Virginia Division of Corrections is committed to the promise that crime victims are to be treated with respect, dignity, and sensitivity. We are committed to building a mutual understanding among victims, their families, community victim groups and correctional staff while providing balance to the criminal justice system for victims of crime.

### Overview

- Oversee 14 facilities and 1 work camp
- Felony offenders only
- As of January 4, 2010, 5,055 were incarcerated
- 1,315 were being held in the Regional jails and considered backlog
- 210 are not part of the backlog
- Total of 1,525 are in the Regional Jails
- Provided direct victim services for 14,300

victims June 2001 to September 30, 2009

- As of 30 November 2009 there are 2,565 on parole
- 1,464 are WV parolees and the rest are from out of state

## History of Victim Services in Corrections

- First established June 18, 2001
- Only type of notification was a letter
- Established victim assistance at parole hearings
- 1,386 victims received assistance at parole hearings from 18 June 2001 to September 30, 2009
- VINE Victim Information & Notification Everyday went live December 2002
- 127,630 outgoing notification calls from VINE from 18 June 2002 to November 2009
- 19,009 incoming calls from victims
- There are 34,686 registered to receive notification via VINE
- Victims may register several different phone numbers
- They may also sign up for email alerts
- All facilities participate in Domestic Violence Programs
- All facilities participate in National Crime Victims' Rights Week Projects

- All participate in Operation Reach Out in Charleston and Wheeling
- Inmates participate in the projects as a way of giving "back to victims"
- All projects include assisting domestic violence, sexual assault, and many other victim organizations

## Projects

- Each facility works with a shelter or a victim organization in the county where the facility is located
- Staff members work on the project
- Inmates also work on the project
- Anthony Correctional Center is working with The Drug Endangered Children's Task Force
- Mt. Olive raises funds for Operation Reach Out held each year during National Crime Victims' Rights Week
- Northern Correctional Center raises funds for Children's Home in Wheeling among others
- They also participated in the Marshall County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Tree Gala
- Charleston Work Release recognized Domestic Violence Awareness Month by placing a giant paper chain around the Appalachian Power Ball Field. Each of the

*"There are 34,686 registered to receive notification via VINE"*

# HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT VICTIM SERVICES IN CORRECTIONS? (CONT'D)

By Sandi Jaynes, Division of Corrections

- 1675 links represented a person who used the Domestic Violence Services in Kanawha County last week
- Lakin, the women's facility, along with St. Marys Correctional Center participated in raising funds for Shop with a Cop and to the Family Resource Network by raising funds to buy supplies needed for the children
- Pruntytown Correctional center held several events for commemoration of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- Huttonsville Correctional Center raised funds by partnering with McDonald's and local law enforcement along with Super 8 Motel to provide a safe place for victims who have to be relocated and all shelters are full
- HCC also raised \$2,387.25 in cash and donations for the homeless shelter, Randolph County Sheriff's Department and Marine Corps Detachment 956
- Beckley Correctional Center purchased a popcorn machine and will be selling popcorn to inmates to raise funds for Women's Resource Center among others
- Many of the facilities are doing year long projects and have not sent in a report at this time



## Bulletin Board

- WV Legislative Session began on January 13, 2010
- 10th Annual Sexual Assault and Stalking Symposium at the Charleston Marriott on April 21, 2010
- National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 18-24, 2010
- This newsletter and the 2010 Annual Crime Victims Report is online at: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/joint/victims/main.cfm>
- WV Legislative Session ends March 13, 2010
- State Victim Assistance Academy July 19-23, 2010
- Drug Endangered Children Conference—August 17, 2010



## FAQ'S for the Crime Victims Compensation Fund



How long does a person have to file a claim?

The claimant has two years from the date of the crime unless the claimant is a minor. If the claimant is a minor they have until their 20th birthday.

Does a claim have to be notarized?

Yes. This helps our investigators obtain the needed information to process the claim.

WV CRIME VICTIMS  
COMPENSATION FUND

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Charleston, West Virginia  
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Phone: 1-877-562-6878

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E-mail:

[trish.miles@wvlegislature.gov](mailto:trish.miles@wvlegislature.gov)

We're on the web!

[www.legis.state.wv.us/joint/victims/  
main.cfm](http://www.legis.state.wv.us/joint/victims/main.cfm)



STALKING: MYTHS & FACTS

MYTH: Only celebrities are stalked.

FACT: The vast majority of the 1.4 million people who are stalked each year are ordinary citizens.

MYTH: If you ignore stalking, it will go away.

FACT: Stalkers seldom "just stop." Victims should seek help from law enforcement to stop the stalking.

MYTH: Stalking is annoying but not illegal.

FACT: Stalking is a crime in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For more information visit [www.ncvc.org/src](http://www.ncvc.org/src)