

Through Their Eyes...



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Debbie Curtis
PPP Director of
Victim Services

From The Director...

OVS Initiatives

In an effort to collaborate and coordinate victim assistance efforts with other victim advocates, the Office of Victim Services is planning to host a meet and greet/training in each of the sixteen judicial circuits. For those who work in victim services, whether you are a veteran or a novice, the key to being able to provide excellent services is to realize that you cannot do it alone. Knowing your colleagues and cultivating those relationships is integral to a successful response to the crime victims in your area. We hope to have participation from all areas of the justice system at these

sessions, as we all are committed to working together and providing crime victims and their families far-reaching support and service with compassion and understanding. For more information, please contact Debbie Curtis at (803)734-9274.

FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA VICTIM'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Victim Rights #4 The Right to Submit Statements at Bond and Bail Hearings

Be reasonably informed of and be allowed to submit either a written or oral statement at all hearings affecting bond or bail.

Bond/bail hearings are usually held at the summary court level (either municipal or magistrate's court) with the exception of those defendants' who are charged with an offense that carries a life sentence. In those cases, the bond hearing is held before a circuit court judge.

Regardless of the court, victims of crime should be notified of the hearing and be given the opportunity to address the court either in person, in writing or via his/her victim advocate.

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Dating Violence is a pattern of abusive behavior used to control an intimate partner. These behaviors may be physical, verbal, sexual, technological or a combination. Perhaps more prevalent in teen dating violence is the use of technology i.e. texting, twitter, Facebook to stalk and harass their partner.

In the United States:

- Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.
- One in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence.
- One in 10 high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- One quarter of high school girls have been victims of physical or sexual abuse.
- Approximately 70% of college students say they have been sexually coerced.*

Reprinted from http://www.loveisrespect.org/pdf/Dating_Abuse_Statistics.pdf

In South Carolina, according to the 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey:

- ◆ 10.4 % of students dated or went out with someone were forced to do sexual things that they did not want to
- ◆ 10.4% of students dated or went out with someone who physically hurt them on purpose

**Reprinted from https://ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/205/documents/YRBS_2013_SC_HS_Graphs.pdf*

For more about teen dating violence and how to prevent it by promoting healthy relationships, please visit the following websites:

<http://teendvmonth.org/2015/>

http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/teen_dating_violence.html

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Remote Sites for Parole Hearings: Victim Approved

by Stanley "Bert" Sparks

Victim Service Coordinator Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties

Parole hearings can be a very stressful time for crime victims. The crime may still be fresh in the victim's mind, or it could be twenty years since the crime was committed before the first parole hearing is held. Victims wishing to be notified of parole hearings will receive a letter from the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services' (SCDPPPS) Office of Victim Services 30 days prior to the hearing date. Victims can travel to Columbia and make a statement before the Parole Board regarding their position of parole for the inmate.

Prior to 2005, traveling to Columbia was the only option for victims to attend parole hearings. The SC General Assembly passed Act 263 of 2004, which was signed by Governor Mark Sanford, allowing victims to appear before the Parole Board via a two-way closed circuit television system. In response, SCDPPPS received a grant in 2004 to open and operate a "remote site" in the Charleston area. An agreement was established with the South Carolina National Guard in North Charleston because they had the technology and equipment in place. Victims living close to Charleston could choose the option to attend a parole hearing in North Charleston by

way of a videoconference with the Parole Board instead of traveling to the SCDPPPS Central Office in Columbia. In 2007, SCDPPPS was awarded a similar grant allowing victims to come to the SC National Guard building on the Spartanburg campus of USC Upstate to attend parole hearings. Both videoconference sites were made possible by a federal grant under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), administered by the SC Department of Public Safety.

If crime victims choose to go to the remote site, they must register for the hearing with a member of Office of Victim Services by calling the number on the hearing notification letter. If they don't know about the satellite office in Spartanburg or Charleston already, a member of the staff will advise them of those options. Law enforcement officials also may attend these sites, as long as a victim is present. Victims always have the option travel to Columbia, even though there is a site closer to them. It is the victim's choice where they want to attend. Since the grant has expired, our department has picked up the cost of using the equipment for the remote sites in order to try and make it easier for crime victims to attend parole hearings.

Many victims have told me this service has been wonderful for them. They appreciate the option of the remote sites because it allows victims to avoid the costs and logistics of traveling to Columbia to address the Parole Board. Some victims would take the day off from work because of the long round trip to Columbia, and now many can attend the parole hearing at one of the remote sites and still go to work. Victims are able to save gas money and avoid traffic by choosing to attend the hearings at one of the remote sites. There are also less people at the remote sites, which most victims have said they like much better. These sites have allowed the SCDPPPS to better assist victims of crimes, which is part of the Department's mission.

Many parole hearings involve violent crimes, which can be very emotional for survivors. By having these two remote sites in the State, our department has strived to do our best to help crime victims have the most positive experience possible. Hopefully, these sites will continue to thrive and give crime victims another option to attend and make a statement regarding the parole of inmates.



A Commander with the South Carolina National Guard demonstrates the remote videoconferencing connection from the Charleston site to the Parole Board Room in Columbia (on screen).

To Attend A Parole Hearing... Give Us A Call

Contact any staff member in the SCDPPPS Office of Victim Services at 803-734-9367 or Toll Free at 888-551-4118.



Agency Spotlight South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice

Regional Judicial Circuit Training

On Friday, February, 6th, the Office of Victim Services conducted a one-day training for the 3rd Judicial Circuit at the “Old” Sumter County Magistrate Court on North Harvin Street. The main purpose of the training was to provide victim advocates in Sumter, Lee, Clarendon and Williamsburg counties with an overview of the services provided to victims of crime by the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. In addition, the training was designed to encourage collaborative efforts among victim service providers in the 3rd Judicial Circuit.

Training topics covered included: Supervision of Sex Offenders and GPS Monitoring/Tracking; Victim Services at SC DPPPS; Probation Supervision Programs and the Parole and Pardon Process as it relates to Victim Services

This networking opportunity gave advocates a chance to discuss best practices with peers and to share information about their perspective agencies. Advocates were asked to bring pamphlets or brochures which were placed on information tables.



PPP staff pose after a successful training session: Regional Director Schwann Hopkins, Clarendon Agent-In-Charge Luther Patrick, OVS Asst. Director Missy Knight, Sumter Agent-In-Charge Sharon Holland, OVS Program Coordinator Sandra McCray, Sumter Victim Services Specialist Stacy McCray and Lee Agent-In-Charge Beverly Singleton.

“It is the mission of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to protect the public and reclaim juveniles through prevention, community services, education, and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.”



Crime victims, whose juvenile offender comes under the jurisdiction of DJJ, are also afforded the same rights to notification and information pursuant to the SC Constitution Victims’ Bill of Rights. At DJJ, it is the responsibility of the Victim Services Program, directed by Felicia Dauway, to provide these services to crime victims.

This program is unique in that its services work in conjunction with the DJJ’s commitment to the concept of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ). The agency addresses accountability and rehabilitation for the juvenile as well as repairing the harm to his/her victim.

If you would like to learn more about DJJ victim services, please visit their website at:

<http://www.state.sc.us/djj/pdfs/victims-services.pdf>

Mark Your Calendars...

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week is April 19 -25, 2015. The theme is Engaging Communities/Empowering Victims. In South Carolina, we will celebrate during the Victims’ Rights Week Conference, April 20 – 22, 2015. The conference will be held in Columbia at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel on Bush River Road. This year, our very own Wanda Johnson, Victim Services Coordinator for the 10th Judicial Circuit, will sing at the Unity Ceremony Candlelight Vigil. This ceremony which will be held on Monday, April 20, 2015 at noon is the most important

part of the conference. It is a silent solemn time when we, as a community, remember those we have lost to violent crime and honor those victims who have survived violent crime. The Office of Victim Services is proud to participate and support the State Office of Victim Assistance and the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network.

VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK CONFERENCE

**ENGAGING COMMUNITIES
EMPOWERING VICTIMS**

**Victims’ Rights Week Conference
April 20 – 22, 2015**

**South Carolina 2015
Unity Ceremony Candlelight Vigil**

◆◆◆

DATE
Monday, April 20, 2015

TIME
12:00 pm
{Lunch Served Prior To Ceremony}

PLACE
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
2100 Bush River Rd, Columbia, SC 29210

**Lunch For Registered Participants Only
Register at www.scvan.org**

SPONSORS: Victim Service Coordinating Council, VSSC
State Office of Victim Assistance, SOVA
SC Victim Assistance Network, SCVAN

Tell Us What You Think!

The Office of Victim Services always welcomes feedback. Please feel free to email comments, questions and/or suggestions about our program and what you would like to see in future issues of our newsletter to Debora.curtis@ppp.sc.gov.

OVS Spotlight

Wanda J. Johnson

Wanda is the Victim Services Coordinator for the 10th Judicial Circuit which is comprised of Anderson and Oconee Counties. She was introduced to the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services when she participated in a volunteer/intern program through Tri-County Technical College. Her liaison to 3P at that time is now her AIC, Gerald Black.

Wanda then went on to work in an administrative capacity for the Anderson County Summary Court and then the Anderson County Detention Center. In 2001, Wanda was hired as an agent and began her career with the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. She supervised the offender population until 2005 at which time she transferred to victim services. She has been the victim services coordinator for the 10th Judicial Circuit for the last 9 years.

For Wanda, the key to her success in the victim services field is her basic rule of thumb, "I treat people the way I want my friends and loved ones to be treated." Wanda, also a victim of crime herself, empathizes with some of the emotional and mental stress that comes with victimization as well as the difficulties of just understanding the criminal justice system at this stage.

Wanda has dealt with victims who feel frustrated, lost, cast aside and sometimes forgotten. If she can help any of these victims at the probation office, the courtroom, over the phone, assisting or volunteering at MADD Victim Impact Panels, or just singing at a candlelight vigil then she feels she has done her part as a VSC, a public servant and as a fellow human being.

Wanda has truly found her niche in victim services as many of her victim services colleagues will attest in Anderson County. If you would like to see Wanda sing, please join us at the Unity Ceremony at this year's Victims' Rights Week conference on Monday, April 20th.

PPP's Victim Services Staff

Debora Curtis	Director
Missy Knight	Assistant Director
Sandra McCray	Victim Services Liaison
Betsy Hegler	Victim Services Coordinator
Trina Curry	Administrative Assistant
Yvonne Conte	Victim Services Specialist

The Department employs Victim Services Coordinators and Specialists (VSC/VSS) throughout the state to provide comprehensive services to crime victims. They are the contact staff for victims.

Victim Services Coordinators/Specialists

Anthony White	Aiken County
Wanda Johnson	Anderson County
Katura Stephens	Beaufort County
Bernadette Brown	Charleston County
Susan Paitl	Charleston County
Susan Clemmons	Darlington County
Mamie Hannah	Florence County
Karen Patterson	Greenville County
Randy Worrell	Horry County
Tim Williams	Lancaster County
Nicole Morreale	Lexington County
Debbie Arnold	Laurens County
Andrea Fogle	Orangeburg County
Vacant	Richland County
Bert Sparks	Spartanburg County
Stacy McCray	Sumter County
John Barnett	York County



Through Their Eyes is a quarterly publication of the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services Office of Victim Services

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at
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Save the Date!

On April 17th, 2015, SCVAN will honor those who championed the Crime Victims Bill of Rights and the 1997 S.C. Constitutional Amendment. The Honorable Dick Riley, the pioneer champion for victims' rights, will present the keynote address. Other honorees include the Honorable Nick Theodore, Ambassador David Wilkins, Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal, the Honorable Glenn McConnell, the Honorable Hugh Leatherman, the Honorable Palmer Freeman, former Corrections Commissioner Parker Evatt, the Honorable Don Rushing, the Honorable John Drummond, the Honorable Harry Chapman, the Honorable Jim Lander, the Honorable Jim Harrison, the Honorable Sandi Wofford, the Honorable Charlie Condon, the Honorable David Beasley and other leaders who played a significant role in the passage of laws intended to ensure crime victims were not further victimized. Also being honored posthumously, the Honorable Isadore Lourie, the Honorable Verne Smith, the Honorable Herb Kirsch, and the Honorable Don Holland.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE and plan to join us April 17th at noon at the Greenville Hyatt Regency in celebration of this landmark legislation, the exemplary public servants responsible for its enactment, remarkable pioneer victim advocates, our partner agencies and the work of the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network. Registration information coming soon at www.scvan.org.

2015 APRIL						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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