

DOES THE IOWA BOARD OF PAROLE HAVE A WEBSITE?

Yes. The website is www.ibop.state.ia.us. This site is accessible for the public as well as for victims. There is a link under Departments to Victim Services which provides victim information and frequently asked questions. The site also allows those who want to check the status of an inmate's review/interview decision to do so.

WHO DO I CALL IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

You can call the Iowa Board of Parole Office at 515-725-5761 or our victim toll-free number at 1-866-448-4611 and speak to our Victim Coordinator.

It is the Victim's responsibility to keep current contact information with our office. Please notify our office with any changes in address or phone number.

Iowa Board of Parole



Victim Toll-Free #:

1-866-488-4611

Iowa Board of Parole

510 E. 12th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone (515) 725-5757
Fax (515) 725-5762

HOW DO I BECOME A REGISTERED VICTIM?

To become a registered victim, Iowa Code 915.12 asks that you go to your local county attorney.

1. The county attorney shall be the **sole** registrar of victims.
2. [You] may register by filling a written request-for-registration form with the county attorney.
3. The county attorney shall provide a registered victim list of the offices, agencies and departments required to provide information [to you].
4. a victim's registration shall be *strictly* maintained in a separate **confidential** file, and shall be available only to the offices, agencies and departments required to provide information [to you].

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

The county attorney sends the written request-for-registration to the Iowa Board of Parole. The victim coordinator receives the form and determines if you can be registered with the Iowa Board of Parole Office.

Victims of violent crimes are considered for registration. This also includes family members of minors, dependent adults or a homicide victim. A violent crime is defined as "a forcible felony...and includes any other felony or aggravated misdemeanor which involved the actual or threatened infliction of physical or

emotional injury on one or more persons (Iowa Code 915.10[5]).

The victim coordinator verifies the charges to make sure that you are registering for a current offense. Victims of inmates that have been released on probation or have discharged their sentence can not be registered.

AS A REGISTERED VICTIM, WILL I BE NOTIFIED ABOUT UPCOMING PROCEEDINGS REGARDING THE INMATE?

Yes. By law the Iowa Board of Parole is required to notify you within 20 days prior to conducting an interview for the inmate. The Iowa Board of Parole does not notify you if the inmate is going to have a review, but you will be notified of the Board's decision.

The Iowa Board of Parole is committed to timely and sensitive victim notification practices and programs. Therefore, it is the victim's responsibility to keep their address current with the Board of Parole. If you have an address and/or phone number change, please let us know right away so we may better serve you.

CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THE PAROLE HEARING?

Yes. The Iowa Board of Parole lets you know that you may submit written opinions concerning the release of the inmate before the hearing, may appear

and read the statement personally, or by the assistance of the victim coordinator.

If you decide not to participate in the hearing, the Iowa Board of Parole is still obligated to notify you with the decision, pertaining to the release plan, of the inmate.

Statements must be made to the Parole Board Members only. You may not speak directly to the inmate while giving a statement. The inmate is not allowed to speak to you nor you to him/her.

WHAT DOES GOOD TIME OR EARNED TIME MEAN?

Iowa law gives an inmate who is not serving a life sentence 1.2 days credit for every 1 day of their sentence. This is called earned time or good time. For example, an inmate who got a 10 year sentence enters prison with his sentence being reduced to 4 years and 7 months. With good conduct and satisfactory participation the inmate would discharge his/her sentence at that time. It is also noted behavioral problems and rule violations can result in earned time being taken away.

In general, it is felt easing someone back in the community via work release or parole is better than letting an inmate discharge his/her sentence and leave prison with no supervision.