TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

FISCAL YEAR 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

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mission and history

The mission of the Victim Services
Division is to provide a central mechanism for crime victims to participate in the criminal justice system.

The Victim Services Section was established in the Parole Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) in 1993. The creation of the Victim Services Section was a result of crime victims requesting services, the foresight of staff and the passage of crime victims' rights by the Texas Legislature.

The initial responsibility of the section was to notify crime victims, whose offenders were incarcerated within the TDCJ Correctional Institutions Division, of the

offender's status. The number and types of notifications, some of which are legislatively mandated, have grown throughout the years to over 80 notifications for crime victims, surviving family members, witnesses who testified at trial and concerned citizens. In addition to the written notification services, a toll-free hotline and automated telephone services are also provided by the VSD.

The Victim Offender Mediation/Dialogue (VOM/D) program was formed within the section in 1993 after a crime victim requested this service. In 2001, the 77th Legislature passed legislation providing victims of violent crime the opportunity to request a meeting with offender(s) through this program.

The Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC) was transferred from the Office of the Governor to the Victim Services Section in 1996. The TxCVC serves as a central source of information for crime victims, victim advocates and criminal justice professionals and is tasked by legislative mandates regarding the Victim Impact Statement (VIS) and other services.

In November 1997, the Victim Services Section was elevated to division status, allowing the new division to more efficiently provide services.

The Victim Impact Panel Program (VIPP) was established within the VSD in 1999 to provide victims of crime the opportunity to share details of their victimization with criminal justice professionals, students and offenders while also heightening victim sensitivity and awareness.

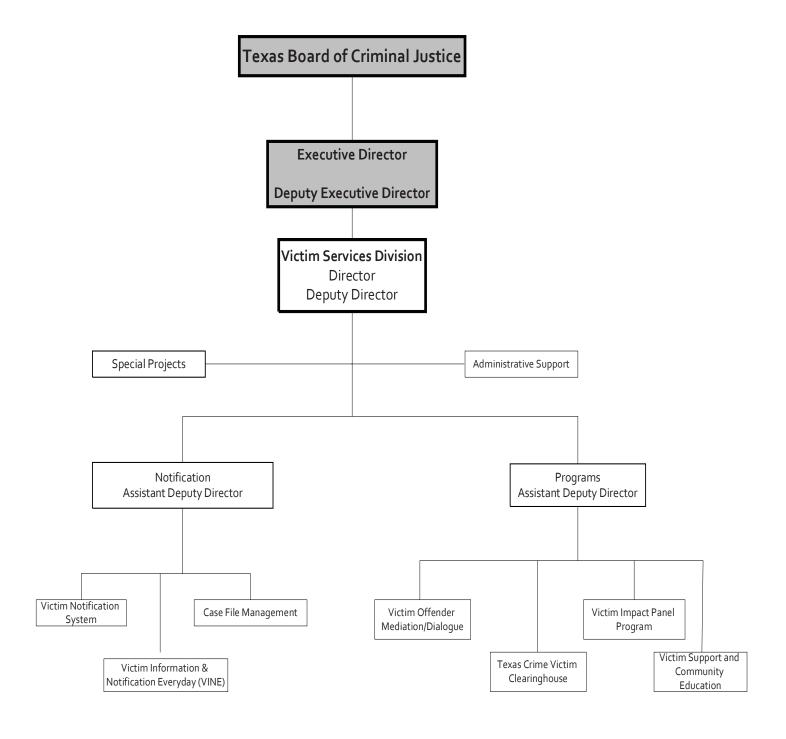
Since the section's establishment, VSD staff has provided trainings on victim issues. In 2004, the training section was reorganized and renamed the Victim Support and Community Education (VSCE) program. The program's role was enhanced by providing prison tours and assisting crime victims and support persons during the execution process.

In 2009, the Special Projects position was established to increase awareness, evaluate and enhance the VSD's services and programs through research and collaboration with internal and external entities. This position also serves as a point of contact for criminal justice professionals and victim advocates, and provides direct support and services to crime victims.

As of August 31, 2011, the VSD consists of 30 full-time employees and began the process of reorganizing the division. This reorganization will allow the VSD to continue to provide services that provide crime victims with an opportunity to exercise their constitutional and statutory rights.

The VSD continues to support the mission of the TDCJ to provide public safety, promote positive change in offender behavior, reintegrate offenders into society, and assist victims of crime.

organizational chart*



^{*}This reflects the organizational chart during FY 2011. Please note the division was reorganized in FY 2012.

summary of services

- A confidential Victim Notification System (VNS) that allows the VSD to communicate information with VNS registrants, including automatic and manually generated letter notifications;
- a toll-free hotline (800-848-4284) Notification staff are available on Monday through Friday to provide information and referrals;
- an automated toll-free telephone number allowing VNS registrants to obtain limited offender information in English and Spanish 24 hours a day. This service is provided through a partnership with Appriss, Inc. provider of the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE);
- an automated telephone call notifying a VNS registrant of an offender's release from incarceration, upon their request. This is provided through a partnership with Appriss, Inc.;
- assistance with processing Victim Impact Statements (VIS), protest letters and other information submitted by crime victims, surviving family members, witnesses who testified at trial and concerned citizens for review by the TxBPP;
- assistance for crime victims who request a meeting with the TxBPP regarding an offender's parole review;
- assistance in processing transmittals to the TxBPP, upon request from crime victims, to request special conditions
 be imposed on an offender's release or to request the TxBPP reconsider their previous favorable vote to release an
 offender;
- explanation of parole and mandatory supervision legislation;
- an opportunity for crime victims to initiate a mediation/dialogue with the offender(s) responsible for their victimization;
- an online Victim Assistance Resource Directory that provides resources in each Texas county;
- production and distribution of quarterly online newsletter regarding new and innovative victim services;
- production and distribution of publications regarding crime victims' rights and TDCJ VSD services;
- distribution of the revised Victim Impact Statement after each legislative session;
- a collection of Victim Impact Statement statistics from Texas counties;
- an opportunity for crime victims to participate on victim impact panels and speak about their victimization to criminal justice professionals, students and offenders;
- training for criminal justice professionals and victim advocates regarding crime victims' rights, victim sensitivity and the Victim Impact Statement;
- prison tours for victims, witnesses, surviving family members, concerned citizens and criminal justice professionals;
- assistance in preparing crime victims witnessing an execution, along with support during and after the execution for the witnesses and their support persons; and
- information and referral for restitution inquiries.

list of statutory mandates

The VSD provides constitutionally and statutorily mandated services to crime victims, which enables them to be informed, notified and participate in the criminal justice system. These services include notification, the VOM/D program and the TxCVC.

This list does not include changes in statutes during the 82nd Legislative Session, most of which became effective on September 1, 2011.

Texas Code of Criminal Procedure	The Texas Constitution
Art. 56.01	Art. 1. Section 30
Art. 56.02(a)(6)	Texas Government Code
Art. 56.02(a)(7)	Section 508.117
Art. 56.02(a)(12)	Section 508.153
Art. 56.02 (a)(13)	Section 508.190
Art. 56.03	Section 508.191
Art. 7A.07(d)	Section 508.313
Art. 42.09(8)(a)(4)	Section 508.324
Art. 42.21	Section 552.1325
Art. 46.03(4)(d)(8)*	Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code
Art. 56.03	Section 154.023 (c)
Art. 56.05	Section 154.023 (c)
Art. 56.08(c)(2)	Texas Family Code
Art. 56.11	Section 85.025 (c)
Art. 56.12	Texas Penal Code
Art. 56.13	Section 38.111
Art. 56.14	Texas Administrative Code
Art. 56.15	Rule 152.51
Art. 56.32(a)(9)(J)	Noie 152.51

^{*}Legislation was passed that amended this statute with an effective date of June 17, 2011.

fy 2011 highlights

Transition to web-based notification system 82nd Legislative Session: Monitored and Implemented Steps Revised the Victim Impact Statement The Victim's Informer newsletter: Went Green

During FY 2011, the VSD continued to provide constitutionally and statutorily mandated services, while seeking ways to enhance services and increase knowledge of and accessibility to those services.

The VSD is tasked with providing services in a financially efficient way. Like most state agencies, the division experienced a decrease in its allocated budget for FY 2012, and began preparing for the reduction during FY 2011. Even though the division faced fiscal challenges, the VSD continues to provide constitutionally and statutorily mandated services to crime victims and concerned citizens.

The Victim Notification section began the transition of producing the automated written notifications with Appriss, Inc., provider of the VINE system. This webbased system allows the VSD to more efficiently provide notification services. It will also allow the VSD to enhance services by generating VNS notifications via e-mail. The VNS registrants will be able to choose to receive notifications by letter, e-mail or both.

Many bills were passed during the 82nd Legislative Session that will impact crime victims and the criminal justice system – some directly impacted the VSD and the crime victims served by the division.

House Bill (HB) 1028 allows a convicting court to prohibit the defendant from contacting the victim or a member of the victim's family, during the defendant's term of confinement or imprisonment, as part of the sentence. This bill also provides provisions that direct the TDCJ to forfeit all or part of the offender's accrued good time, if an offender contacts the victim, and allows the TxBPP to consider whether the offender violated a policy adopted by the TDCJ under Section 498.0042(a), Government Code or under Art. 42.24, Code of Criminal Procedure (CCP). If the defendant is in the custody of a sheriff, the bill allows a sheriff to take part or all of the defendant's commutation away. The VSD is working with the TDCJ Correctional Institutions Division regarding the implementation of this bill - and further information will be available in FY 2012.

HB 2124 transferred the responsibility of victim notification to the clerk of the court, when the court is issuing an order that requires the release of an acquitted person on discharge or on a regimen of outpatient care. The statute directs the clerk of the court to inspect the VIS or other information made available to the court for the purpose of notification.

The VIS is a form used by a crime victim to detail and record the emotional and

psychological impact, physical injury, and economic loss a crime has had on a victim and their family members. This form is considered by law enforcement agencies, court personnel, probation departments, the TDCJ VSD and the TxBPP in many stages of the criminal justice system. The TxCVC is mandated, in conjunction with the TDCJ Community Justice Assistance Division (CJAD) and the TxBPP, to revise the VIS after every legislative session. The new VIS and VIS Activity Report can be viewed and downloaded from the TDCJ website. (www.tdcj.state.tx.us).

In an effort to maintain financially efficient services, the VSD now provides *The Victim's Informer* newsletter electronically. Subscribers can either provide their e-mail address or download the quarterly newsletter from the TDCJ website. (www.tdcj.state.tx.us)

collaboration

The VSD maintains a collaborative working relationship with TDCJ divisions, the TxBPP and other entities when providing services to crime victims. Below is a brief description of the TDCJ divisions the VSD works with on a routine basis and the TxBPP. This list is not all-inclusive.*

The TDCJ - Correctional Institutions Division (CID) is responsible for managing and operating the state's prison system for the confinement of adult felony offenders.

The TDCJ - CID Classification and Records Office (CRO) schedules, receives and processes offenders for intake, release and transfers for TDCJ - CID. CRO maintains offender records and serves as the principal storehouse for prison sentenced offender records for the TDCJ.

The TDCJ - Parole Division is responsible for the supervision of adult felony offenders released from prison on parole/mandatory supervision to complete their sentences in Texas communities.

The TDCJ - Interstate Compact Office facilitates the transfer of adult offenders placed on probation and parole whose supervision needs to be transferred to a state or territory other than the state or territory of conviction, based on public safety concerns and Interstate Compact Rules.

The TDCJ - Criminal Justice Assistance Division (CJAD) administers community supervision (adult probation) in Texas. The CJAD does not work directly with offenders, but with the community supervision and corrections departments (CSCDs) that supervise the offenders.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) reports directly to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice and oversees the agency's Investigations Department, and the OIG Administrative Support and Programs Department. This includes investigating a variety of allegations of criminal violations occurring on TDCJ property or authorized interests, including drug and contraband interdiction.

The TxBPP is a seven-member board with constitutional and statutory authority to approve or deny a parole release, to determine the rules and conditions of release, to revoke an offender's parole or mandatory supervision and to make executive clemency recommendations.

The Special Prosecution Unit (SPU) - Criminal Division works in coordination with the OIG in presenting and prosecuting investigations conducted by the OIG.

The Special Prosecution Unit (SPU) - Civil Division handles the civil commitment proceedings for offenders.

^{*} The VSD maintains a collaborative working relationships with many state agencies, non-profit organizations, associations and county or region-based organizations to provide services to crime victims.

notification

The VSD Notification Section provides accurate and pertinent information in a timely manner.

The TDCJ - VSD Victim Notification System (VNS) is a system that uses a confidential database to provide those registered on the VNS with written notifications regarding offender(s).

The system provides over 80 points of possible notification regarding several phases of an offender's incarceration and supervision if applicable, including the parole review process. Most notification letters are automatically generated, however some letters are manually created by VSD staff. Since each case is unique and the points of notification are typically driven by the status of the offender, VNS registrants may not receive each "point of notification" or letter.

Crime victims, surviving family members, witnesses who testified at trial and concerned citizens are eligible to register on the VNS. Registrants are added to the system upon their request. This request is either indicated by a victim's completed VIS that was forwarded by the court to the TDCJ in an offender's penitentiary packet, by the registrant contacting the VSD directly, or if it is indicated on the Appriss Transfer Report.

The VSD has partnered with Appriss, Inc., provider of the VINE, which is an automated system that provides crime victims with telephone notification of an offender's custody status. The Appriss Transfer Report is a weekly list (provided to VSD by Appriss, Inc.) of offenders who have been transferred from Texas county custody to the TDCJ - CID along with requests from individuals to be added to the VNS.

In addition to written notifications, VNS registrants can request a VINE/Call-out. Upon request through the VSD office, a VNS registrant can receive a telephone notification when an offender is being processed for release from the TDCJ custody, either by direct discharge or on parole/mandatory supervision.

VNS registrants are also provided an automated telephone service, VINE/Call-In, which they can call to receive limited offender information 24-hours a day in English or Spanish. This includes the offender's current unit of assignment and parole eligibility date.

The VSD notification staff are also available Monday – Friday on the toll-free hotline (800-848-4284) or by e-mail (victim. svc@tdcj.state.tx.us) to assist with inquiries regarding an offender's status/location, parole eligibility, the parole review process, crime victims' rights and other services offered by the VSD.

The Notification - Case File Management Section assist crime victims during the parole review process - and provides certain notifications. This includes notifying and assisting crime victims who wish to submit protest information when an offender is being reviewed for Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision (MRIS) or if the TxBPP will be considering withdrawing parole conditions, such as the Super Intensive Supervision Program (SISP).

The VSD also provides crime victims with: death notifications - when an offender dies while in TDCJ custody; photos of offenders incarcerated, upon request from the crime victim; notifications when the TDCJ - Public Information Office receives a request from media for information regarding an offender or to interview an offender; along with a variety of other notifications and services.

vns registrants

Crime victims, surviving family members, witnesses who testified at trial and concerned citizens are eligible to register

159,766 VNS registrants, as of August 31, 2011

added to the system upon

6,419 VNS registrants added in FY 2011

either indicated by a victim's

2,893 VNS registrants added from a VIS

 $3,526 \quad \text{VNS registrants added by request via telephone,} \\ \text{letter, e-mail, or VINE}$

by the court to the TDCJ in an offender's penitentiary packet, by the registrant contacting the VSD directly, or if it is indicated on the Appriss Transfer Report.

written notifications

96.490 correspondence* was sent in FY 2011 (this includes e-mail)

74,212 were automated letters

Currently, the VNS provides 66 automated letter notifications to VNS registrants. These notifications are automatically generated after an action for an offender has been recorded on the TDCJ mainframe server. Examples are:

- when an offender is placed in the parole review process;
- when an individual has been registered for a meeting with the TxBPP;
- after an offender's parole review process is complete and he/she has received a tentative favorable action (vote) for release;
- after an offender's parole review process is complete and release to parole/mandatory supervision was denied;
- when an offender's release certificate is issued for release to parole/mandatory supervision;
- when the offender is released to the custody of a law enforcement agency for a bench warrant; and
- when an offender has returned to TDCJ custody from bench warrant.

Notifications are manually generated by VSD staff either because the notification cannot be linked to an action recorded on the TDCJ mainframe server or the notification is deemed urgent. When notifications are deemed urgent, telephone and e-mail notifications precede the manually created notification. Examples are:

- when an offender escapes from TDCJ CID custody;
- when an escapee is captured;
- after protest information, submitted by crime victims, regarding an offender's release to supervision is referred to the TxBPP by the VSD staff and a decision has been made;
- after crime victims' requests for special conditions of release have been referred to the TxBPP by the VSD staff and a decision has been made; and
- when an offender dies while incarcerated or on parole/mandatory supervision.

^{*} This reflects correspondence sent by the VSD for notification and program staff.

other notifications and services

• Death Notifications

The VSD will notify VNS registrants if the offender dies while incarcerated or on parole.

255 notifications were made during FY 2011

• Media Request Notifications

If a media representative contacts the TDCJ Public Information Office, the VSD will notify the crime victim or surviving family member by telephone that an article or interview may be published or aired. This notification allows VNS registrants to be informed of possible articles or broadcasts, which may or may not include the offender's photo.

 $283\,$ notifications were made during FY 2011

SPU Civil Division

The SPU Civil Division handles the civil commitment proceedings to civilly commit a sexually violent predator to an outpatient treatment program. The VSD assists the SPU Civil Division by notifying crime victims registered on the VNS if the offender was being considered for civil commitment by the SPU and provides referrals to the SPU investigators for further information.

18 notifications were made during FY 2011

• Offender Photos

Upon request from a crime victims, the VSD will provide a current photo of the offender. This may assist in the crime victim's safety planning before the offender is being processed for release. Photos can be either mailed or e-mailed to the crime victim.

240 photos were provided in FY 2011

OIG

If the VSD is contacted by a crime victim stating their offender has contacted them either directly or indirectly, the VSD staff will collect the information and forward their statement to the OIG for further investigation. The VSD will also notify the OIG if an allegation is made that an offender is listed on a social networking site. In certain instances, the offender may be in violation of TDCJ policy and state law. The VSD staff may also discuss victims' rights, safety concerns and other available services with the crime victim.

68 referrals were made to the OIG

collaboration with the TxBPP

The VSD collaboration with the TxBPP includes:

- processing VISs, protest letters and other information submitted on behalf of crime victims to the TxBPP;
- notifying the TxBPP of crime victims who are requesting a meeting with a board member or commissioner;
- providing information and explanation of parole and mandatory supervision laws;
- processing transmittals to the TxBPP, upon request from the crime victim; and
- notifying crime victims of the TxBPP's decision regarding their requests for special conditions.

1,414 confirmations to a VNS registrants were sent, upon their request to meet with the TxBPP

 $3,947 \quad \text{Board meeting notifications were sent to VNS registrants}$

268 transmittals were processed for the TxBPP's review

Additional TxBPP reviews and notifications

• MRIS Notification

The VSD notifies VNS registrants if the TDCJ Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) is considering recommending an offender to be reviewed by the TxBPP for release to MRIS. The VSD staff will assist crime victims in submitting information for the TxBPP to consider during the offender's review.

 $166\,$ notifications* were made during FY 2011

• SISP Withdrawal

The VSD notifies VNS registrants if the TxBPP will be considering the withdrawal of the SISP condition imposed on the parolee's release. The SISP is the highest level of supervision for a parolee.

457 notifications were made during FY 2011

^{*} This represents notifications made since March 2011.

correspondence received

The VSD staff receives and processes protest letters and other information submitted by crime victims and concerned citizens for review by the TxBPP during an offender's parole review. In addition, the VSD staff receives other inquiries regarding the VSD programs and services.

 $30,\!372$ correspondence* was received in FY 2011 (this includes e-mail)

 $16,062 \quad \text{protest or other information submitted for the TxBPP to review during an offender's parole review}$

2.923 VISs were received and processed

^{*} This reflects protest letters, e-mails and other correspondence received by the VSD for notification and program staff.

telephone and automated calls

The VSD Notification staff are available Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. and from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. thru the toll-free hotline to provide information and assistance to crime victims, surviving family members, witnesses who testified at trial and concerned citizens. VSD staff can add registrants to the VNS, provide public information, explain parole/mandatory supervision laws and provide appropriate referrals.

The VSD has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Texas Advocacy Project for protective order referrals. The VSD Notification staff will refer crime victims who state they have a protective order against the offender/respondent to the Texas Advocacy Project for assistance and information on extending their protective order for one year after the offender has been released from incarceration (Texas Family Code 85.025(c)).

32,548

telephone calls* were made or received in FY 2011

589

referrals to the Texas Advocacy Project

The TDCJ - VSD has partnered with Appriss, provider of VINE, to enhance the VNS with the addition of the VINE/Call-In and VINE/Call-Out Features. These automated telephone notification services are in addition to written notifications.

10,848

telephone calls were received by the automated telephone system from VNS registrants during FY 2011

788

call-out notifications were sent to VNS registrants during FY 2011

The VINE/Call-In Feature:

VNS registrants can obtain limited offender information in English and Spanish 24-hours a day, seven days a week with the VINE/Call-In feature. Limited information includes the offender's location and parole eligibility date.

The VINE/Call-Out Feature:

VNS registrants can also request, through the VSD to receive the Call-Out feature, which places a call to the VNS registrant when the offender is being released from incarceration either on parole/mandatory supervision or direct discharge.

^{*} This reflects all telephone calls made or received by the VSD for notification and program staff.

program section

Each TDCJ - VSD Program is unique and offers a variety of services for crime victims, victim service providers and criminal justice professionals.

VOM/D

Victim Offender Mediation/Dialogue (VOM/D): provides victims and surviving family members of violent crime an opportunity to initiate a meeting with the offender responsible for their victimization.

VIPP

Victim Impact Panel Program (VIPP): provides an opportunity for crime victims to tell their story of victimization with criminal justice professionals, students and offenders.

TxCVC

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC): serves as a central source of information for crime victims, criminal justice professionals and victim advocates. They are also mandated to revise the Victim Impact Statement (VIS) after each legislative session and collect VIS statistics from each district and county attorney's office.

VSCE

Victim Support and Community Education (VSCE): provides training on victim sensitivity and victim related issues. They also provide direct support for crime victims who are witnessing an execution and their support persons.

victim offender mediation/ dialogue

 $82_{\scriptscriptstyle{\mathsf{cases}}}$ initiated *

49 mediations were conducted

 $26\,\mathsf{person}\,\mathsf{to}\,\mathsf{person}\,\mathsf{mediations}$

 $23\,$ creative alternative mediations

The VOM/D program provides an opportunity for victims or surviving family members of violent crime to initiate an in-person meeting with the offender responsible for their victimization. Crime victims have expressed a sense of taking back control once they meet directly with the offender to describe the impact of their victimization and to receive answers to questions regarding the offense.

Crime victims initiate a VOM/D case. The offender has to be incarcerated, on parole/mandatory supervision or on community supervision (probation). The process is voluntary for the crime victim and offender.

This program is not intended to have any bearing on the participating offender's status in the judicial, appellate or corrections systems. The mediator assigned the VOM/D case will meet with the crime victim and offender separately during the preparation phase. The mediation is scheduled when both participants and the mediator agree that they are ready to meet in-person.

Mediations are typically conducted at the facility where the offender is incarcerated or at the offender's parole or probation office. Creative alternatives to mediation are also an option, and typically include a letter written by the victim.

^{*} Victims of violent crime can initiate a VOM/D case by contacting the VSD. Some VOM/D cases are initiated in one fiscal year, but are not conducted until a later fiscal year due to the waiting list for assignment and VOM/D's preparation phase.

texas crime victim clearinghouse

The TxCVC serves as a central source of information for crime victims, victim service providers and criminal justice professionals. The TxCVC produces and distributes the *Victim's Informer* newsletter and other VSD informational brochures, maintains the online Resource Directory, collects the VIS Activity Report from district and county attorney's offices, provides training for the Victim Impact Statement, produces a training conference, and revises the Victim Impact Statement after each legislative session.

Informational Materials:

List of Brochures/Publications:

Your Rights, Your Voice, Your Participation: provides information on TDCJVSD programs and services

It's Your Voice: provides information on the Victim Impact Statement and how it is used in the criminal justice system

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse: lists the crime victims' rights and referral information for national and Texas-based organizations

Do You Know Your Additional Rights: provides a summary of additional crime victims' rights

Crime Victim Assistance Standards: a publication developed to aid law enforcement officers and attorneys representing the State of Texas (available online only)

Quarterly Newsletter:

The Victim's Informer: provides information on new and innovative services (available online only)

Victim Assistance Resource Directory: an online resource that provides national, state and local resources (categorized by Texas county) for crime victims, victim advocates and criminal justice professionals

vis revision VICTIM CONTACT INFORMATION

YOUR VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR The TxCVC, in partnership with the TDCJ - CJAD and the TxE PP, is mandated by Art. 56.03, Code of Criminal Procedure to update the VIS every-odd numbered year.

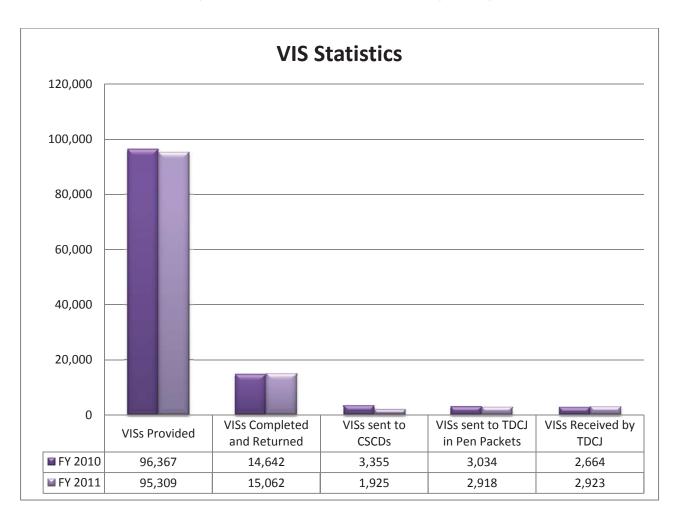
The 2011 VIS Revision Committee consisted of representatives from these three organizations, along with victim assistance coordinators for rural and suburban prosecutor's offices, a crime victim, and representatives from the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, Texas Youth Commission (TYC) (effective September 1, 2011, the TYC merged with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and was named the Texas Juvenile Justice Department), and the Texas District and County Attorneys Association.

This Confidential Information Sheet will be used by criminal ju SECTIONS 1 & 2. TO BE COMPLETED BY THE VICTIM, PARENT/GUARDIAN C The revised VIS and the VIS Activity Report form can be downloaded from the TDCJ VSD website (www.

The TxCVC is mandated by Art. 56.05, Code of Criminal Procedure to develop a survey plan to maintain statistics on the numbers and types of persons who are provided VISs during each year.

The VSD receives the VIS Activity Report from district or county attorney's office or both. These reports include how many VISs are provided to crime victims and how many VISs were completed and returned for each perspective county. The following chart (first four columns) reflects the total of the statistics reported on the VIS Activity Report for each Texas county for FY 2011. Refer to Appendix A for a description of each column and a breakdown for each Texas county.

The last column reflects the number of VISs received by the TDCJ during FY 2011. This includes VISs forwarded from TDCJ - CID or received directly into the VSD office from a district or county attorney's office or both.



vis training

64 trainings or round-tables were conducted in FY 2011

723 attendees were present

"Victim Impact Statements: The Victims' Voice in the Criminal Justice Process" is a training designed for victim assistance and criminal justice professionals with statutory responsibilities for the handling of VISs. This includes victim assistance coordinators in district and county attorneys' offices, prosecutors, court coordinators, district clerks, judges, probation officers and law enforcement personnel. The materials for the training are available on the TDCJ - VSD website (www.tdcj.state.tx.us).

During FY 2011, TxCVC staff also conducted round-table discussions regarding the VIS.

Since the implementation of this training, a representative for each Texas county - primarily a victim assistance coordinator - has either attended a training, round-table discussion or received the training materials.

victim impact panel program

Provides an opportunity for crime victims to share their story of victimization and the subsequent journey through the criminal justice system. Audience members include criminal justice professionals, students studying criminal justice or victimology and offenders.

By sharing details of their victimization and its long-term impact, crime victims have a forum to discuss their experience while also impacting the criminal justice system.

Victim sensitivity and awareness is heightened among audience members, and offender accountability is addressed. Many offenders have expressed remorse for their actions and report having a better understanding of the widespread negative results of criminal behavior after attending a Victim Impact Panel.

51 Panels were conducted in the FY 2011.

 $104\,$ panelists participated $1,846\,$ individuals attended

13 were new panelists 603 were criminal justice professionals or students

91 were existing panelists 1,243 were offenders

víctím support & community education

The VSCE provides direct support for victims/surviving family members and their support persons when preparing them for and accompanying them to the execution of the offender responsible for their victimization. The VSCE also conducts prison tours for victims/survivors and criminal justice professionals. In addition to these services, the VSCE provides training on victim sensitivity and other victim services topics to an array of audiences.

- 8 Executions were attended by victim witnesses, their support persons and VSD staff
 - $29\,$ Victims witnessed the execution of the offender
 - $5 \ \ \text{Support persons accompanied victim witnesses}$
- $5_{\, \text{Prison tours were conducted}}$
 - $69 \, {\scriptstyle \, \text{Prison tour participants}}$
- $18_{\rm \, trainings \, were \, conducted \, with \, a \, total \, of} 426_{\rm \, attendees}$
 - $410\,\mathrm{attendees}$ were TDCJ employees
 - $16\,{\rm attendees\,were\,victim\,advocates}$

looking forward

The TDCJ Victim Services Division strives to provide constitutionally and statutorily mandated services, while continuing to increase awareness and accessibility to those services.

As the VSD begins FY 2012, the division will focus on the use of technology and the division's staff to increase awareness and accessibility of services. The division's goal is to inform crime victims, victim advocates and criminal justice professionals of crime victims' rights and the avenues they may elect to exercise those rights.

The Notification Section will continue to evaluate and advance the notifications provided by the VSD. A focus on technology and partnership with Appriss, Inc., provider of the VINE will allow the notifications to be provided via e-mail for VNS registrants. This will be in addition to the written notifications.

At the beginning of FY 2012, the VSD will begin to administer an Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG) from the Office of the Attorney General. This grant funds three strategically placed Regional Victim Service Coordinators in Texas. This will allow the VSD to increase awareness and access to our services by providing a local point of contact for victim service providers and crime victims.

In addition, the VSD is evaluating the division's website and the potential to interact with and provide information to crime victims, victim service providers and the criminal justice professionals. This may include the use of webinars and web-based training.

In FY 2012, the VSD will reorganize the division to concentrate on providing services that allow crime victims to exercise their constitutional and statutory rights.

The VSD will also continue to maintain and build new collaborative relationships with other TDCJ divisions, the TxBPP, other state agencies, associations, and county and region-based organizations when serving crime victims. The VSD realizes these collaborative working relationships create a more cohesive system for crime victims in the state of Texas.

vis statistics - appendix a

The TxCVC is mandated by Art. 56.05, Code of Criminal Procedure to develop a survey plan to maintain statistics on the numbers and types of persons who are provided VIS during each year.

The following spreadsheet reflects the statistics reported on the VIS Activity Report for each Texas county for the FY 2011. The VSD may have received a report from the district or county attorney's office or both.

Definitions for the VIS Activity Report Spreadsheet:

Victim Impact Statement (VIS): is a form used by a crime victim to record the emotional and psychological impact, physical injury and economic loss a crime has had on a victim and his or her family members. This form provides information to personnel in many stages of the criminal justice system, including the court system and the parole review process.

The VISs are provided to victims as defined in the Article 56.01, Code of Criminal Procedure.

Victim Impact Statement Activity Report: is a statistical report used to collect information on the VIS and is required to be reported to the TxCVC under Article 56.05, Code of Criminal Procedure. A report is required from all district and county attorneys who represent the 254 counties in Texas and is submitted by the respective office's Victim Assistance Coordinator or the person assigned to those duties. The reports are collected on a quarterly basis to track VIS activity.

TDCJ - **Correctional Institutions Division (CID)**: is a division within TDCJ that is responsible for managing and operating the state's prison system for the confinement of adult felony offenders.

TDCJ CID - **Classification and Records Office (CRO):** is a department within TDCJ that schedules, receives, and processes offenders for intake, release and transfers for TDCJ CID. CRO maintains offender records and serves as the principal storehouse for prison-sentenced offender records for TDCJ.

Texas Youth Commission (TYC): is the juvenile corrections agency for the state. Effective September 1, 2011, the TYC merged with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and was named the Texas **Juvenile Justice Department.**

Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD): is a department that supervises offenders who have been placed under community supervision (adult probation) by local courts. CSCDs are under the authority of judicial district courts but receive partial funding through TDCJ Community Justice Assistance Division.

Explanation of VIS Activity Report Spreadsheet:

Column A: represents all 254 counties in Texas. The VSD may have received a VIS Activity Report from the county attorney's office, district attorney's office or both.

Column B: represents the number of VISs provided to crime victims by the county attorney's office, district attorney's office or both during the FY 2011 as reported on the VIS Activity Report.

Column C: represents the number of completed VISs returned by the crime victim to the county attorney's office, district attorney's office or both during the FY 2011 as reported on the VIS Activity Report.

Column D: represents the rate of return for each county. This rate is calculated by comparing the VISs provided and returned during FY 2011. It is important to note that a VIS may have been provided in one fiscal year, but returned in another.

Column E: represents the number of completed VISs that were sent in the penitentiary packets to the TDCJ CID by the county attorney's office, district attorney's office or both for FY 2011 as reported on the VIS Activity Report.

Column F: represents the number of completed VISs sent to the TYC by the county attorney's office, district attorney's office or both for FY 2011 as reported on the VIS Activity Report.

Column G: represents the number of completed VISs sent to the local CSCDs by the county attorney's office, district attorney's office or both for FY 2011 as reported on the VIS Activity Report.

Non-Reported (NR): is a code used to designate no VIS Activity Reports were received from the county attorney's office or district attorney's office.

A	В	C	D	E	F	G
				Number of		
				VISs sent to		
	Number of	Number of	Rate of	TDCJ CID in	Number of	Number of
	VISs provided	VISs returned	Return of	Penitentiary	VISs sent to	VISs sent to
County	to victims	by victims	VISs	Packets	the TYC	CSCD
Anderson	386	27	7%	13	0	2
Andrews	25	9	36%	0	0	5
Angelina	136	25	18%	2	0	0
Aransas	54	6	11%	0	1	2
Archer	3	3	100%	0	0	0
Armstrong	0	0	0%	0	0	1
Atascosa	150	20	13%	3	1	3
Austin	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Bailey	2	3	150%	2	0	0
Bandera	10	2	20%	0	0	0
Bastrop	103	24	23%	11	0	2
Baylor	10	4	40%	1	0	1
Bee	NR					
Bell	1,121	217	19%	57	19	25
Bexar	9,070	1,013	11%	0	0	0
Blanco	5	1	20%	0	0	0
Borden	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Bosque	44	26	59%	3	5	16
Bowie	153	21	14%	6	0	0
Brazoria	1,406	131	9%	1	1	47
Brazos	760	364	48%	0	86	278
Brewster	8	2	25%	0	0	0
Briscoe	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Brooks	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Brown	28	3	11%	5	0	1
Burleson	NR					
Burnet	127	53	42%	9	1	8
Caldwell	263	61	23%	10	5	39
Calhoun	37	10	27%	0	0	1
Callahan	36	8	22%	0	0	0
Cameron	783	106	14%	24	6	19
Camp	NR					
Carson	9	4	44%	0	3	3
Cass	113	9	8%	4	1	6
Castro	0	0	0%	0	0	0

A	В	С	D	E	F	G
				Number of		
				VISs sent to		
	Number of	Number of	Rate of	TDCJ CID in	Number of	Number of
	VISs provided	VISs returned	Return of	Penitentiary	VISs sent to	VISs sent to
County	to victims	by victims	VISs	Packets	the TYC	CSCD
Chambers	92	27	29%	11	2	0
Cherokee	1	0	0%	0	0	0
Childress	5	3	60%	1	0	1
Clay	1	0	0%	0	0	0
Cochran	2	0	0%	0	0	0
Coke	9	3	33%	0	0	0
Coleman	11	1	9%	0	2	2
Collin	1,298	187	14%	30	27	10
Collingsworth	7	1	14%	2	0	1
Colorado	58	28	48%	78	9	45
Comal	131	23	18%	4	1	0
Comanche	32	18	56%	11	1	2
Concho	3	0	0%	0	0	0
Cooke	76	7	9%	2	0	0
Coryell	530	71	13%	9	2	3
Cottle	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Crane	25	2	8%	0	0	0
Crockett	28	6	21%	0	0	1
Crosby	13	4	31%	0	0	0
Culberson	1	0	0%	0	0	0
Dallam	8	2	25%	0	0	0
Dallas	11,349	1,526	13%	604	0	0
Dawson	2	0	0%	0	0	0
Deaf Smith	97	8	8%	0	0	0
Delta	11	3	27%	0	1	0
Denton	1,117	214	19%	39	0	0
DeWitt	28	9	32%	2	1	1
Dickens	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Dimmit	21	0	0%	0	0	0
Donley	10	3	30%	3	0	1
Duval	31	12	39%	1	1	1
Eastland	19	3	16%	1	2	0
Ector	553	88	16%	30	29	34
Edwards	4	2	50%	2	0	0

A	В	C	D	E	F	G
	Number of	Number of	Rate of	Number of VISs sent to TDCJ CID in	Number of	Number of
	VISs provided	VISs returned	Return of	Penitentiary	VISs sent to	VISs sent to
County	to victims	by victims	VISs	Packets	the TYC	CSCD
El Paso	7,812	1,115	14%	56	249	255
Ellis	344	94	27%	0	4	4
Erath	45	7	16%	0	0	0
Falls	68	27	40%	0	6	0
Fannin	78	46	59%	19	8	8
Fayette	21	5	24%	2	0	0
Fisher	9	0	0%	0	0	0
Floyd	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Foard	1	0	0%	0	0	0
Franklin	8	2	25%	0	1	0
Freestone	NR					
Frio	21	4	19%	3	0	0
Ft. Bend	2,901	620	21%	20	10	21
Gaines	1	0	0%	0	0	0
Galveston	688	142	21%	56	12	25
Garza	1	0	0%	0	0	0
Gillespie	6	4	67%	0	0	0
Glasscock	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Goliad	22	6	27%	0	1	2
Gonzales	28	34	121%	18	15	26
Gray	58	11	19%	1	0	2
Grayson	227	37	16%	37	33	22
Gregg	90	45	50%	12	8	5
Grimes	36	16	44%	4	12	3
Guadalupe	1,008	284	28%	50	29	88
Hale	137	17	12%	6	3	3
Hall	3	5	167%	5	0	0
Hamilton	30	17	57%	3	1	2
Hansford	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Hardeman	2	0	0%	0	0	0
Hardin	134	12	9%	10	0	0
Harris	15,364	2,085	14%	24	0	0
Harrison	79	7	9%	0	0	0
Hartley	1	1	100%	0	0	0
Haskell	10	5	50%	2	0	0

A	В	C	D	E	F	G
				Number of		
				VISs sent to		
	Number of	Number of	Rate of	TDCJ CID in	Number of	Number of
	VISs provided	VISs returned	Return of	Penitentiary	VISs sent to	VISs sent to
County	to victims	by victims	VISs	Packets	the TYC	CSCD
Hays	462	19	4%	16	0	2
Hemphill	15	4	27%	0	0	3
Henderson	40	15	38%	9	0	0
Hidalgo	NR					
Hill	192	45	23%	9	5	9
Hockley	25	2	8%	0	0	0
Hood	71	5	7%	5	0	4
Hopkins	53	14	26%	4	2	1
Houston	156	29	19%	1	1	0
Howard	16	5	31%	1	0	0
Hudspeth	1	0	0%	0	0	0
Hunt	346	55	16%	0	0	0
Hutchinson	58	11	19%	0	1	0
Irion	2	1	50%	1	0	0
Jack	7	0	0%	1	0	0
Jackson	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Jasper	141	50	35%	27	5	5
Jeff Davis	NR					
Jefferson	NR					
Jim Hogg	3	0	0%	0	0	0
Jim Wells	NR					
Johnson	190	48	25%	24	5	21
Jones	40	16	40%	1	0	3
Karnes	15	4	27%	1	4	0
Kaufman	620	142	23%	35	11	17
Kendall	83	26	31%	2	6	6
Kenedy	1	0	0%	0	0	0
Kent	2	0	0%	0	0	0
Kerr	248	179	72%	70	32	88
Kimble	13	5	38%	0	0	0
King	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Kinney	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Kleberg	174	42	24%	0	4	8
Knox	6	2	33%	0	0	0
La Salle	2	2	100%	0	0	1

A	В	C	D	E	F	G
County	Number of VISs provided to victims	Number of VISs returned by victims	Rate of Return of VISs	Number of VISs sent to TDCJ CID in Penitentiary Packets	Number of VISs sent to the TYC	Number of VISs sent to CSCD
Lamar	83	56	67%	28	3	5
Lamb	20	3	15%	1	1	2
Lampasas	35	9	26%	0	0	0
Lavaca	31	15	48%	3	8	12
Lee	7	0	0%	0	0	0
Leon	58	20	34%	8	0	3
Liberty	133	24	18%	0	2	0
Limestone	148	36	24%	8	7	7
Lipscomb	7	0	0%	0	0	0
Live Oak	8	3	38%	0	0	0
Llano	88	33	38%	2	5	1
Loving	NR					
Lubbock	866	121	14%	29	3	17
Lynn	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Madison	NR					
Marion	2	0	0%	0	0	0
Martin	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Mason	4	3	75%	0	0	0
Matagorda	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Maverick	13	1	8%	0	0	0
McCulloch	28	10	36%	0	0	0
McLennan	519	38	7%	0	0	0
McMullen	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Medina	56	14	25%	10	0	0
Menard	17	14	82%	0	0	0
Midland	834	323	39%	41	18	33
Milam	110	48	44%	5	1	4
Mills	7	5	71%	0	0	0
Mitchell	14	3	21%	0	0	3
Montague	14	4	29%	0	0	0
Montgomery	1,711	139	8%	32	21	28
Moore	68	9	13%	1	0	0
Morris	NR					
Motley	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Nacagdoches	207	66	32%	13	7	7

A	В	C	D	E	F	G
				Number of		
				VISs sent to		
	Number of	Number of	Rate of	TDCJ CID in	Number of	Number of
	VISs provided	VISs returned	Return of	Penitentiary	VISs sent to	VISs sent to
County	to victims	by victims	VISs	Packets	the TYC	CSCD
Navarro	163	40	25%	10	6	17
Newton	74	20	27%	4	1	8
Nolan	23	7	30%	0	4	2
Nueces	1,350	214	16%	34	33	42
Ochiltree	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Oldham	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Orange	NR					
Palo Pinto	28	13	46%	11	0	1
Panola	NR					
Parker	402	27	7%	2	3	0
Parmer	10	4	40%	0	0	0
Pecos	152	12	8%	0	0	0
Polk	85	19	22%	5	0	3
Potter	1,644	414	25%	422	212	135
Presidio	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Rains	NR					
Randall	848	201	24%	121	41	78
Reagan	13	2	15%	0	0	1
Real	1	0	0%	0	0	0
Red River	19	1	5%	0	0	0
Reeves	24	4	17%	0	2	0
Refugio	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Roberts	1	1	100%	0	0	0
Robertson	52	16	31%	2	0	2
Rockwall	75	14	19%	1	0	0
Runnels	11	4	36%	2	0	0
Rusk	44	15	34%	4	0	9
Sabine	7	4	57%	0	0	1
San Augustine	3	1	33%	0	0	0
San Jacinto	173	23	13%	12	0	0
San Patricio	108	15	14%	0	0	2
San Saba	14	4	29%	1	0	0
Schleicher	3	0	0%	0	0	0
Scurry	24	4	17%	1	0	0
Shackelford	4	3	75%	0	0	0

A	В	С	D	E	F	G
County	Number of VISs provided to victims	Number of VISs returned by victims	Rate of Return of VISs	Number of VISs sent to TDCJ CID in Penitentiary Packets	Number of VISs sent to the TYC	Number of VISs sent to CSCD
Shelby	5	4	80%	0	0	0
Sherman	4	4	100%	0	0	0
Smith	773	106	14%	46	27	57
Somervell	13	2	15%	0	0	0
Starr	65	10	15%	4	0	0
Stephens	13	0	0%	0	0	0
Sterling	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Stonewall	1	0	0%	0	1	0
Sutton	17	0	0%	0	0	0
Swisher	3	0	0%	0	0	0
Tarrant	9,128	1,409	15%	422	54	167
Taylor	510	104	20%	22	8	18
Terrell	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Terry	14	1	7%	0	0	0
Throckmorton	1	0	0%	0	0	0
Titus	1	0	0%	0	0	0
Tom Green	311	66	21%	14	0	0
Travis	8,316	882	11%	0	0	0
Trinity	82	27	33%	3	2	5
Tyler	85	6	7%	0	0	0
Upshur	51	10	20%	0	0	0
Upton	10	0	0%	0	0	0
Uvalde	68	14	21%	4	2	9
Val Verde	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Van Zandt	181	73	40%	13	0	9
Victoria	104	38	37%	25	1	6
Walker	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Waller	226	50	22%	13	0	11
Ward	0	0	0%	0	0	0
Washington	19	5	26%	2	1	2
Webb	735	79	11%	0	30	1
Wharton	10	3	30%	0	2	1
Wheeler	17	0	0%	0	0	0
Wichita	199	100	50%	0	0	0

A	В	C	D	E	F	G
	Number of	Number of	Rate of	Number of VISs sent to TDCJ CID in	Number of	Number of
	VISs provided		Return of	Penitentiary	VISs sent to	VISs sent to
County	to victims	by victims	VISs	Packets	the TYC	CSCD
Wilbarger	24	3	13%	3	0	0
Willacy	17	10	59%	3	0	0
Williamson	857	98	11%	0	4	11
Wilson	35	8	23%	8	1	3
Winkler	8	0	0%	0	0	0
Wise	216	63	29%	5	2	3
Wood	85	31	36%	2	2	4
Yoakum	5	2	40%	0	0	0
Young	22	3	14%	0	0	0
Zapata	NR					
Zavala	5	0	0%	0	0	0
TOTALS:	95,309	15,062	16%	2,918	1,190	1,925

Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division

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E-mail: victim.svc@tdcj.state.tx.us

TDCJ website at: www.tdcj.state.tx.us

The mission of Victim Services Division is to provide a central mechanism for crime victims to participate in the criminal justice system.