

Measures for Crime Victims, etc. in Rehabilitation Services

Offenders rehabilitation is a system that prevents persons who have committed crimes and juvenile delinquents from re-offending; eliminates their delinquents; and assist them to become self-reliant as sound members in the society. As a part of criminal justice, it aims at protecting the society and promoting individual and public welfare. It works with consideration towards crime victims.

Rehabilitation services are being done by regional parole boards set up in 8 places in the country, and also by the probation offices set up in 50 places in the country.

(“Rehabilitation organization”:

<http://www.moj.go.jp/HOGO/hogo03.html>). The basic plan consists of various provisions which must be incorporated in the rehabilitation service. The following 4 measures were also initiated for crime victims on December 1, 2007 in the field of rehabilitation.

- (1) Opinions hearing system in parole examinations
- (2) Communication of crime victims’ sentiments to probationers
- (3) System for notifying crime victims, etc.
- (4) Counseling and Support

Measures for crime victims, etc. in rehabilitation services are introduced in this Column.



Probation Office

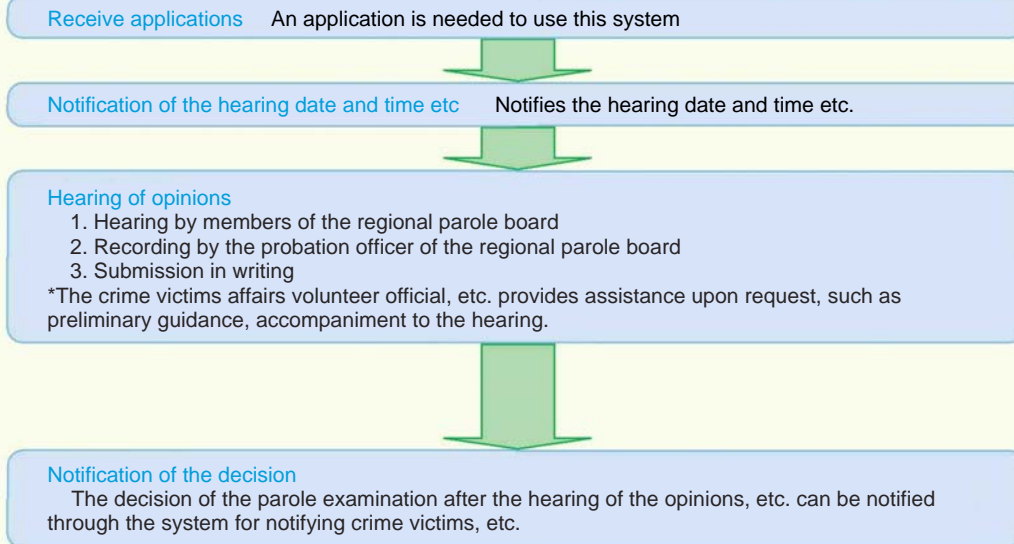
“Main Crime Victims Consultation Service”

The prefectural/ordinance-designated city measures/consultation window, victim consultation service window of the police, the private groups of National Network for Victim Support, The Japan Legal Support Center (known as “Houterasu”) etc. are the main consultation service centers (Source: the Cabinet Office Website). From December 2007, the probation offices are also offering consultation services.

(1) Opinions hearing system in parole examinations

Crime victims may express their opinions or feelings regarding the parole of the person subject to examination and regarding sentiments on damage by the crimes. The heard opinions, etc. help the regional parole board to decide whether to release on parole, and they are also deliberated over to establish special conditions which must be followed (the rules which must be individually followed by a perpetrator under probation) or to set the items of reference for implementing the probation when the board decides to release someone on parole.

- Flow of the Procedure -

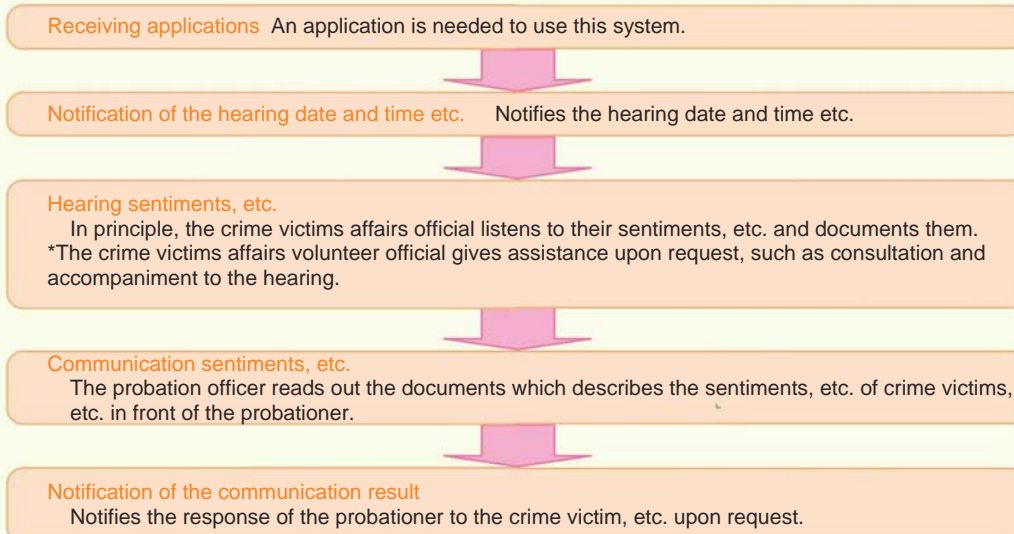


(2) Communication of crime victims' sentiments to probationers

Probation offices hear the sentiments, etc. of crime victims related to the damage or the victims' current situation and the opinions on the life or behavior of their offender under probation, and communicate them to him/her.

For the probationer, this system promotes him/her to see the actual situation of damage and to generate the sense of regret

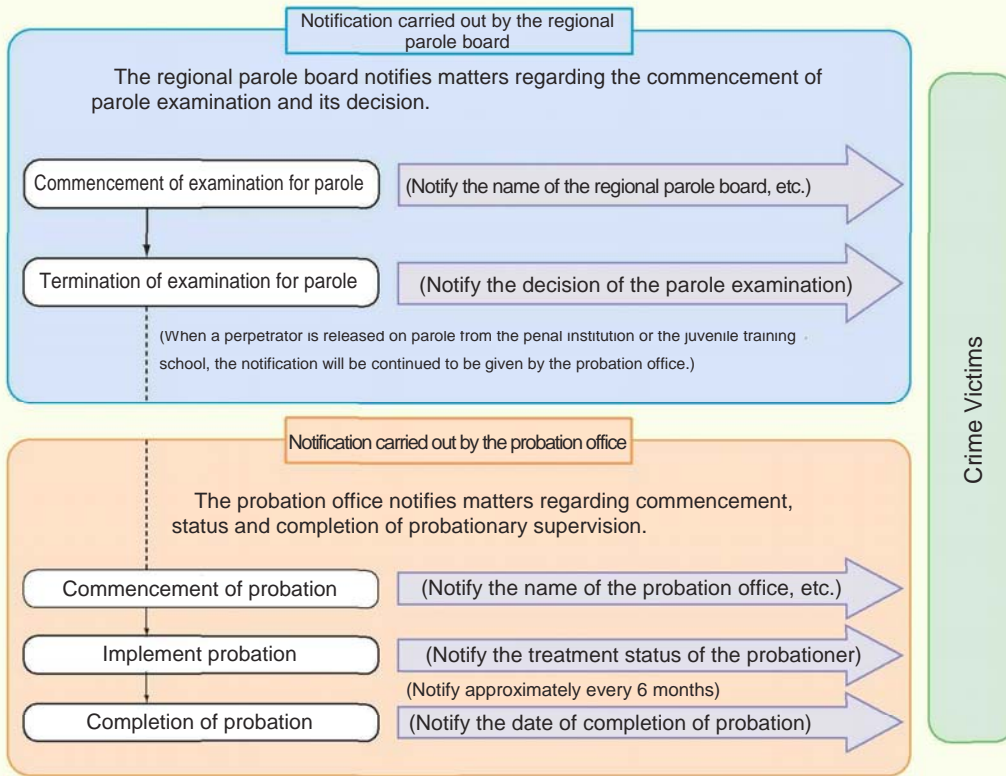
- Flow of the Procedure -



For more details, contact the probation office located in your prefecture.

(3) System for notifying crime victims, etc. in rehabilitation service

The Rehabilitation Service has started to notify the status of the treatment of the perpetrators upon request of the crime victims, in December 2007.



— Destination for application of notification and the crime victims who can receive notification —

■ When the perpetrator is convicted

The application should be made to the public prosecutors office which corresponds to the court where the perpetrator was judged as guilty. Those who can receive the notification are 1) crime victims, 2) relatives of the crime victims or 3) the attorneys in fact of 1) or 2).

■ When the perpetrator is placed under protective measures

The application should be made to the juvenile classification home when the perpetrator is committed to the juvenile training school, or to the probation office if he is placed under probation. Those who can receive the notification are 1) crime victims, 2) statutory agents of the crime victims, 3) the spouse, lineal relatives, or siblings of the crime victims in case of the crime victims' death or their suffering from severe mental or physical disorders, or 4) the attorneys in fact of 1), 2), or 3).

(4) Counseling and Support

- ⊙ Can be used by crime victims or their relatives.
- ⊙ The following support is given for recovery from damages and proper involvement in criminal proceedings.
 - Listen to the concerns, worries, etc.
 - Introduce relevant institutions and give advice regarding their usage
 - Providing information about the measures for crime victims, etc. in rehabilitation service

From the crime victim measures scene



Interview room in probation office

To implement the measures for crime victims, etc. in rehabilitation service, crime victims affairs officials and crime victims affairs volunteer officials were allocated at each probation office. They do not engage in probation affairs for perpetrators during their term of office.

Number of crime victims affairs officials	63
Number of crime victims affairs volunteer officials	108

(As of April 2008)

Please feel free to contact us to use measures for crime victims, etc. in rehabilitation service as we would like to help crime victims as much as possible.



Crime victims affairs volunteer officials

Leaflets are distributed at probation offices. You can also visit our website.
<http://www.moj.go.jp/HOGO/victim.html>