

Integrating the victim's perspective in prison and probation practice - The Swedish experience

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Balance between 2 sometimes conflicting aspects of the best interest of the child

- The child's right to contact with the parent
- The child's right to protection from the parent

Victim´s protection assignment

- Contribute in meetings between victim´s and convicted offenders
- Limit destructive contacts based on applicable legislation; such as risk of injury/harm, security for the victim or others , or when its considered to counteract the inmates re-integration into society

Victim issues – *“why does the child not tell?”*

- Tells seldom voluntarily
- Needs a long time to be able to tell
- Only what is documented
- Missing words
- Not aware
- Shame, guilt
- Threats, fear of consequences
- normalized to violence

Meetings between offenders and victim's



- Meetings can only be arranged based on the victim's best interest and with the victim's best interest in mind
- The benefits for the victim's has been obvious. Reduce fear, deal with practical issues, questions about the crime, clear out uncertainties concerning the future or plans for common children. Regarding custody related issues and so on
- (Secondary) benefits for the treatment of the offenders such as the possibility for the offender too take responsibility for the crime and its consequences

Case - Ricard

Contact within the framework of victim information



- Ricard is sentenced for depriving his ex-girlfriend of her life, due to his young age he was sentenced to a shorter prison term for his crime
- During the trial, he was perceived as emotionally turned off and cold
- The victim's mother expressed a wish for some form of contact / communication with the client before he was released from prison.

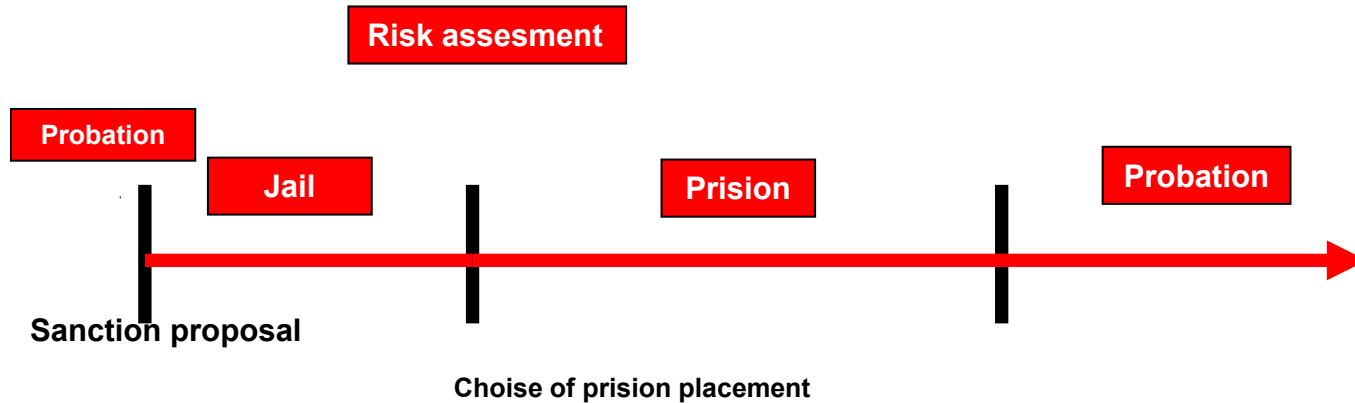
Case Ricard

- The motive for the meeting was the number of clarifications, she had a desire to ask certain questions and get answers and end the contact with the offenders Ricard
- 5 people participated, 4 in the direct visitor room, one to support the mother in the room next door. The meeting was recorded
- What happened? Why? Some specific circumstances surrounding the crime

Case Sven

- An elderly Swedish man with a massive criminal record of sexual offending behaviour against children
- Sexual interest in young girls -Sexual deviant
- Access to victim's
- Context of incest

Victim´s protection must be seen as a cohesive process (”read thread”) throughout the offenders sentence and in all parts of the system



dialogue between the prison service units

Vitims awareness in documentaton, treatment and risk management plan an so on...

Thank you for your attention!

”Children begin by loving their parents; as they grow older they judge them; sometimes they forgive them”

/Oscar Wilde

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