

To Whom It May Concern;

The mission of Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Victim Services Program is to provide information, advocacy, education and support to crime victims. For many victims/witnesses of crimes who receive notice of an upcoming parole hearing, this may trigger feelings of unease, trigger past memories and trauma, as well as a multitude of other feelings and experiences. At each NDCS facility, there are specially trained team members available to assist you upon request.

The SERVES Team is able to provide assistance, support, resources, referrals, and answer questions victims and witnesses may have. The SERVES Team is also available to accompany you, provide information and support and assist you before, during and after parole hearings.

Listed below are just a few more ways the SERVES Team is able to assist victims:

- Victim-Offender Dialogue: a victim initiated and guided process to meet face-to-face with the offender of their crime in a secure, safe environment in order to facilitate a healing recovery process
- Victim notifications through VINE and NDCS Victim/Witness Notification Program (you can register here <http://bit.ly/2QnuBL6> or the SERVES Team can assist you)
- Restitution information
- Safety planning
- Answer questions you may have
- Provide resources and referrals

Another resource for victims of crime that is available to you is:

Victim Connect: National Hotline for Crime Victims
1-855-484-2846 or <https://victimconnect.org/>

For any questions or assistance, please contact:

Staff Advocate & Victim Services Coordinator
402-219-3591 or sarah.balcom@nebraska.gov

Sincerely,

Sarah Balcom
Staff Advocate & Victim Services Coordinator
Nebraska Department of Correctional Services