



Board of Parole

Policy Pertaining to Victims of Crimes

The Colorado State Board of Parole is committed to preserving, protecting, and honoring the rights of crime victims. The parole application hearing provides an opportunity for the voice of victims of crimes to be heard by the Parole Board. In accordance with the Colorado Revised Statutes, Section 17-22.5-404(2)(a)(1), the Parole Board shall consider the testimony of crime victims (or a relative of the victim if the victim has died) in its decision-making process as it relates to the consideration of an offender's application for parole.

Pursuant to C.R.S. 17-22.5-404(2)(a)(1) and in accordance with C.R.S. 24-4.1-301 through C.R.S. 24-4.1-304 (the "Victim Rights Act"), the Parole Board herein adopts the following policy concerning input or testimony from crime victims:

- I. Input from Crime Victims via Written Correspondence
 - A. Any written correspondence received from crime victims regarding an offender who is scheduled for a parole application hearing shall be given to the Parole Board Member or Release Hearing Officer conducting the application hearing. The correspondence shall be given the appropriate consideration in the decision making process.
 - B. Any written correspondence received from crime victims shall be kept confidential.

- II. Input from Crime Victims at Parole Application Hearings
 - A. Comments between crime victims and the family members of offenders are not permitted at Parole Hearings.
 - B. Crime victims who elect to personally attend in-person or video conferencing parole application hearings shall be afforded the following options:
 1. Crime victims may speak privately, off the record to the Parole Board or Release Officer prior to the hearing to provide input. Such comments made by crime victims shall remain confidential. Crime victims may:
 - a. leave prior to the commencement of the in-person or video conferencing hearing, or

- b. remaining the room either within or outside of the view of the offender, and shall not comment while the hearing is conducted, or
 - c. remain in the room either within or outside of the view of the offender while the hearing is conducted, and provide a statement on the record to the Parole Board or Release Officer in the presence of the offender. Crime victims shall direct their comments to the Parole Board or Release Officer. Crime victims may not directly address the offender or the offender's family members.
2. Crime victims who choose to remain for the entire hearing may make pertinent final comments once the hearing has been concluded and the offender and the offender's family member have been escorted from the hearing.

This policy has been reviewed and adopted by the Colorado State Board of Parole and is in effect as of October 7, 2011.

Dr. Anthony P. Young, Chairman