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# 2019 NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

on Sex Offender Management and Accountability

# Victim and Community Notification

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Building Solutions | Supporting Communities | Advancing Justice

# Overview

- Connecticut: Post-Conviction Victim Services
  - Collaborative Supervision Model
- Pennsylvania: Office of Victim Advocate



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A low-angle, upward-looking perspective of several modern skyscrapers with glass facades. The image is overlaid with a solid blue color, creating a monochromatic effect. The text is centered in the upper-middle portion of the frame.

# **Connecticut: Post-Conviction Victim Services**

# Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

The mission of Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence is to create communities free of sexual violence and to provide culturally affirming, trauma-informed advocacy, prevention, and intervention services centered on the voices of survivors. The alliance envisions and hopes to create a world in which everyone believes sexual violence is a preventable problem and actively plays a role in ending it.



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## **SUPPORT**

the development of standards and secure core funding for statewide victim support and advocacy services through nine member programs. Provide post-conviction sexual assault victim advocates

## **ADVOCATE**

for administrative and legislative changes to systems, to uphold and expand victims' rights and services and to hold offenders accountable for the harm they have caused

## **PREVENT**

violence before it starts through prevention education and training programs to change the cultural attitudes and behaviors that support victim blaming and perpetuate violence



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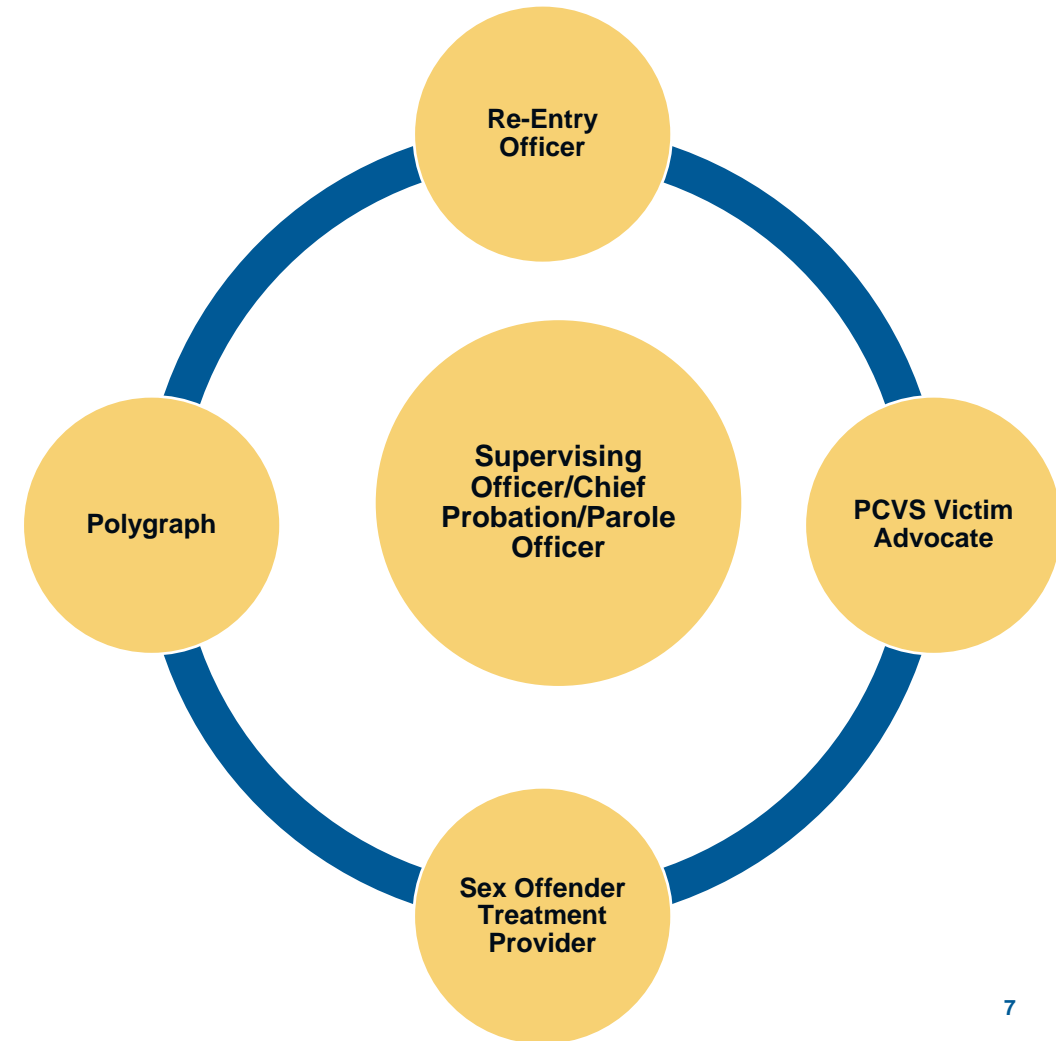
# The Collaborative Model



Sex offender supervision and treatment presents a variety of needs and considerations for both victims and offenders. This model provides victims a voice in the supervision process that had historically been absent.



While each partner has a distinct role, there are collective goals for promoting victim and community safety, and wanting offenders to succeed in order to reduce recidivism and prevent future victimization.



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# Highlights of the Model



Connecticut is a national leader for our collaborative approach to sex offender supervision and management.



Post-Conviction Victim Services (PCVS) victim advocates are based on each of the 18 Adult Sex Offender Probation Supervision Units and 5 Parole Special Management Units



## Recidivism Rates

- Supervision only/absent treatment = 18%
- Supervision + SO treatment = 11%
- Supervision + SO treatment and collaborative supervision = 3%



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# Role of the PCVS Victim Advocate

## PRE-TRIAL

- Assist victims during the pre-sentence investigation
- Provide support, information, education, and referrals

## INCARCERATION

- Victim notification of offender's scheduled release
- Support, referrals for services, safety planning, expectation management

## SUPERVISION

- Act as a liaison between the victim and the sex offender supervision unit
- Victim notification in regards to changes in supervision status
- Ongoing safety planning, short-term crisis counseling and referrals as needed
- Form relationships and provide support, referrals, and information to tertiary victims/offender social supports
- Attend sex offender treatment groups in order to offer feedback on victim issues and increase victim empathy
- Community education and notification



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# Pennsylvania: Office of Victim Advocate



# Pennsylvania's Laws

- **1995.** Governor Tom Ridge signed Megan's Law.
- **2004.** Governor Edward Rendell updated Megan's Law. Most notably, information on all registered sexual offenders available to the public on internet.
- **2011.** Governor Tom Corbett signed into law "Adam Walsh Bill," brought the Commonwealth into compliance with the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.
- **2018.** Governor Tom Wolf signed into law a legislative fix reverting back to Megan's Law 2004.



# Pennsylvania Challenges — Juveniles

- **2014.** The Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down SORNA's Juvenile Offender registration requirements as unconstitutional.
  - Juveniles no longer required to register in Pennsylvania, except if they are classified by the court as a Sexually Violent Delinquent Child; this includes juveniles required register in another jurisdiction or foreign country.
- **Act 21.** Civil commitment for SVDC is being challenged in Pennsylvania as well.



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# Pennsylvania Challenges

- Commonwealth vs. Muniz, in which the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that provisions of the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) that applied retroactively were unconstitutional. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court had stayed the Muniz decision pending appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, but the decision went into effect when the highest court declined to hear the case.
- Office of Victim Advocate filed amicus briefs with the Attorney General's office.

A blue-tinted photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, featuring several tall skyscrapers and a dense forest in the foreground. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in white text in the center of the image.

Questions?



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