



Colorado Justice: Celebrating 40 years of fair
and impartial courts through merit selection

news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Colorado Probation Division Celebrates 10 Years of Service to Crime Victims

Thousands of times every year, compassionate, knowledgeable probation professionals in the Colorado Judicial Branch pick up the phone to call qualifying victims of crime to inform them about changes in the probation status of the person convicted of committing a crime against them. Victims who have asked for the service are told about numerous points of information, including whether the offender has requested early termination of probation, whether the offender's probation may be revoked or whether the offender's sentence has been modified.

It's a service that Colorado Probation Victims Services has been providing – and improving upon – for 10 years, since the General Assembly included post-sentencing agencies in the Colorado Victims' Rights Amendment.

“We take very seriously the work the Legislature so rightly believed should be done: Notify crime victims of actions involving the person who victimized them,” said Tom Quinn, director of probation services. “If they want it, crime victims deserve this service, and they deserve our utmost attention to detail in getting it done right. It's an honor to mark a decade of providing this important service to Coloradans.”

In fiscal 2006, the latest full year for which figures are available, 13,936 people were victimized by crimes that trigger the victim-notification statute, 24-4.1-302.5 of the Colorado

Revised Statutes. Of those, 2,165, or 16 percent, requested the notification service from probation. Overall, in fiscal 2006, victims of crime from that year and previous years were notified of certain changes in offenders' probation 10,153 times.

“I was always informed, the (probation victim staff) went above and beyond what I ever expected and made sure my questions were answered and made sure I understood what was going on. She was a godsend to me and my family,” one victim said.

Another said: “Many long conversations helped keep me sane.”

In a July 2005-March 2007 survey of crime victims who have opted to receive notification services, 39 percent reported they were “extremely satisfied” with the service, and a full 82 percent said they were at least “satisfied.” Eighty-eight percent said information was provided to them in a timely manner.

“This year, we take time to recognize a decade’s worth of important work that the probation division performs to ensure that victims of crime receive essential information,” said Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey. “We commend the victims’ services team for their professionalism, caring and dedication to this important task.”