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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

SPRING 2014

MESSAGE FROM AUDREY CRESS DIRECTOR OF VICTIM SERVICES

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Our Mission

Kansas Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services serves as a liaison between victims and department staff, the Prisoner Review Board, and victim service providers. We are committed to providing crime victims the opportunity to express their ideas and opinions. We will approach our work from a victim-focused perspective.

Spring is officially here and it represents an especially busy time for OVS.

April is an important month for honoring crime victims. In addition to being National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) occurs during the week of April 6-12. This year's theme for NCVRW is *30 years: restoring the balance of justice* and marks the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).

We have several events planned to honor victims of crime and would like to extend an invite to all to attend the annual Voices of Victims' Rally and Courage Walk in Topeka on April 11th (see additional info below). Two OVS staff will be presenting workshops at the annual statewide Crime Victims' Rights Conference and all OVS staff will be working on various awareness activities (fundraisers, email blasts,

etc.) to highlight services and information available for victims of crime. If you have been impacted by crime and are interested in sharing your experience with others, please email victimwitness@doc.ks.gov.

While we celebrate the 30th anniversary of VOCA, we know there is still much work to do. As always, please contact me directly at Audrey.Cress@doc.ks.gov with your thoughts and comments about ways OVS can continue to improve service to victims of crime.

All of Correction's Central Office is moving, so you will see a new address on all of our materials. The move will take place in a phased manner so there will be no sustained interruption of services. Victim Services' phone numbers will remain the same, so please don't hesitate to contact us if you need additional brochures or information.

KDOC Office of Victim Services
714 SW Jackson, Suite 300
Topeka, KS 66603

Save the date . . .

As part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the Kansas Organization for Victim Assistance (KOVA) will be hosting the 3rd Annual Voices of Victims' Rally and Courage Walk on Friday, April 11th from 3:00 - 4:00pm. at the Memorial Hall Auditorium, 120 SW 10th, Topeka, K.S.

Each year, the Office of Victim Services (OVS) names quarterly recipients for two awards. The Champion of Justice Award is given to a Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) employee who works diligently for the safety of crime victims and/or public safety in general while supporting offender success. The Victim's Voice Award goes to an advocate of victims outside of the KDOC system. This award is to someone in a law enforcement, city/county office, or victim advocacy program who goes above and beyond to make sure that victim safety is considered. From those quarterly recipients, an annual awardee is named in the spring.

CHAMPION OF JUSTICE SPRING QUARTER



Unit Team Manager Kerry Littleton

Part of Kerry's job involves working with the Office of Victim Services (OVS) when there is a concern about an inmate going to or currently involved in work release at Wichita Work Release Facility (WWRF). Work release can be a very positive part of an inmate preparing to be successful upon release as it gives that inmate job skills and current work experience as well as experience in budgeting and time management. However, victim safety concerns need to be taken into consideration before placing an inmate in a work release program. In some cases, objection stems from general fear or distrust with an inmate being in any community working, but in other cases, that objection comes from a victim who lives in the community where the inmate will be participating in work release and may encounter the inmate in public spaces if the victim rides the bus or dines out. Kerry is very understanding and a great listener. She understands victims concerns and understands their emotions. She is very supportive when OVS opposes, on behalf of victims, the offender being placed at the WWRF. Kerry brings in upper management on emails or calls when she responds with her thoughts or concerns, and she is always willing to listen and help advocate for the safety of victims. Kerry is easy to work with and puts victim safety concerns at the forefront when placing an offender in work release. When the whole package of pros and cons of an inmate going to work release is considered, her support can mean that an inmate goes to work release in a different location or does not go to work release at all. Kerry listens, follows up, and is very dedicated to offender success, but she is just as dedicated to ensuring victim safety as well. OVS is proud to name her Champion of Justice. Thank you, Kerry!

THE VICTIM'S VOICE SPRING QUARTER

Detective Joshua Nelson Greenwood County Sheriff's Office

KDOC employee Troy Shaw nominated Detective Joshua Nelson of the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office for his work toward victim safety.

Detective Nelson has been called when off duty and still responds with a soft voice and compassion. During a high-profile case, he did not take a day off until the perpetrator was no longer a threat. In that type of case, he works closely with the KBI to ensure safety for the victims and the family. Victims have called him the "cornerstone of their case." In one case where her parent had been murdered and she, herself, shot numerous times, a victim spoke of the detective as being the person who stood out to her as the key person in her case and the reason she could now feel safe. In another case, not only did he help the victim, but Detective Nelson spoke with the perpetrator and convinced him to turn himself in to another officer and get help. After hearing victim comments about Detective Nelson, Ms. Shaw made the nomination so that these victims' voices could be heard.

Detective Nelson takes extra training to gain a higher knowledge so he can improve his service to the community. He has worked with staff at the KBI and Sheriff's Department to enhance and improve procedures in dealing with domestic issues. Detective Nelson works all hours, and does so to make the community safe for his children and the rest of the community.

Thank you, Detective Joshua Nelson, for your commitment to victim and public safety while working toward offender accountability.

Conditions of Parole and Post-Release Supervision

By Laura Farmer, Victim Services Liaison II

There are 12 standard conditions of release for every offender who is supervised by KDOC parole services. The conditions are to give structure and guidance for offenders under supervision as they work to successfully reintegrate into the community.

Conditions of Release for Parole and Post-Release Supervision

1. Reporting, Travel, and Residence:

- Report as directed to the assigned parole officer upon release from the institution or detainer and thereafter, report on a regular basis as directed by my parole officer.
- Reside only at my approved plan upon release from the institution and keep my residence there until given permission by my parole officer to relocate.
- Keep my parole officer continuously informed of my residence and employment.
- Obtain advanced permission from my parole officer to travel outside of my assigned parole district or the state of Kansas.

2. Laws:

- Obey all federal and state laws, municipal or county ordinances, including the Kansas Offender Registration Act and the DNA Collections Act.
- Notify my parole officer, at the earliest opportunity, if I have any law enforcement contact for any reason.

3. Weapons:

- Not own, possess or constructively possess, purchase, receive, sell or transport any firearms, ammunition or explosive device, any device designed to expel or hurl a projectile capable of causing injury to persons or property, any instrument or tool used with the intent to cause harm, or any weapon prohibited by law.

4. Personal Conduct:

- Not engage in assaultive activities, violence, or threats of violence of any kind, threatening or intimidating behaviors, or lewd and lascivious behaviors.

5. Narcotics/Alcohol:

- Not possess, use, or traffic in any controlled substances or other drugs as defined by law and not prescribed for me by a licensed medical practitioner.
- Not consume any mind-altering substances, including, but not limited to alcoholic beverages, wine, beer, glue, or paint.
- Consent to submit to a blood, Breathalyzer or urine test at the direction of the parole officer.
- Not tamper, falsify or dilute such a test.

6. Association:

- Not associate with persons actively engaged in illegal activity.
- Obtain written permission from the parole officer and institutional administrator to visit or correspond with inmates of any correctional institution.

7. Employment:

- Secure and maintain reasonable, steady employment within 45 days of my release from prison or residential

treatment unless excused for medical reasons or an extension of time is given by my parole officer.

- Notify my employer of my current and prior (non-expunged) adult felony convictions and status as an offender.

8. Education:

- Make progress toward or successfully complete the equivalent of a secondary education (GED certificate) if I have not completed such by the time of my release and I am capable, as directed by my parole officer.

9. Costs:

- Pay restitution, court costs, supervision fees, and other costs as directed by my parole officer.

10. Treatment, Programs and Placement:

- Follow any directives given by my parole officer regarding assessment, referral, and placement for treatment, programs, or housing.
- Comply with all aftercare recommendations and my relapse prevention plan.
- Submit to polygraph examinations as directed by my parole officer and/or treatment provider.

11. Victim:

- No contact with the victim(s) in my case(s) or the victim's family by any means including, but not limited to, in person, by phone, via computer, in writing or through a third party without the advance permission of my parole officer.

12. Search:

- Be subjected to a search of my person, residence, and any other property under my control by parole officers, any authorized parole staff, and department of corrections enforcement, apprehension and investigation officers with or without a search warrant and with or without cause.
- Be subjected to a search of my person, residence, and any other property under my control by any law enforcement officer based on reasonable suspicion of violation of conditions of post-incarceration supervision, or reasonable suspicion of criminal activity.

In addition to the standard conditions, the Prisoner Review Board (PRB) and/or parole officer (PO) may implement conditions specific to each offenders needs. These special conditions are determined in accordance with case management strategies with an emphasis on criminogenic risk reduction. Not all liaison and victim requests for special conditions are approved by the PRB or PO.

Special conditions may include no contact with a specific person, a directive to obtain a specific mental health, substance abuse or batterers intervention program assessment. Special conditions addressing either or both mental health and substance abuse counseling/treatment may not be revealed to the public.

Victim Services Liaison staff are available to work one-on-one with victims to review the standard conditions,

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY THAT IS INMATE CUSTODY CLASSIFICATION

BY LIZ RICE, CORRECTIONS MANAGER

Many people are familiar with the terms maximum custody, medium custody, and minimum custody when discussing inmates of the Kansas Department of Corrections but very few know how an inmate gets assigned to that custody level or what that label really means. When classification staff are asked about custody, sometimes the answer will include a lot of technical language that does not really answer the average person's questions. So, why the mystery? Is there a secret code of classification?

No decoder ring is needed; no secret meetings or handshakes. Custody classification is a set of objective criteria that was developed based on the behavior of inmates in the Kansas Department of Corrections. The current custody instrument was developed after extensive research about which inmates cause problems in Kansas prisons. The data was reviewed to give a picture of who the inmates were that, even when incarcerated, posed a threat to public safety, hurt other inmates, hurt staff, escaped, caused disruptions in the prison setting, or who needed to be protected from other inmates.

The items that are considered:

- Most serious current offense
- Length of time remaining to serve
- Severity of prior convictions
- Escape history
- Escape characteristics (Did they have a plan, did they have help, did they hurt anyone, etc.)
- Institutional adjustment
- Current age
- Incentive level (based on KDOC privileges and incentives policy)
- Inmate performance in sex offender treatment
- Detainers (warrants from other jurisdictions)

- Pending disciplinary issues (behavior in prison or county jail on this case)
- Civil commitment issues (Sexually Violent Predator Act)
- Special needs (protective custody, segregation, etc.)

Custody is not a punishment; the application of each item must be supported by appropriate documentation. This means that documented information of officials in the criminal justice system may be used and that judgments by KDOC personnel about the behavior of the inmate must be based on professional diagnosis or staff observations, which are appropriately documented. This requirement of documentation is essential to support and confirm the application of the classification criteria.

Custody levels coincide with specific requirements for housing and supervision of the inmates.

Maximum custody: movement and activities within the facility are highly structured and closely monitored. (Lansing, Hutchinson, El Dorado)

Medium custody: a medium to high degree of physical restraint and detection. (Hutchinson East and Norton are low medium; Ellsworth is high medium)

Minimum custody: low or limited degree of physical restraint and detection. (Some minimum facilities do not have fences)

There are some inmates that just do not fit the criteria, so exceptions are allowed. The exceptions have to be approved by Central Office and can be upward to a more secure setting or downward to a less secure classification. The goal is to get the inmate into the right custody level to provide the

least restrictive supervision necessary to provide public safety.

If you would like to read more about custody classification, the KDOC Custody Classification Manual is a public document and can be viewed on the KDOC website at <http://www.doc.ks.gov/publications/kdoc-facilities-management/2007-inmate-custody-classification-manual>.

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and any special conditions imposed. Liaisons will also advocate for conditions to be issued that address victim safety and will develop safety plans for individuals and families.

An offender's failure to abide by the standard or special conditions of supervision may result in a parole violation and loss of good time (increase in length of supervision). The majority of violations are addressed while the offender continues on supervision in the community. Some interventions include referrals to community-based programs and services, internal cognitive programs, employment workshops, increased reporting to parole, or even jail sanctions. Some violations, however, may result in revocation, returning the offender back to a KDOC facility for a period of time.

OVS provides notification to registered victims when offenders return to a KDOC facility. Questions regarding conditions of supervision, supervision duration or other concerns can be addressed by parole liaisons, who can be reached by contacting the OVS toll-free number, (866) 404-6732.

FACILITY HIGHLIGHT: EL DORADO CORRECTIVAL FACILITY

WARDEN JAMES HEIMGARTNER



The role of the El Dorado Correctional Facility (EDCF) is to provide a safe and secure working environment for staff and volunteers, a safe and humane environment for adult male inmates to live and work, and to protect the general public from harm while inmates serve their court imposed sentences of incarceration. As an organization, we strive to be open and honest in our dealings with the public, the legislature, fellow employees, crime victims and inmates. We are proud to serve as both a liaison and service provider for crime victims. Housing capacity of EDCF Central Unit is 1,249 inmates. There are eight living units at EDCF-C.

EDCF provides secure housing and management of inmates assigned to long-term involuntary segregation in the state. Segregation housing is a result of violent or continual serious recalcitrant behavior. It is the facility's responsibility to manage these inmates safely and securely in a highly controlled environment, and to assist them in transitioning to general population when the appropriate time presents itself. On average, behavioral health staff provides 7,214 contacts with segregated inmates each month. Behavioral health, security and case management staff participate in a multidisciplinary team approach to curb the behavior of inmates in segregation who frequently act out. A Behavior Management Program exists to deal with transitioning segregation inmates to general population in a stratified manner based on increased steps of privileges for demonstrated appropriate behavior and program compliance.

All male felons sentenced to incarceration in Kansas courts are sent to EDCF's Reception and Diagnostic Unit

(RDU) for a psychological, social, academic, vocational, and substance abuse assessment used to determine custody classification, program needs and, ultimately, the facility placement within the KDOC. All inmates who are admitted to RDU are also screened for child support issues. RDU admits approximately 3,500 inmates each year.

EDCF has a 26 bed infirmary providing acute care and sheltered housing. All chemotherapy treatments for male inmates in the KDOC are administered at the facility. EDCF employs the only certified oncology nurse in Kansas corrections. EDCF also has a highly advanced hospice program utilizing specially trained inmate volunteers, and the only dedicated hospice dog in Kansas.

The EDCF-Southeast Unit in Oswego was activated January 14, 2013. Prior to this date it was the Labette County Correctional Boot Camp. The facility houses 230 medium security geriatric inmates, and 32 minimum security inmates who provide labor for Elk City State Park and Crawford State Park.

EDCF strives to increase inmates' abilities and motivations to practice responsible, pro-social, crime-free behavior through the provision of programs and services designed to assist with both risk reduction and reentry efforts. These programs include private industry, academic and vocational education, life skills, cognitive skills, self-help groups, religious activities, and behavioral health programs.

Prison-based private industry was introduced to EDCF in 1997. It aids in teaching marketable skills and trades

to inmates to better prepare them to be successful upon release. Century Manufacturing, Pioneer Balloon, and Aramark Corporation currently employ inmates who earn minimum or prevailing hourly wage. Last year, private industries employed 113 inmates, working 131,965 man-hours and accumulating \$1,028,612 in gross earnings. Payroll deductions included \$27,639 to crime victims compensation fund, \$58,202 to federal taxes, \$67,763 to FICA, \$23,792 to restitution, \$357,156 to room and board, \$20,122 to state taxes and \$52,283 to mandatory savings issued upon release.

Two full-time chaplains oversee religious programs at EDCF. Over 20 different religious groups are facilitated by the chaplains' office, headquartered at the EDCF Spiritual Life Center, an 11,500 square foot structure, dedicated May 4, 2010. The center includes a 286-seat chapel, an 89-seat multi-purpose room, a religious library, and four classrooms. In addition, it includes a two-room computer lab with 23 terminals. The entire cost of the \$1.1M project was made possible through private donations received from individuals, corporations, and foundation grants. The project was accomplished through the efforts of inmate labor, volunteers, and facility staff, with donated furnishings and equipment.

EDCF has a number of cognitive based self-help programs to promote behavioral change by stressing the importance of rigorous self-honesty. The classes are taught by both staff instructors and inmate mentors. The Drug and Alcohol Education Class/Relapse Prevention Program teaches strategies for avoiding substance abuse. Thinking for a Change (T4C) is designed to teach inmates cognitive thinking skills and help them take control of their lives by taking control

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of their thinking. The Fatherhood Program helps inmates learn how to maintain positive relationships with their children, and develop and maintain a working relationship with the child's mother or caregiver. Family transition programming is also offered to bridge inmates with their families prior to release from prison.

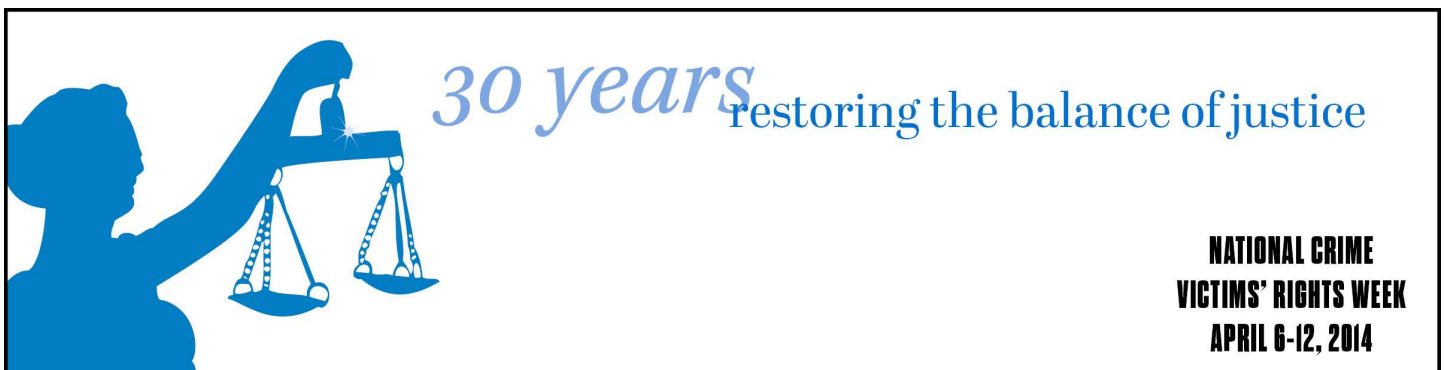
Behavioral health professionals have contact with inmates presenting special needs. Sixty-nine individual and 269 group therapy classes are presented each year.

Programming is offered including human development, anger manage-

ment, anxiety management and dialectical behavior therapy. The COR-Pathways program is a referral system and resource network for re-entry of inmates with psychiatric, physical and developmental disabilities, and age-related medical conditions after release from incarceration.

Facility staff work in concert with state parole offices and the Prisoner Review Board to establish viable release plans for offenders re-entering society. Inmates who are close to release are encouraged to attend classes on the requirements of parole supervision. A facility resource room provides inmates with the opportunity to match community

resources to their approved release plan. Resources include local food banks, shelters, clothing assistance, medical and mental health centers, NA/AA meetings, community service programs, and public vocational/technical schools, community colleges and state universities. Offenders become familiar with using a computer to complete resumes and prepare for today's workplace. Mentoring4Success delivers mentoring services to help offenders safely and successfully return to the community. The offender begins their mentoring relationship while in prison and continues with transition, reintegration and aftercare in the community.



HELPFUL TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

National Children's Alliance
(800) 239-9950

National Domestic Violence Hotline
(800) 799-7233

National Mothers Against Drunk Driving
(800) 438-6233

DUI Victim Center of Kansas
(800) 873-6957

National Council on Aging
(800) 424-9046

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
(800) 843-5678

National Sexual Violence Resource Center
(877) 739-3895

National Organization for Victim Assistance
(800) 879-6692

Office of Crime Victims Advocacy
(800) 822-1067

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN)
(800) 656-4673

Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse
(800) 638-8736

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol
and Drug Information
(800) 729-6686

Stalking Resource Center
(800) 392-2255

SAYING YOU ARE SORRY—THE APOLOGY LETTER REPOSITORY

BY HOLLY CHAVEZ,
VICTIM/OFFENDER PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Since 2001, KDOC Office of Victim Services has offered the Apology Letter Repository program, where the offenders are invited to write a letter of apology to the victim or victims they have hurt. They are encouraged to be honest, sincere and open about their behavior. When offenders choose to participate, they take steps to accept responsibility and possibly make amends with those they have harmed/impacted. Not every inmate in the facilities chooses to participate in the program, but if an offender does, they do not receive any “credit” for participating and it does not decrease their sentence in any way. The letters that are submitted to the Office of Victim Services are screened for appropriateness and, if it is deemed appropriate, the letter is placed in the repository. The letters are held in a secure file cabinet until they are claimed.

Due to the potential retraumatization of hearing from an offender, victims are not notified that a letter has been placed in the repository; victims must request to see if an offender has written an apology. Once there is a request, the Office of Victim Services will check to see if there is a letter available and, if there is, we prepare the victim to receive the letter and offer additional services or referrals at that time. Receiving these letters can bring up a multitude of feelings, concerns and frustrations for a victim and that is normal. The Office of Victim Services is able to provide follow up assistance to help process these feelings. There are several ways that a victim can choose to receive a letter: staff from the Office of Victim Services can read it over the phone, mail the original copy, or scan and email a copy of the letter directly to the victim. There are cases where a victim will request a letter and one has not been written and, in the event that this happens, we will ask the victim if they would like to be notified if one is ever written. Since 2001, when this program began, there have been approximately 169 letters written.

If a victim receives a letter and then would like to respond or it has raised additional questions, the Office of Victim Services has programs to assist the victim. Those additional programs include various forms of Victim/Offender Dialogue, where the victim may, if interested, have the opportunity to have a face-to-face meeting with the offender. If you are interested in checking to see if you have an apology letter or if you have received an apology letter and would like information on additional programs, please email Holly Chavez at hollyc@doc.ks.gov or call at 785-817-2594.

What topics/information would you like to see in a future newsletter?

**Email your suggestions—
victimwitness@doc.ks.gov**

DOING THE WORK—

BY LISA HECHT,
VICTIM SERVICES LIAISON

Doing the Work is a segment in which we highlight a person within KDOC and how their position supports the KDOC Mission. In this edition, we highlight

**Parole Officer I
Maria Krowas**



Maria Krowas has worked for the Department of Corrections since 2012. She is a Parole Officer I in the Kansas City parole office. Prior to this, Maria was an intern in that office for two years. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice from Ft. Hays State University.

Maria views an integral part of her job as supervising offenders in order to provide public safety, and to support the goal of victim safety. Knowing where her offenders are living and working as well as how they are either progressing or relapsing in their risky behaviors allows Maria to hold the offenders on her caseload accountable for their choices. Management, support, and encouragement of the offenders are the basis of the work Maria does each day.

Maria believes there are certain professional attributes that officers must possess in order to be successful in their role. This includes being a good communicator. She knows that being able to set firm limits and expectations with offenders as well as offering praise and encouragement allows for a better chance of offender success. Her mantra is “give respect, get respect”.

Maria would like her professional legacy to be offenders that look back and feel they had a better chance of making it because she was there for them and she worked with them. She says getting a sincere thank you from an offender helps keep her going.

We are on the Web!

www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services

OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

Kansas Department of Corrections
Office of Victim Services
714 SW Jackson, Suite 300
Topeka, KS 66603
Toll free: 866-404-6732
E-mail: victimwitness@doc.ks.gov



**“ G I V I N G K A N S A S C R I M E
V I C T I M S A V O I C E I N
C O R R E C T I O N S B Y P R O V I D I N G
I N F O R M A T I O N , S E R V I C E S A N D
S U P P O R T W I T H C O M P A S S I O N
A N D R E S P E C T ”**

NOTIFICATION SERVICES

Public Comment Session

Release Status—Parole, Conditional Release or Post-Release

Assignment to a Work Release Program

Eligibility for a Community Work Assignment

Application for Clemency

Supervision Revocation

Expiration of Sentence

Death of inmate

Escape

Application for Early Discharge

Interstate Compact

Sexually Violent Predator Commitment

VICTIM INITIATED SERVICES

Public Comment Session
Advocacy Program

Facility Tours

Victim/Offender Dialogue

Apology Repository

Personalized Web Page
www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services/personalized-offender-information

VICTIM SERVICES LIAISONS

Facility Liaison Services

Visitation/Contact Screening

Release Plan Screening

Cease Correspondence

Facility Tours

Advocacy at Public Comment Sessions

Assistance with Navigating the System

Parole Liaison Services

Safety Planning

Family Reintegration

Assistance with Investigations/Sanctions/Revocations/Morrissey Hearings

Referrals/coordination with Community Partners