



# PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS' DIVISION OF VICTIM SERVICES RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM PUBLIC SAFETY PLANNING

Jackson—The Mississippi Department of Corrections' (MDOC) Division of Victim Services has received notice from the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Division of Public Safety Planning that it will receive \$25,171 in additional funding to continue its program operation through June 30, 2002 for crime victims in Mississippi. The Division of Victim Services (DVS) is funded through the *Victims of Crime Act* (VOCA), a continuation grant managed by the US Justice Department.

The DVS began its operation in fall of 2000. Its primary function is to notify crime victims prior to an inmate's release from incarceration. Additionally, the office provides referral services to victims with special counseling needs including crisis intervention. DVS also offers assistance by referring victims to the Crime Victim Compensation Program.

"The receipt of the new grant money is vital to the program," said Tara Fraizer, DVS Director. "It will allow us to continue to provide much needed services to victims of crime in the Magnolia State." Frazier further noted that DVS had served over 400 crime victims since the operation began in November.

"We are extremely pleased that the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Division of Public Safety Planning has awarded us this grant to continue our program of assistance to crime victims," said MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson. "MDOC is committed to providing information to victims of crime and in giving crime victims a voice in the state's correctional system."

**For information on MDOC's DVS, please write: Mississippi Department of Corrections, Division of Victim Services, 723 North President Street, Jackson, MS 39202 or call (601) 359-5628. Toll free 1-866-522-4087. E-mail DVS at [vservices@mdoc.state.ms.us](mailto:vservices@mdoc.state.ms.us). Or go online at [www.mdoc.state.ms.us](http://www.mdoc.state.ms.us) and click on Victim Services.**

