



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

FISCAL YEAR 2012
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 Division (VSD) was first established as a section 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 right to request victim-offender mediation 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. The TxCVC also provides execution accompaniment, victim impact panel and training services.

In November 1997, the Victim Services Section was elevated to

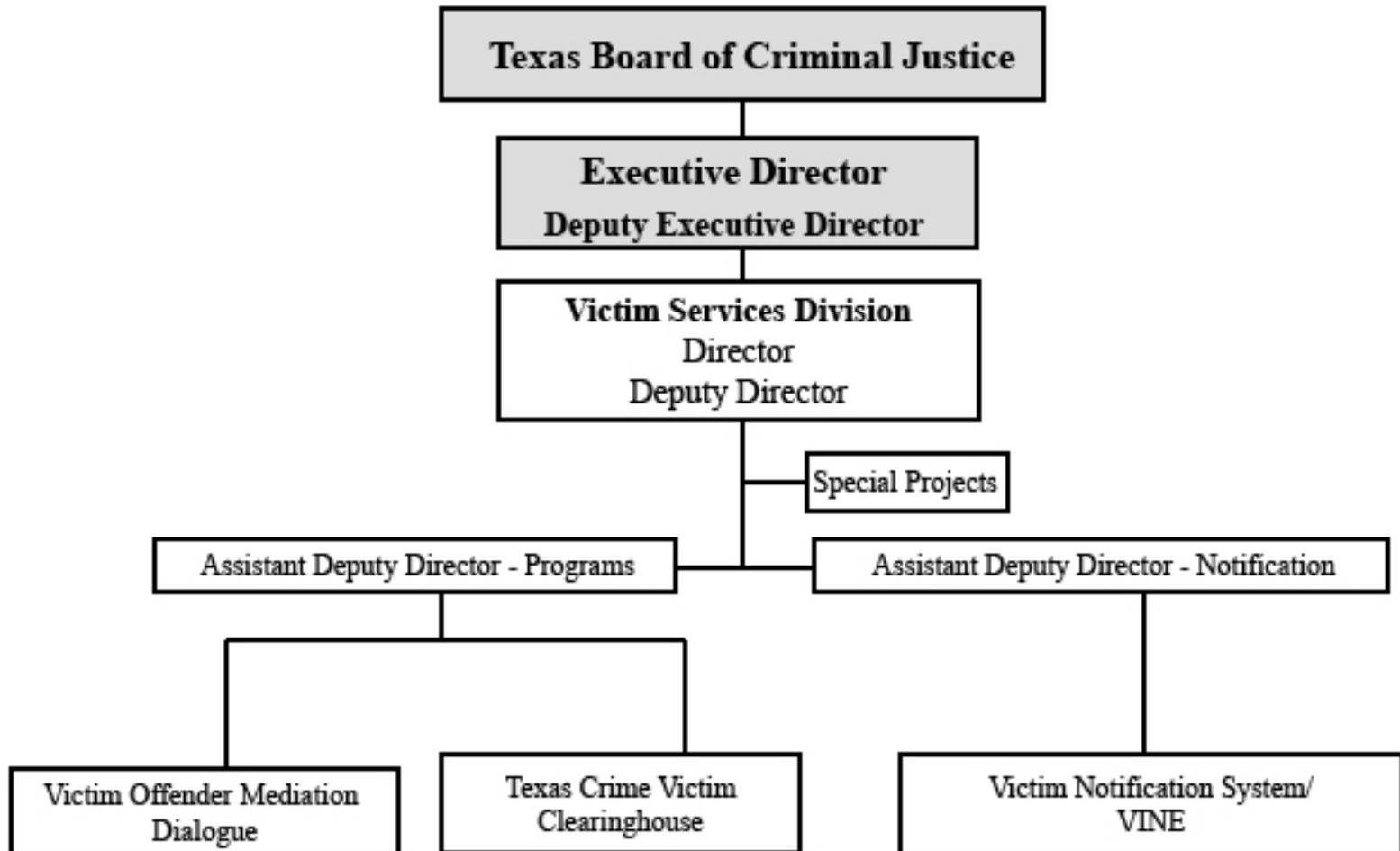
division status, allowing the new division to more efficiently provide services.

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, 2012, the VSD consists of 34 full-time employees (general revenue and grant-funded).

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



Summary of Services

- Confidential Victim Notification System (VNS) that allows the VSD to communicate information to VNS registrants, including automated and manually generated notifications by letter, e-mail or both
- Toll-free hotline (800-848-4284) - notification staff are available Monday through Friday to provide offender information and referrals
- Automated toll-free telephone number allowing VNS registrants to obtain limited offender information in English and Spanish 24 hours a day
- Automated telephone call notifying a VNS registrant, upon their request, that the offender is being processed for release from incarceration
- 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 Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (TxBPP)
- Assistance for crime victims who request a meeting with the TxBPP regarding an offender's parole review
- Assistance in transmitting to the TxBPP a crime victim's request for imposition of special conditions on an offender's release or a crime victim's request that the TxBPP reconsider their previous favorable vote to release an offender
- Explanation of parole and mandatory supervision procedures
- Facilitation of the mediation/dialogue process for crime victims who request a mediation/dialogue with the offender(s) responsible for their victimization
- Distribution of the revised Victim Impact Statement after each legislative session
- Collect, compile and report Victim Impact Statement statistics from Texas counties
- Training provided in workshops, webinars and online for criminal justice professionals and victim advocates regarding crime victims' rights, victim sensitivity and the Victim Impact Statement
- Assistance in preparing crime victims witnessing an execution, along with support during and after the execution for the witnesses and their support persons
- 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
- Information and referral for restitution inquiries

Statutory Mandates

The VSD provides constitutionally and statutorily mandated services to crime victims, which enables them to exercise their rights regarding information, notification, participation and protection.

The Texas Constitution

Art. 1. Section 30

Texas Code of Criminal Procedure

Art. 56.01

Art. 56.02(a)(6)

Art. 56.02(a)(7)

Art. 56.02(a)(12)

Art. 56.02 (a)(13)

Art. 7A.07(c)

Art. 42.09(8)(a)(4)

Art. 42.21

Art. 42.24

Art. 56.03

Art. 56.05

Art. 56.08(c)(2)

Art. 56.11

Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, continued

Art. 56.12

Art. 56.13

Art. 56.14

Art. 56.15

Art. 56.32(a)(9)(J)

Texas Government Code

Section 498.0042

Section 508.117

Section 508.153

Section 508.1531

Section 508.190

Section 508.191

Section 508.313

Section 508.324

Section 552.1325

Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code

Section 154.023 (c)

Texas Family Code

Section 85.025 (c)

Texas Penal Code

Section 38.111

Texas Health and Safety Code

Section 841.002(a)(2)

Texas Administrative Code

Rule 152.51

FY 2012 Highlights



Offering E-mail notifications;

The VNS registrants can elect to receive notifications by e-mail, letter or both. During FY 2012, the VSD sent a mass mail-out to all active VNS registrants notifying them of this new service and the automated call-out telephone service VSD provides to VNS registrants, upon their request. An e-mail address and web-based form were created to provide VNS registrants with a simple way to indicate which services they choose to receive. The VSD received a positive response to the mass mail-out and continue to advise VNS registrants of this new service.

Providing more direct access to VSD staff; and

The TxCVC expanded in FY 2012 to include strategically-placed Regional Victim Service Coordinators in Texas to provide direct services to crime victims within their respective region. These services include, but are not limited to: assistance with crime victims' compensation, criminal justice and law enforcement accompaniment, assistance with Statewide Automated Victim Notification System/Victim Information and Notification Everyday (SAVNS/VINE), crisis intervention, assistance with victim impact statements, and victim advocacy.

Increasing Training Opportunities.

Through a grant from the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division and collaboration with key stakeholders, the Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online was created and made available in FY 2012. The Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online is a web-based state-wide foundational victim assistance training focused on victim-centered service delivery and professional development that complements other victim services initiatives and enables new advocates to acquire baseline professional skills and competence. Webinars on advanced topics are also provided.

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.*

TDCJ Correctional Institutions Division (CID) 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) 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.

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.

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.

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 prohibited contact with victims.

The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (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.

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

Special Prosecution Unit (SPU) - Civil Division handles the civil commitment proceedings for offenders. Civil commitment laws, provided under Title 11, Chapter 841 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, allow a judge or jury to determine if a sex offender meets the definition of a sexually violent predator and if so, to place the sex offender in a residential facility for control, care and treatment after being released from prison. The intent of the law is to provide intensive outpatient rehabilitation and treatment to a sexually violent predator.

* 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 Section

Written Notifications (Letter, E-mail or Both), Automated Telephone Services, Toll-Free Hotline, and Processing of Victim Impact Statements and Parole Protest Materials.

TDCJVSD Victim Notification System (VNS) is a system that uses a confidential database to provide those registered on the VNS with written notifications regarding the status of an offender(s). VNS registrants can now elect to receive written notification by letter, e-mail or both.

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 notifications are automatically generated; however some 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, it may not be necessary for VNS registrants to receive each "point of notification."

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; the registrant

contacting the VSD directly; or a weekly VINE Transfer report, which includes a list of offenders who have been transferred from Texas county custody to TDCJ CID along with requests from individuals to be added to the VNS.

In addition to written notification, the VSD provides automated telephone services through the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system. Upon request through the VSD office, a VNS registrant can receive a telephone notification, VINE/Call-Out, when an offender is being processed for release from 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 available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm 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 analysts 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



165,429

VNS registrants, as of August 31, 2012

5,705 VNS registrants were added in FY 2012

Written Notifications

There are over 80 points of notification, some of which are legislatively mandated.

185,368 correspondence* was sent in FY 2012.

The VNS provides 66 automated 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 a registrant has been scheduled 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 crime victims' request that the TxBPP reconsider their favorable vote to release an offender to supervision has been referred to the TxBPP by the VSD and a decision has been made;
- after crime victims' request for special conditions of release to be imposed on an offender's supervision have been referred to the TxBPP by the VSD and a decision has been made; and
- when an offender dies while incarcerated or on parole/mandatory supervision.

** This reflects correspondence sent, including e-mails, by the VSD for notification and program sections. It also includes the mass-mail out sent to VNS registrants notifying of the option to receive notifications via e-mail, letter or both. Since VNS registrants can elect to receive notifications by letter and e-mail, both pieces of correspondence are counted in the total figure.*

Spotlight on Notifications

Release notifications, including release to supervision or direct discharge and withdrawal electronic monitoring notification

Arts. 56.11 and 56.12, Code of Criminal Procedure mandate certain notifications to crime victims, upon their request. These notifications include when an offender: completes his/her sentence and is released; escapes; ceases to be electronically monitored as a condition of release; is transferred from TDCJ to the custody of a peace officer under a writ of attachment or a bench warrant; and returns to the custody of TDCJ from a writ of attachment or bench warrant.

6,692
Release
notifications were
sent in FY 2012

VNS registrants will receive written notifications when an offender is released from TDCJ custody, either to parole/mandatory supervision or when an offender directly discharges his/her sentence.

The TxBPP can impose an electronic monitoring condition as part of an offender's parole/mandatory supervision. If this condition is imposed, VNS registrants will receive notice of the imposition and withdrawal of the condition.

1,147
Release notifications
included a notice of the
electronic monitoring
condition

Spotlight on Notifications, continued

Release to bench warrant, Return from bench warrant and Same day bench warrant notifications

Arts. 56.11 and 56.12, Code of Criminal Procedure mandate certain notifications to crime victims, upon their request. These notifications include when an offender: completes his/her sentence and is released; escapes; ceases to be electronically monitored as a condition of release; is transferred from TDCJ to the custody of a peace officer under a writ of attachment or a bench warrant; and returns to the custody of TDCJ from a writ of attachment or bench warrant.

857

Released on a bench warrant* notifications were sent in FY 2012

When an offender is released to the custody of a peace officer under a writ of attachment or a bench warrant, VNS registrants will receive a notification including the name, address and telephone number of the peace officer receiving the defendant into custody. This also includes federal and out-of-state bench warrants.

VNS registrants will receive a notification when an offender is returned from a bench warrant to the custody of TDCJ. This also includes federal and out-of-state bench warrants.

857

Returned from a bench warrant* notifications were sent in FY 2012

488

Same day bench warrant notifications were sent in FY 2012

VNS registrants will receive a same day bench warrant notification when an offender is released to the custody of a peace officer under a writ of attachment or a bench warrant and returned to the custody of the TDCJ the same day. This also includes federal bench warrants.

** An offender may be released to the custody of a peace officer one fiscal year, but not returned to TDCJ until a later fiscal year.*

Collaboration with the TxBPP

Assist crime victims in exercising their rights in the parole review process.

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 parole commissioner;
- upon request, provide accompaniment services to crime victims meeting in-person with the TxBPP;
- providing information and explanation of parole and mandatory supervision laws;
- transmitting a crime victim's request for imposition of special conditions on an offender's release or a crime victim's request that the TxBPP reconsider their previous favorable vote to release an offender to the TxBPP; and
- notifying crime victims of the TxBPP's decision regarding their requests for special conditions.

1,667 confirmations were sent to a VNS registrants upon their request to meet with the TxBPP in FY 2012

4,113 Board meeting notifications were sent to VNS registrants in FY 2012

261 transmittals were processed for the TxBPP's review in FY 2012

Collaboration with the TxBPP

Assist crime victims in exercising their rights in the parole review process.

Additional TxBPP reviews and notifications

425
MRIS
notifications were
made in FY 2012

Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision (MRIS) allows for the early parole review and release of certain categories of offenders. All MRIS applicants are carefully screened by the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) and, prior to MRIS approval, the parole panel must determine that the offender is no longer a threat to public safety and poses no risk of committing future offenses due to his or her medical and/or psychiatric condition.

The VSD staff assist crime victims in submitting information for the TxBPP to consider during the offender's review.

The Super Intensive Supervision Program (SISP) is the highest level of supervision provided by TDCJ - Parole Division. The SISP offender is monitored by Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, which allows for the tracking of the offender's movement throughout the community on a continuous basis. In the event the Parole Division determines the offender is suitable for withdrawal of the condition, the information is forwarded to the TxBPP for consideration. The offender remains on SISP until the TxBPP withdraws the condition or the offender discharges the sentence.

The VSD notifies VNS registrants if the TxBPP will be considering the withdrawal of the SISP condition imposed on the parolee's supervision.

853
SISP Withdrawal
Consideration
notifications were
made in FY 2012

Correspondence Received

Letters, E-mail, Faxes, Victim Impact Statements, and Parole Protest Materials

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.

33,380

correspondence was received in FY 2012

15,616

protest or other information submitted for the TxBPP to review during an offender's parole review was received and processed

3,568

VISs were received and processed

14,196

correspondence relating to VSD services was received and processed

Telephone and Automated Calls

Toll-free Hotline, VINE/Call-In, VINE/Call-Out, and calls made or received by VSD staff

28,167
telephone calls* were
made or received in FY
2012

VSD Notification staff are available Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 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.

556
referrals regarding an
extension of a protective
order were provided in
FY 2012

If a victim had a protective order issued on or after September 1, 1999, the protective order will be extended for one year after the offender has been released from incarceration (Texas Family Code 85.025(c)). The VSD has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Texas Advocacy Project and the Texas Legal Services Center for protective order referrals. The VSD Notification staff will refer crime victims who state they had a protective order against the offender/respondent for assistance and information on obtaining a protective order with the new expiration date.

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 processed for release from TDCJ custody, either on parole/mandatory supervision or direct discharge.

10,337
telephone calls were
received by the
automated telephone
service in FY 2012

1,076
call-out notifications
were sent in FY 2012

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

Programs Section

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

TxCVC

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC): serves as a central source of information for crime victims, criminal justice professionals and victim service professionals. The TxCVC is mandated to revise the Victim Impact Statement (VIS) after every legislative session and collect VIS statistics from each district and county attorney's office. In addition, the TxCVC provides training for criminal justice and victim service professionals as well as direct services to crime victims, including execution accompaniment services.

Victim Offender Mediation/Dialogue

Assists crime victims who have requested to meet with the offender responsible for their victimization.

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.

** This includes 24 person-to-person mediations and 12 creative alternative mediations.

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse

Serves as a central source of information. Revises the Victim Impact Statement, collects statistics from district and county attorneys offices, publishes brochures and quarterly newsletter, and conducts training.

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 in performing duties imposed by Code of Criminal Procedure Title 1. Chapter 56. Rights of Crime Victims (available online only)

Texas Victim Assistant Training (TVAT) Online: provides information regarding the comprehensive foundational training, including how to register

Victims' Rights and Services for TDCJ Staff: provides information on crime victims' rights and services available to TDCJ staff members who have been victimized while on duty

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 service professionals and criminal justice professionals

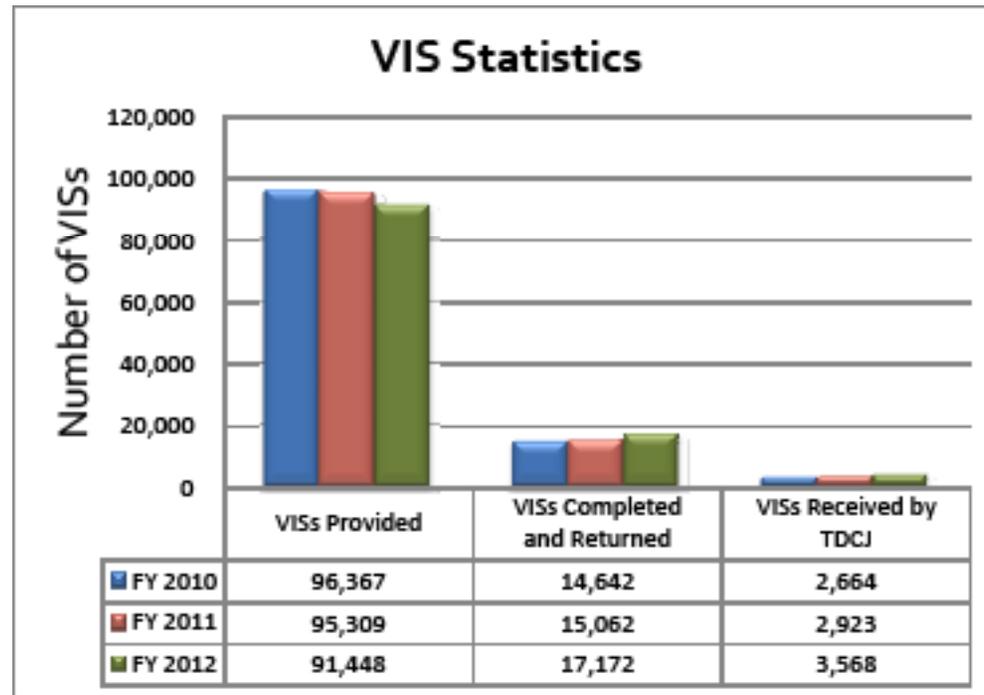
Victim Impact Statement (VIS)

The 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.

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 each year. 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 following chart (first two columns) reflects the statistics reported on the VIS Activity Report for all reporting Texas counties. The VSD may have received a report from the district or county attorney's office or both referencing how many VISs were provided to a crime victim by the district or county attorney's office and how many VISs were completed and returned to the district or county attorney's office. Refer to Appendix A for a breakdown of each Texas county.

The last column reflects the number of VISs received by TDCJ during FY 2012. This includes VISs forwarded from TDCJ CID or received directly into the VSD office from a district or county attorney's office or both.



Training

Workshops, webinars and online training.

The TxCVC provides training to victim service and criminal justice professionals. Training topics include:

- Victimology and Crime Victims' Rights;
- Victim Sensitivity;
- and Victim Impact Statements.

643

law enforcement, criminal justice and victim service professionals attended a training in FY 2012

Texas Victim Assistance Training Online

T★V★A★T

230

students participated in TVAT Online and/or a webinar in FY 2012

The Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online was created and made available in FY 2012. The TVAT Online is a web-based state-wide foundational victim assistance training focused on victim-centered service delivery and professional development that complements other victim services initiatives and enables new advocates to acquire baseline professional skills and competence.

The four distinct modules are [Ethics](#), [Crime Victims' Rights](#), [Role of the Victim Services Professional](#) and [Safety Planning](#).

The training is available free of charge and students can access TVAT Online at any internet-accessible location. TVAT Online is designed to be taken as the student's schedule permits. Students may log into and out of the training to review the modules at their convenience.

The TVAT Online provides individuals - who may not have been able to attend training due to lack of funding or time constraints - access to a comprehensive training.

Regional Victim Services Coordinators

TxCVC has strategically-placed regional positions to provide direct services or training.

The TxCVC expanded in FY 2012 to include strategically-placed Regional Victim Service Coordinators in Texas to provide direct services to crime victims and training within their respective region. Training topics include the Victim Impact Statement and post-conviction crime victims' rights. The services to victims include, but not limited to:

- assistance with crime victims' compensation;
- criminal justice and law enforcement accompaniment;
- assistance with Statewide Automated Victim Notification System/Victim Information and Notification Everyday (SAVNS/VINE);
- crisis intervention;
- assistance with victim impact statements; and
- victim advocacy.



2,038

new victims were served in FY 2012

Assistance and Support During Executions

Provides assistance and support for victims' families during the execution process.

The VSD works with the victims' families during the execution process, regardless if they choose to view the execution or not. As many as five relatives, plus a spiritual advisor, can witness the offender's execution. Witnesses may also include law enforcement personnel and trial officials. Victim witnesses are prepared for and accompanied to the execution by VSD staff member(s). Victims may bring support persons who will not view the execution, but will provide support to those victim witnesses. VSD staff also provides follow-up support and referrals as needed.

49

victims witnessed the execution of the offender in FY 2012

16

support persons accompanied victim witnesses in FY 2012

10

executions were attended by victim witnesses, their support persons and VSD staff in FY 2012

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 2012. 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. This 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.

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 2012 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 2012 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 2012. It is important to note that a VIS may have been provided in one fiscal year, but returned in another.

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.

VIS Statistics: Anderson - Brooks

A	B	C	D
County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims	Number of VISs Returned by Victims	VIS Rate of Return
Anderson	43	7	16.28%
Andrews	NR	NR	
Angelina	177	41	23.16%
Aransas	40	1	2.50%
Archer	NR	NR	
Armstrong	0	0	0.00%
Atascosa	85	8	9.41%
Austin	NR	NR	
Bailey	13	2	15.38%
Bandera	59	19	32.20%
Bastrop	288	40	13.89%
Baylor	8	0	0.00%
Bee	10	1	10.00%
Bell	1,591	238	14.96%
Bexar	7,243	765	10.56%
Blanco	3	0	0.00%
Borden	0	0	0.00%
Bosque	40	20	50.00%
Bowie	NR	NR	
Brazoria	1,123	120	10.69%
Brazos	137	78	56.93%
Brewster	7	3	42.86%
Briscoe	0	0	0.00%
Brooks	19	19	100.00%

VIS Statistics: Brown - Concho

A	B	C	D
County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims	Number of VISs Returned by Victims	VIS Rate of Return
Brown	36	9	25.00%
Burleson	NR	NR	
Burnet	122	35	28.69%
Caldwell	129	36	27.91%
Calhoun	NR	NR	
Callahan	16	3	18.75%
Cameron	746	106	14.21%
Camp	0	0	0.00%
Carson	6	3	50.00%
Cass	NR	NR	
Castro	NR	NR	
Chambers	107	34	31.78%
Cherokee	66	13	19.70%
Childress	26	7	26.92%
Clay	NR	NR	
Cochran	0	0	0.00%
Coke	11	1	9.09%
Coleman	10	2	20.00%
Collin	1,405	201	14.31%
Collingsworth	7	1	14.29%
Colorado	NR	NR	
Comal	30	3	10.00%
Comanche	25	11	44.00%
Concho	2	0	0.00%

VIS Statistics: Cooke - Erath

A	B	C	D
County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims	Number of VISs Returned by Victims	VIS Rate of Return
Cooke	56	10	17.86%
Coryell	306	39	12.75%
Cottle	0	0	0.00%
Crane	10	1	10.00%
Crockett	24	8	33.33%
Crosby	2	0	0.00%
Culberson	0	0	0.00%
Dallam	0	0	0.00%
Dallas	8,347	3,347	40.10%
Dawson	10	0	0.00%
Deaf Smith	63	19	30.16%
Delta	11	4	36.36%
Denton	1,755	351	20.00%
DeWitt	30	4	13.33%
Dickens	0	0	0.00%
Dimmit	25	2	8.00%
Donley	7	16	228.57%
Duval	34	24	70.59%
Eastland	109	21	19.27%
Ector	451	59	13.08%
Edwards	10	5	50.00%
El Paso	11,803	1,557	13.19%
Ellis	169	62	36.69%
Erath	55	7	12.73%

VIS Statistics: Falls - Hall

A	B	C	D
County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims	Number of VISs Returned by Victims	VIS Rate of Return
Falls	32	3	9.38%
Fannin	99	73	73.74%
Fayette	31	6	19.35%
Fisher	2	1	50.00%
Floyd	0	0	0.00%
Foard	0	0	0.00%
Franklin	12	2	16.67%
Freestone	NR	NR	
Frio	31	4	12.90%
Ft. Bend	2,948	652	22.12%
Gaines	0	0	0.00%
Galveston	1,199	204	17.01%
Garza	4	0	0.00%
Gillespie	25	12	48.00%
Glasscock	1	1	100.00%
Goliad	34	5	14.71%
Gonzales	55	45	81.82%
Gray	46	16	34.78%
Grayson	241	51	21.16%
Gregg	108	39	36.11%
Grimes	1	0	0.00%
Guadalupe	842	321	38.12%
Hale	115	15	13.04%
Hall	14	2	14.29%

VIS Statistics: Hamilton - Jackson

A	B	C	D
County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims	Number of VISs Returned by Victims	VIS Rate of Return
Hamilton	6	2	33.33%
Hansford	1	0	0.00%
Hardeman	5	0	0.00%
Hardin	322	81	25.16%
Harris	15,028	2,137	14.22%
Harrison	NR	NR	
Hartley	0	0	0.00%
Haskell	18	1	5.56%
Hays	129	18	13.95%
Hemphill	11	5	45.45%
Henderson	16	0	0.00%
Hidalgo	NR	NR	
Hill	170	36	21.18%
Hockley	43	4	9.30%
Hood	77	8	10.39%
Hopkins	13	3	23.08%
Houston	157	36	22.93%
Howard	9	5	55.56%
Hudspeth	0	0	0.00%
Hunt	227	46	20.26%
Hutchinson	54	11	20.37%
Irion	0	0	0.00%
Jack	15	4	26.67%
Jackson	80	5	6.25%

VIS Statistics: Jasper - Lee

A	B	C	D
County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims	Number of VISs Returned by Victims	VIS Rate of Return
Jasper	299	144	48.16%
Jeff Davis	NR	NR	
Jefferson	NR	NR	
Jim Hogg	1	0	0.00%
Jim Wells	79	81	102.53%
Johnson	161	64	39.75%
Jones	64	22	34.38%
Karnes	11	2	18.18%
Kaufman	424	86	20.28%
Kendall	107	33	30.84%
Kenedy	0	0	0.00%
Kent	1	0	0.00%
Kerr	213	160	75.12%
Kimble	44	22	50.00%
King	0	0	0.00%
Kinney	0	0	0.00%
Kleberg	134	36	26.87%
Knox	2	2	100.00%
La Salle	16	3	18.75%
Lamar	78	35	44.87%
Lamb	40	22	55.00%
Lampasas	6	4	66.67%
Lavaca	68	40	58.82%
Lee	NR	NR	

VIS Statistics: Leon - Mitchell

A	B	C	D
County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims	Number of VISs Returned by Victims	VIS Rate of Return
Leon	26	13	50.00%
Liberty	237	37	15.61%
Limestone	151	101	66.89%
Lipscomb	4	0	0.00%
Live Oak	NR	NR	
Llano	118	39	33.05%
Loving	NR	NR	
Lubbock	1,152	228	19.79%
Lynn	0	0	0.00%
Madison	3	1	33.33%
Marion	0	0	0.00%
Martin	5	0	0.00%
Mason	1	1	100.00%
Matagorda	0	0	0.00%
Maverick	13	3	23.08%
McCulloch	37	15	40.54%
McLennan	347	25	7.20%
McMullen	NR	NR	
Medina	74	35	47.30%
Menard	9	2	22.22%
Midland	1,034	316	30.56%
Milam	116	44	37.93%
Mills	3	0	0.00%
Mitchell	14	7	50.00%

VIS Statistics: Montague - Reagan

A	B	C	D
County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims	Number of VISs Returned by Victims	VIS Rate of Return
Montague	18	1	5.56%
Montgomery	1,555	131	8.42%
Moore	55	1	1.82%
Morris	NR	NR	
Motley	0	0	0.00%
Nacagdoches	250	110	44.00%
Navarro	182	56	30.77%
Newton	50	0	0.00%
Nolan	28	8	28.57%
Nueces	1,740	154	8.85%
Ochiltree	NR	NR	
Oldham	0	0	0.00%
Orange	9	1	11.11%
Palo Pinto	66	16	24.24%
Panola	NR	NR	
Parker	342	35	10.23%
Parmer	10	4	40.00%
Pecos	150	13	8.67%
Polk	70	22	31.43%
Potter	1,128	366	32.45%
Presidio	0	0	0.00%
Rains	13	5	38.46%
Randall	1,033	329	31.85%
Reagan	17	6	35.29%

VIS Statistics: Real - Sterling

A	B	C	D
County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims	Number of VISs Returned by Victims	VIS Rate of Return
Real	11	3	27.27%
Red River	14	1	7.14%
Reeves	9	1	11.11%
Refugio	12	3	25.00%
Roberts	4	0	0.00%
Robertson	67	19	28.36%
Rockwall	70	17	24.29%
Runnels	12	2	16.67%
Rusk	20	12	60.00%
Sabine	19	12	63.16%
San Augustine	9	1	11.11%
San Jacinto	55	8	14.55%
San Patricio	109	6	5.50%
San Saba	14	3	21.43%
Schleicher	4	1	25.00%
Scurry	35	8	22.86%
Shackelford	2	0	0.00%
Shelby	NR	NR	
Sherman	0	0	0.00%
Smith	773	144	18.63%
Somervell	20	3	15.00%
Starr	49	7	14.29%
Stephens	0	0	0.00%
Sterling	2	2	100.00%

VIS Statistics: Stonewall - Webb

A	B	C	D
County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims	Number of VISs Returned by Victims	VIS Rate of Return
Stonewall	7	14	200.00%
Sutton	20	2	10.00%
Swisher	3	2	66.67%
Tarrant	8,067	1,371	17.00%
Taylor	467	72	15.42%
Terrell	0	0	0.00%
Terry	65	1	1.54%
Throckmorton	0	0	0.00%
Titus	NR	NR	
Tom Green	250	40	16.00%
Travis	7,135	732	10.26%
Trinity	7	1	14.29%
Tyler	NR	NR	
Upshur	48	14	29.17%
Upton	23	6	26.09%
Uvalde	61	20	32.79%
Val Verde	0	0	0.00%
Van Zandt	216	104	48.15%
Victoria	181	37	20.44%
Walker	NR	NR	
Waller	102	11	10.78%
Ward	NR	NR	
Washington	29	7	24.14%
Webb	784	47	5.99%

VIS Statistics: Wharton - Zavala

A	B	C	D
County	Number of VISs Provided to Victims	Number of VISs Returned by Victims	VIS Rate of Return
Wharton	32	3	9.38%
Wheeler	12	5	41.67%
Wichita	743	137	18.44%
Wilbarger	35	7	20.00%
Willacy	22	4	18.18%
Williamson	575	105	18.26%
Wilson	44	9	20.45%
Winkler	11	2	18.18%
Wise	192	51	26.56%
Wood	51	15	29.41%
Yoakum	8	1	12.50%
Young	11	1	9.09%
Zapata	NR	NR	
Zavala	1	0	0.00%
TOTALS:	91,448	17,172	18.78%

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