



PRESS RELEASE

MS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS *723 N. PRESIDENT ST. *JACKSON, MS 39202 *(601)359-5600 *(FAX: 5624)

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Contact: Jennifer Griffin
Phone: (601) 359-5721
Fax: (601) 359-5738

Crime Victims' Rights Week Activities

Jackson — Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Commissioner Robert L. Johnson and MDOC Division of Victim Services Director Tara Frazier today announced several activities throughout Mississippi in recognition of Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Many activities are planned throughout the week of April 21 – 27, 2002, and include:

- **Monday, April 22:** Mississippi Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, Inc. and Mississippi Department of Corrections, Division of Victim Services will host a crime victims' vigil at 6:30 p.m. at First Pentecostal Church in Brandon.
- **Monday, April 22:** Office of the District Attorney – 18th Judicial District will host a crime victims' vigil at Pinehurst Park in Laurel at 6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, April 24:** Mississippi Department of Corrections, Division of Victim Services will hold a crime victim impact panel for MDOC probation/parole staff at Jackson Police Department Training Academy at 10:00 a.m.
- **Thursday, April 25:** Survival, Inc. will host a crime victims' vigil at 6:30 p.m. at Ballard Park in Tupelo.
- **Thursday, April 25:** Family Crisis Services of NW Mississippi will host a crime victims' vigil at 7:00 p.m. at Lafayette County Courthouse in Oxford.

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- **Thursday, April 25:** Sharing Our Strength, a program of the Sexual Assault Crisis Center in Hattiesburg, will host a crime victims' vigil at 7:00 p.m. at Jackie Dole Sherrill Community Center in Hattiesburg.

The MDOC Division of Victim Services (DVS) provides crime victims access to inmate information if the inmate is under the authority of MDOC. Many of the services provided to victims are outlined in the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights, and include:

- Notification within 15 days prior to the end of the sentence of the inmate;
- Notice of release upon expiration of sentence or medical release; and
- Notice within 15 days after the prisoner has died if within MDOC custody.

The DVS will also provide referral services to victims with specific needs, such as counseling and support groups, information about the Crime Victim Compensation Program, crisis intervention and contacts with victim assistance organizations throughout the state. The DVS also provides MDOC staff with victim sensitivity training.

Since the creation of the MDOC DVS in November of 2000, more than 525 crime victims' have registered with the agency and more than 2,163 individual requests for assistance have been completed.

To receive assistance from DVS, victims must complete and return a notification form to MDOC. To receive a copy of the notification form, victims can call toll free at 1-866-522-4087 or victims can electronically complete and submit a notification form through the MDOC website, www.mdoc.state.ms.us.

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