

# LJIC QUESTION ROUNDUP

## SUMMARY

During the past meetings, the Law and Justice Interim Committee (LJIC) members have asked questions related to interim studies or agency oversight topics. This paper compiles the questions and answers that are short and don't necessarily require a separate paper or presentation.

### SJ 19: HISTORY OF 10-YEAR TIME PERIOD FOR VIOLENT OFFENDER REGISTRATION

---

The 1995 bill establishing the violent offender registry made registration a lifetime requirement.

After 10 years, a violent offender could petition a court to be removed from the registry. In 1997, the lifetime registration requirement was reduced to 10 years for violent offenders. It hasn't been amended since.

Even after the 10-year period is complete, however, removal from the violent offender registry is not automatic. An offender still must petition a court to issue an order relieving the offender of the duty to register. If an offender has been convicted during the applicable 10-year period of failure to register or keep the registration current or of another felony, the offender is required to register for life unless a court relieves the offender of the registration duty. More information on the violent offender registry, including its history, can be found in reports on the LJIC's [SJ 19 study page](#).

### HJ 31 STUDY AND AGENCY OVERSIGHT: VICTIMS' PROGRAMS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

---

LJIC members requested additional information about the Department of Corrections' (DOC) victim advocate program including copies of the DOC application for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding from the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC). The LJIC received copies of the applications via email on February 14. The answers from the DOC to the additional questions are below.

Subjects contained in the roundup:

- ✓ violent offender registration
- ✓ DOC victims program
- ✓ Shelby contract monitor

**Request:** Provide information that shows what victim advocate work is being done in the community. What counties does the DOC victim program serve?

**Answer:** Montana Department of Corrections employs Victim Liaisons. Please see attached Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services (MDOC VS) Fact Sheet that gives a snapshot of what type of services are being provided in the community. MDOC Victim Liaisons serve victims in all 56 counties, victims who reside out of state, and sometimes victims who contact us on an international level. Victim Liaisons have access to information that is not available to other portions of the criminal justice system.

**Request:** Please address concerns about overlapping services provided by county victim programs and the DOC victim program.

**Answer:** National direct victim service provider standards encourage overlapping of services for crime victims. Overlapping promotes continuity of care for victims of crime and provides an extended support network. MDOC VS provides extensive, trauma informed, direct services to victims of crime for extensive periods of time as their offenders traverse the Corrections portion of the criminal justice system. During the time a victim of crime spends within the Corrections system, there may be hundreds of triggers for which they require services. These triggers range from facility changes, probation and parole hearings, sentence review hearings, Board of Pardons and Parole hearings, Supreme Court hearings, Innocence Project cases, rearrests, revocation, reentry, discharging supervision, etc. The number of events that can result in additional trauma are significant. Each facet of victim services in Montana, from local to county to MDOC VS, offers different benefits to victims of crime tailored to the crime and specific needs of the victim during various portions of the criminal justice system.

## CONTRACT MONITOR FOR THE PRIVATE PRISON IN SHELBY

---

LJIC members wanted to know if a contract monitor employed by the DOC was still in place at the Shelby private prison. The answer is yes. The private prison and each regional prison that contracts with the DOC has a monitor in place at the prison.

- [Copy of the DOC contract](#) (and amendments) for the operation and management of the prison
- [DOC information on contracted facilities](#)