



Michelle Cruz, Esq.
State Victim Advocate

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY
OFFICE OF THE VICTIM ADVOCATE
505 HUDSON STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATE VICTIM ADVOCATE ANNOUNCES AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION FOR CRIME VICTIMS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS CONCERNING PROSPECTIVE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO PAROLE ELIGIBILITY OF OFFENDERS WHO WERE UNDER 18 AT THE TIME A CRIME WAS COMMITTED

HARTFORD – The Connecticut Sentencing Commission, a permanent commission established to review on an ongoing basis criminal justice and sentencing policies and laws of this State, announced Friday, October 5, 2012, that it will hold a public hearing on **November 8, 2012** at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford Connecticut, to receive public comment on its legislative proposals for changes to parole review. The Commission's legislative proposals may affect the eligibility for release of an offender who was under the age of 18 at the time a crime was committed and are in response to two recent United States Supreme Court decisions. The public hearing will be an opportunity for crime victims and others to attend and participate by offering their views and opinions on these prospective legislative changes.

The Office of the Victim Advocate will be having an informational session on **November 7, 2012**, at 6:30pm at the *Hartford Public Library Downtown Branch located at 500 Main Street*, for crime victims and their supporters in advance of the public hearing before the Connecticut Sentencing Commission.

The goal of the OVA's informational session is to educate crime victims and others on the recent Supreme Court decisions, the prospective legislative changes for parole eligibility of offenders who were under 18 at the time a crime was committed and how to have a voice and be heard at the upcoming public hearing concerning these issues. All are encouraged to attend.

"If passed, these legislative initiatives will have the ability to affect countless crime victims and their families. In the past these legislative proposals came with less than a week's notice with no meaningful opportunity to participate and be heard. We commend the Connecticut Sentencing Commission for this opportunity. We hope crime victims will participate and look forward to the impending dialogue".

For more information about the OVA's informational session, contact the OVA at (860) 550-6632, via Email at OVA.info@ct.gov or visit the OVA's website at www.ct.gov/ova.

CONTACT: State Victim Advocate, Michelle Cruz, Esq. (860) 550-6632

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