



## Issue 2

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## Winter Edition

Grieving the loss of a loved one is a deep and difficult challenge at any time. But the holiday season can magnify the sense of loss and mourning and cast a cloud over the new year. Family gatherings and seasonal events can be painful reminders of the absence of a loved one. At the same time, they can also be comforting rituals where you spend time with family and friends, focusing on good memories and trying to recapture your sense of joy.

While we wish there were a simple remedy for heartache, the coping process differs from person to person. There are countless emotions that accompany grief: denial, anger, regret, and sadness. There is no "right" prescription for coping with loss, but there are some things you can do to make the process more manageable; such as eliminating unnecessary stress, spending time with supportive, comforting friends and embracing memories. Remember, it's not about getting over, it is about getting through.

Happy New Year!

*Tamika Dobbins*



## Victims' Services

Our mission is 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.

Some of the programs offered include:

- Victim Impact,
- Stopping Abuse for Everyone (SAFE), and
- Victim-Offender Dialogue.

# Purple For A Purpose

## TDOC Recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior which involves violence or other abuse by one person against another in a domestic setting, such as in marriage or cohabitation. It may be termed intimate partner violence when committed by a spouse or partner in an intimate relationship against the other spouse or partner, and can take place in heterosexual or same-sex relationships, or between former spouses or partners. Domestic violence can also involve violence against children, parents, or the elderly. It takes a number of forms, including physical, verbal, emotional, and sexual abuse, which can range from subtle, coercive forms to marital rape and to violent physical abuse or death.

### Domestic Violence Statistics

- Every 9 seconds in the US a woman is assaulted or beaten
- Domestic Violence is the leading cause of injury to women
- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will experience severe physical violence in their lifetime
- Boys who witness domestic violence are 2 times as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults



## Right to Mourn

How can I tell my heart  
That you have gone away  
I want to make things right  
But don't know what to say  
I am lonely and sad  
I cannot believe you have gone  
But others tell me to get over it  
They say I must move on  
But they don't know how I feel  
They would not know where to start  
One minute I was happy  
Then my world was ripped apart  
Yes I need to mourn  
And to do it my own way  
To listen to my heart  
And not what others say  
Yes there will be dark times  
Yes I will be sad  
It will hurt me for a while  
When I remember what we had  
But time will heal my heart  
Time will ease the sorrow  
It may not be today  
It may not be tomorrow  
Yes there will be tears  
I my scream and shout  
I can't lock the pain away  
I have to let it out  
True friends will stick by me  
Others may walk away  
True friends will hold my hand  
And listen to what I have to say  
Its my right to mourn  
And to learn to deal with grief  
Its not what you see on the outside  
But the way I feel underneath

By: John F. Connor



## Understanding The Classification Process

Having an offender classified at the appropriate custody level is essential to maintaining a safe environment for staff and offenders. Most people think that an offender's classification level is based solely on the crime committed. That is not true. In order to determine an offender's custody level, the Tennessee Department of Correction conducts an assessment that looks at dynamic and static factors. The classification team also takes into account a number of additional factors including the individual's behavior during his or her incarceration.

That assessment coupled with the offender's behavior determines their custody level. Those levels are:

Maximum—Restricted housing, intense level of supervision

Close—Constant supervision, inmates with consistent disciplinary problems

Medium—Constant supervision, minor disciplinary issues, work/movement limited to secure perimeter

Minimum—Intermediate supervision, some qualifying inmates have outside work detail

Offenders at every levels are able to participate rehabilitative programming that is appropriate for their programmatic needs and security designation. Programs such as substance use treatment, cognitive-behavioral programs, and educational programs help prepare offenders for success after prison, which serves to reduce recidivism and create safer communities for all Tennesseans.

## FOIL Offender Information

Have you ever wanted to check where an offender is located? Have you downloaded FOIL yet? Foil is the Felony Offender Information Location app that is available on the TDOC website and as a mobile app.

The information available pertains to Tennessee felony offenders who are or who have been in the custody of the Tennessee Department of Correction. The information is submitted by various jurisdictions within Tennessee.

You can visit the website at [www.tn.gov/correction](http://www.tn.gov/correction) or download the app on itunes or google play.



## Who To Call About Contraband?

If you have information regarding an illegally operated social media page or any other threat to the security of the public, a TDOC facility or field office, call our free TIPS hotline:

**1-844-TDC-FIND**

**or Tamika Dobbins 615-253-8145**



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## Tennessee Season to Remember

December is the time of year that Victim Services set aside to honor homicide victims. Hosted by Governor Bill Haslam, Tennessee Department of Correction and other partnering agencies work together to organize the Tennessee Season to Remember Event. Remembrance Events are designed to reflect and remember the victims' legacies.

The 15th annual Tennessee Season to Remember event was held on Thursday December 7, 2017 at the First Baptist Church in Nashville. Hundreds of ornaments were placed on wreaths by surviving family members and victims' names were called or read aloud as victims were remembered. The event was well attended by surviving family members, local and state officials, and victim advocates.



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