

From the Director of Victim Services



January 2023 marks the nineteenth annual National Stalking Awareness Month (NSAM), an annual call to action to recognize and respond to the serious crime of stalking. According to recent statistics, more than 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men will be stalked in their lifetime. While most stalking victims are female and the majority of perpetrators are male, anyone can be a victim or perpetrator of stalking.

While every case is different, people who stalk can be very dangerous. Stalkers may threaten, attack, sexually assault, and/or even kill their victims. The stalkers behavior may escalate from indirect ways of making contact, like phone calls or texts, to more direct contact like showing up where the person happens to be.

Even if a victim cannot control the stalking behavior, they should feel empowered to take steps to keep themselves, their families, and their loved ones safe. The stalking is not the fault of the victim. The victim cannot control the stalker's behaviors. Some typical steps would be to:

Document everything that happens—keep a record or log.

Tell people you trust about the situation. See if your place of employment or building security at school can help you with safety planning.

Consider getting a court order to keep the stalker away from you. Call 911 if you are in imminent danger or have been threatened. Law enforcement can help you to explore your options. Remember, Love is Not Abuse and Abuse is Not Love.

Stay Safe!

Tamika Dobbins

January 2023

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Victim Services Mission

To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

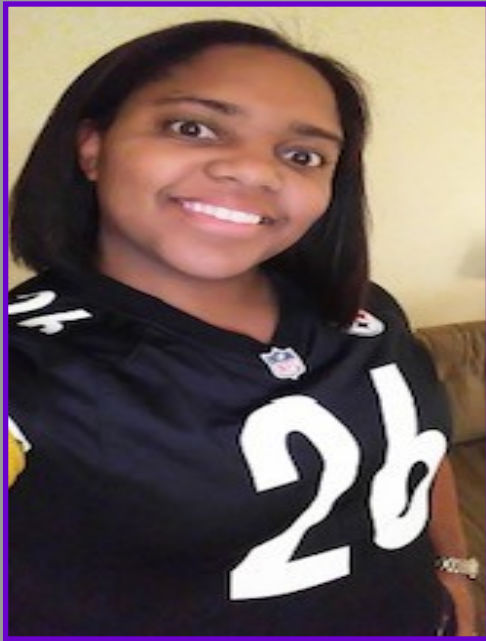
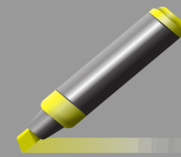
Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

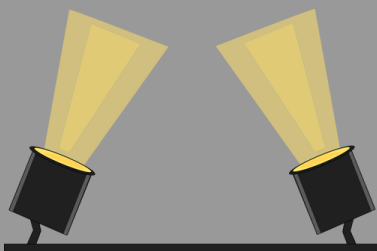
Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

Victims Services Highlights....Let's meet



Brandy Winston is the Victim Coordinator for District 20 in Knoxville. She started with the department in 2011 and has held various roles which include, Programmed Supervision Unit (PSU) Officer, Sanction Officer, and Terminal Agent Coordinator (TAC). Brandy was born and raised in Chattanooga, TN and attended Notre Dame High School. She received her Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and her Masters Degree in Criminal Justice from South College in Knoxville, TN. Her parents are retired and she has a younger brother. Brandy enjoys Marvel movies and reading. Her favorite authors are John Grisham and Meg Cabot. She also enjoys playing with her dog Gypsy.



January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States. It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Traffickers might use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into trafficking situations.

Language barriers, fear of their traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement frequently keep victims from seeking help, making human trafficking a hidden crime.

Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. They look for people who are susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net, natural disasters, or political instability. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

If you believe you are the victim of a trafficking situation or have information about a potential trafficking situation, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Specialists are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. Report a tip or request services using the following means:

Toll-free: 888-373-7888

TTY: 711

Text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)

Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-855-55-TNHTH (86484)





Victim Services Monthly Statistics

Central Office Phone Calls

Central Office Mailed Notifications

Telephone Calls	December	Notifications Mailed	December
Phone calls Received/Returned	163	Registrations/Voice	85
Parties Registered for Notifications (phone/mail/fax/email)	91	Movement	74
Harassment/Threats/No Contact	3	Advance Release	261
Referrals	33	Final Release *	26
Release/Parole Inquiry	76	Death	19
Other	51	Other	7



Notification Statistics By Delivery Method Report 12-01-2022 to 12-31-2022

Agency	Month	Email	TTY	SMS	Phone	InApp	Letter	Total
TN Department of Correction	December 2022	10,251	2	20,530	4,259	686	n/a	35,728
	AGENCY TOTALS	10,251	2	20,530	4,259	686	n/a	35,728
	OVERALL TOTALS	10,251	2	20,530	4,259	686	n/a	35,728

New Registration Statistics By Registrant Classification 12-01-2022 to 12-31-2022

		Anonymous	Concerned citizen	Family member of offender	Family member of victim	Law enforcement	Not Reported	Other	Victim	Victim coordinator/advocate	Total
TN Department of Correction	December 2022	92	68	306	84	416	4,236	164	22	9	5,397
	AGENCY TOTALS	92	68	306	84	416	4,236	164	22	9	5,397
	OVERALL TOTALS	92	68	306	84	416	4,236	164	22	9	5,397

Announcements



Applications now open to attend the in-person Senator Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy, June 4th-9th, 2023!

The Senator Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy is a project of the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. The Academy is a comprehensive basic level training designed for victim service providers. The goal of the Academy is to improve services to crime victims by enhancing the knowledge and skills of victim advocates. This 40 hour Tennessee-specific training is modeled after the National Victim Assistance Academy.

Join us at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga for this week-long training June 4th-19th, 2023!

A limited number of applicants will be accepted.

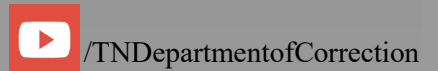
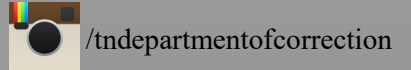
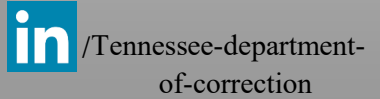
The deadline to apply is March 30th 2023.

Questions about applying or the Academy?

Email: training@tncoalition.org

Stay Connected
With #TeamTDOC!

Follow Us:



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Victim Services Division

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320 6th Avenue North

Nashville, TN 37243

Phone: 615-253-8145

Fax: 615-741-1055

Email: Victim.Notification@tn.gov

Tamika Dobbins

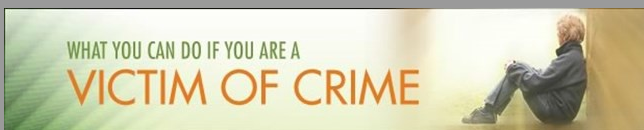
Victim Services Director

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Betsy Fletcher

Executive Secretary

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WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A

Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767

National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE

Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111

Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678

Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888

Sexual Assault Center 24 Hour Crisis & Support: 1-866-811-RISE (7473)