

PROBATION OFFICERS FORUM



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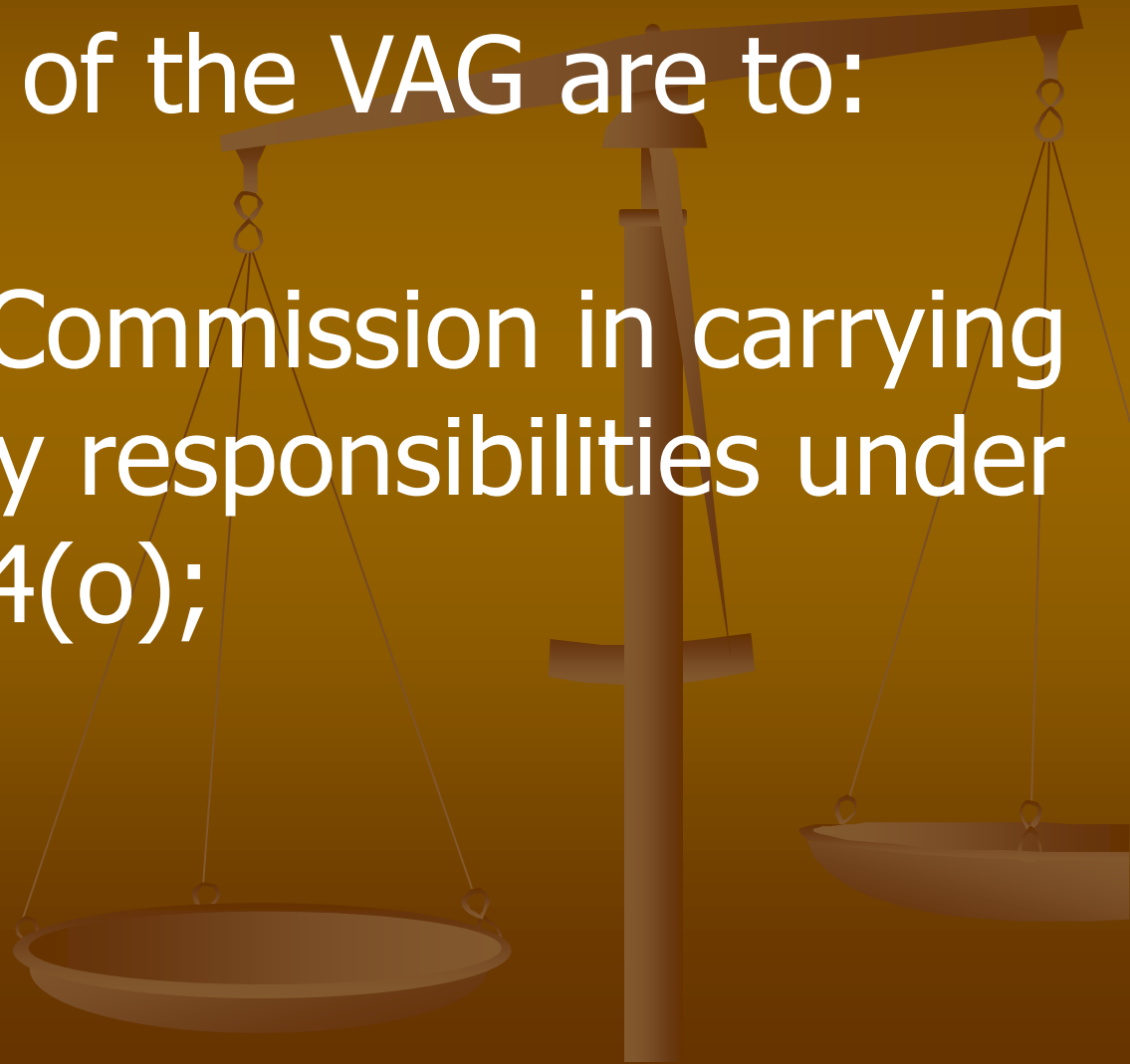
Chair, Victims Advisory Group

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VICTIMS ADVISORY GROUP

- Four purpose of the VAG are to:
 - (1) assist the Commission in carrying out its statutory responsibilities under 28 U.S.C. § 994(o);



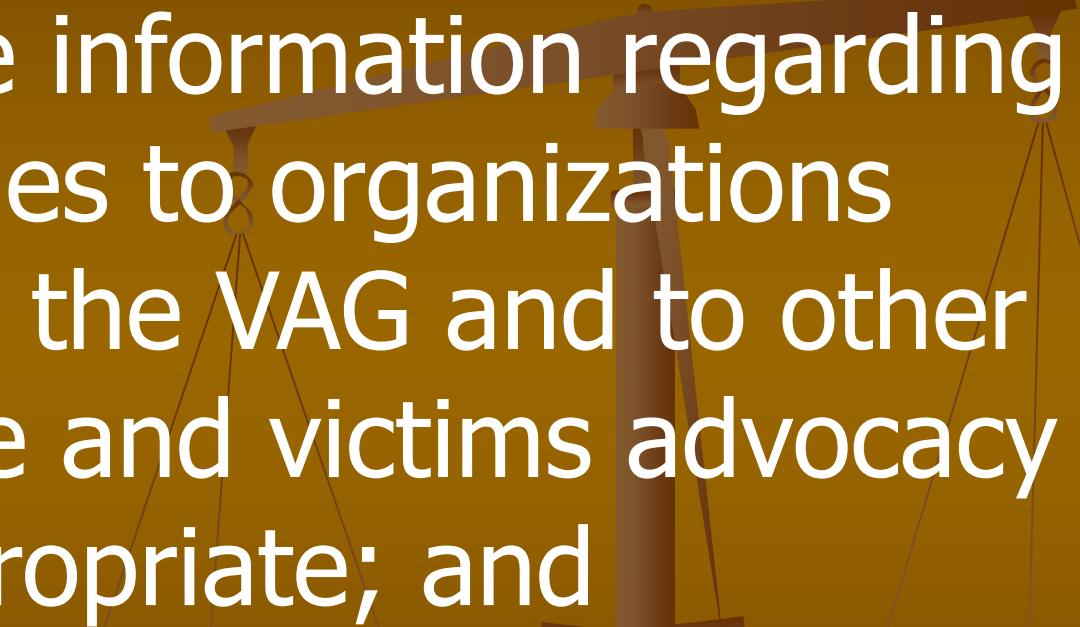
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(2) provide to the Commission its views on the Commission's activities and work, including proposed priorities and amendments, as they relate to victims of crime;



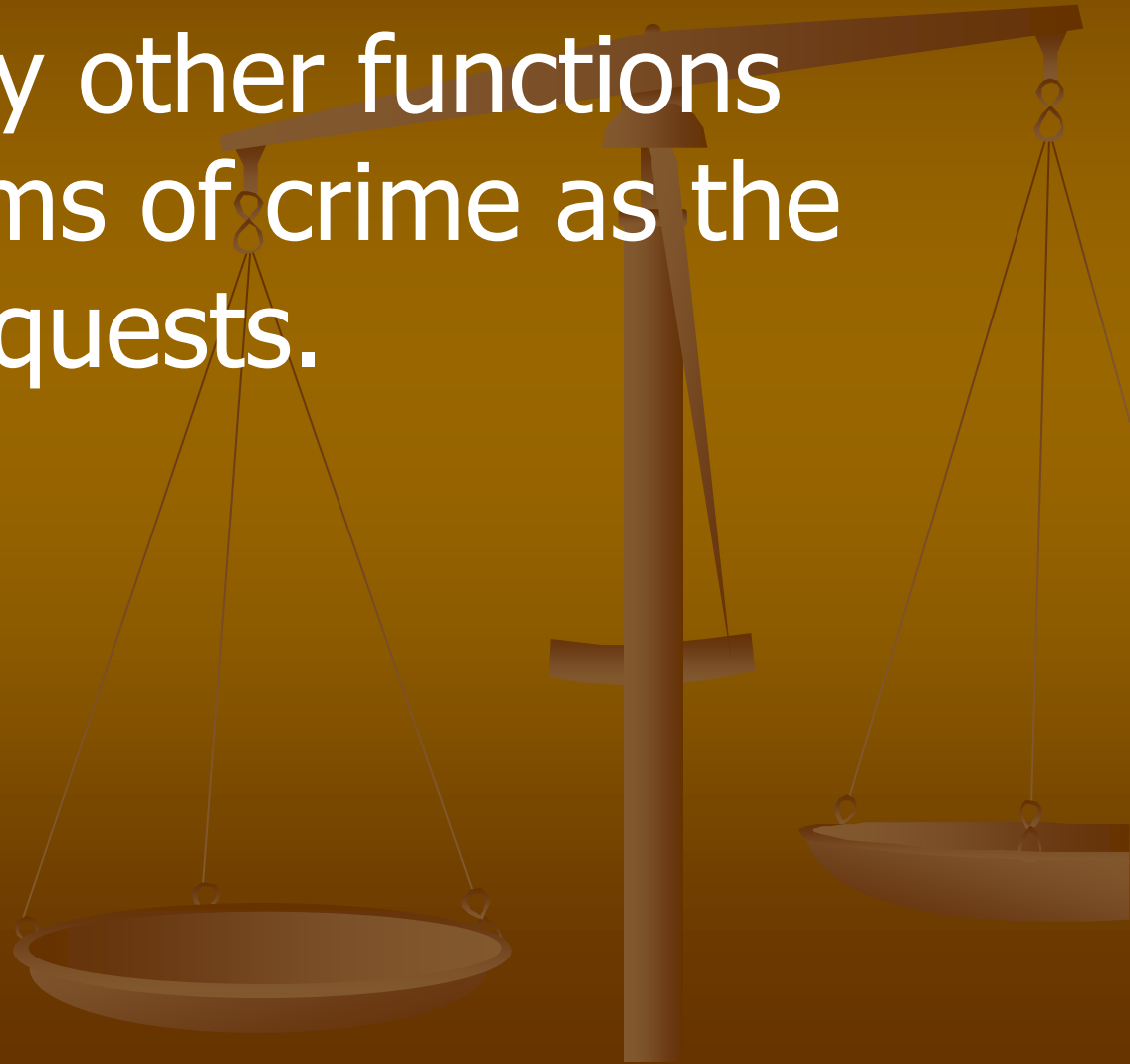
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(3) disseminate information regarding sentencing issues to organizations represented on the VAG and to other victims of crime and victims advocacy groups, as appropriate; and



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(4) perform any other functions related to victims of crime as the Commission requests.



VICTIMS INTERACTIONS WITH PROBATION - QUESTIONS



- What roles and responsibilities do probation officers have regarding victims? (“victims” includes a victim’s representatives)
- Are the procedures of interactions between probation officers and victims consistent across Districts?

VICTIMS INTERACTIONS WITH PROBATION



■ Pre-sentencing Process

- Factors in the PSR (Guidelines and Departures)
- Victim Impact Statement
 - Written
 - Oral
- Restitution

■ Supervision Process

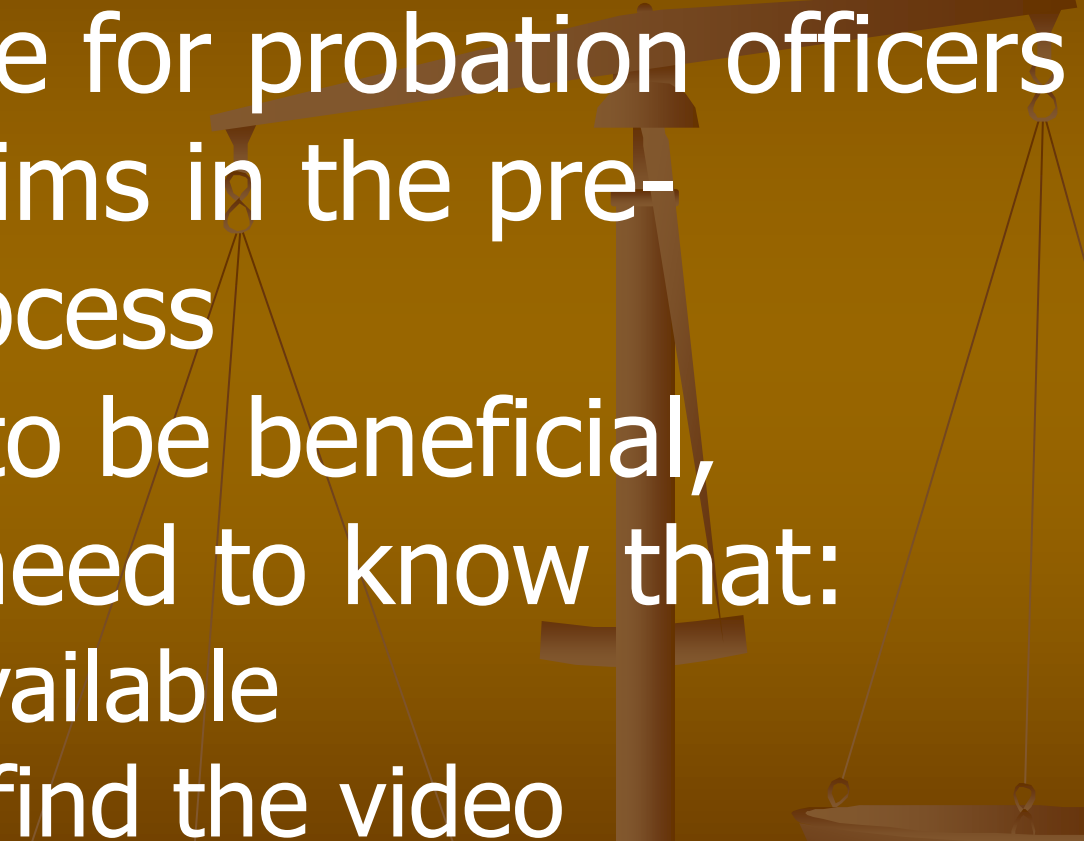
- Restitution
- Provisions related to no contact

VICTIMS INTERACTIONS WITH PROBATION - QUESTIONS

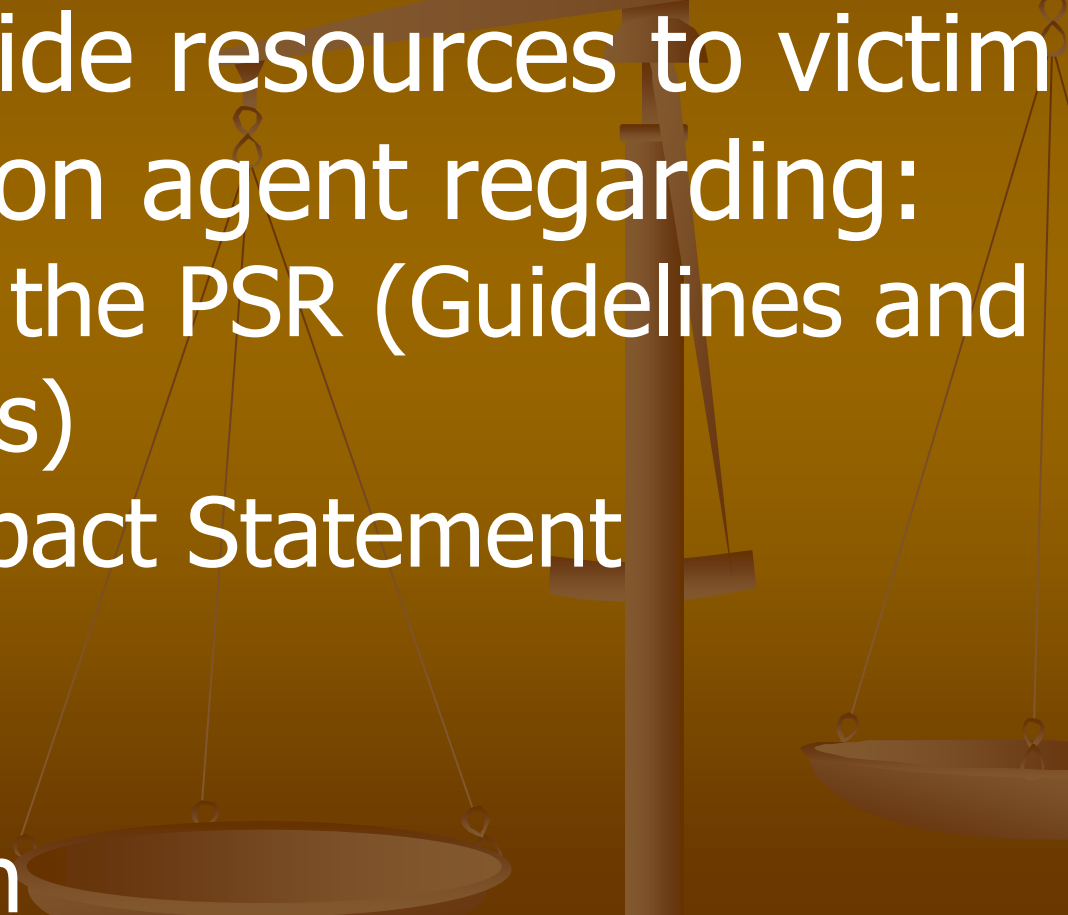


- From the perspective of the probation agents, is working with victims –
 - Easy or Difficult?
 - What could make the process of interacting with victims better?

SENTENCING COMMISSION VICTIM VIDEO

- New resource for probation officers to assist victims in the pre-sentence process
 - Key issue – to be beneficial, victims will need to know that:
 - video is available
 - Where to find the video
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SENTENCING COMMISSION VICTIM VIDEO – BENEFIT TO PROBATION

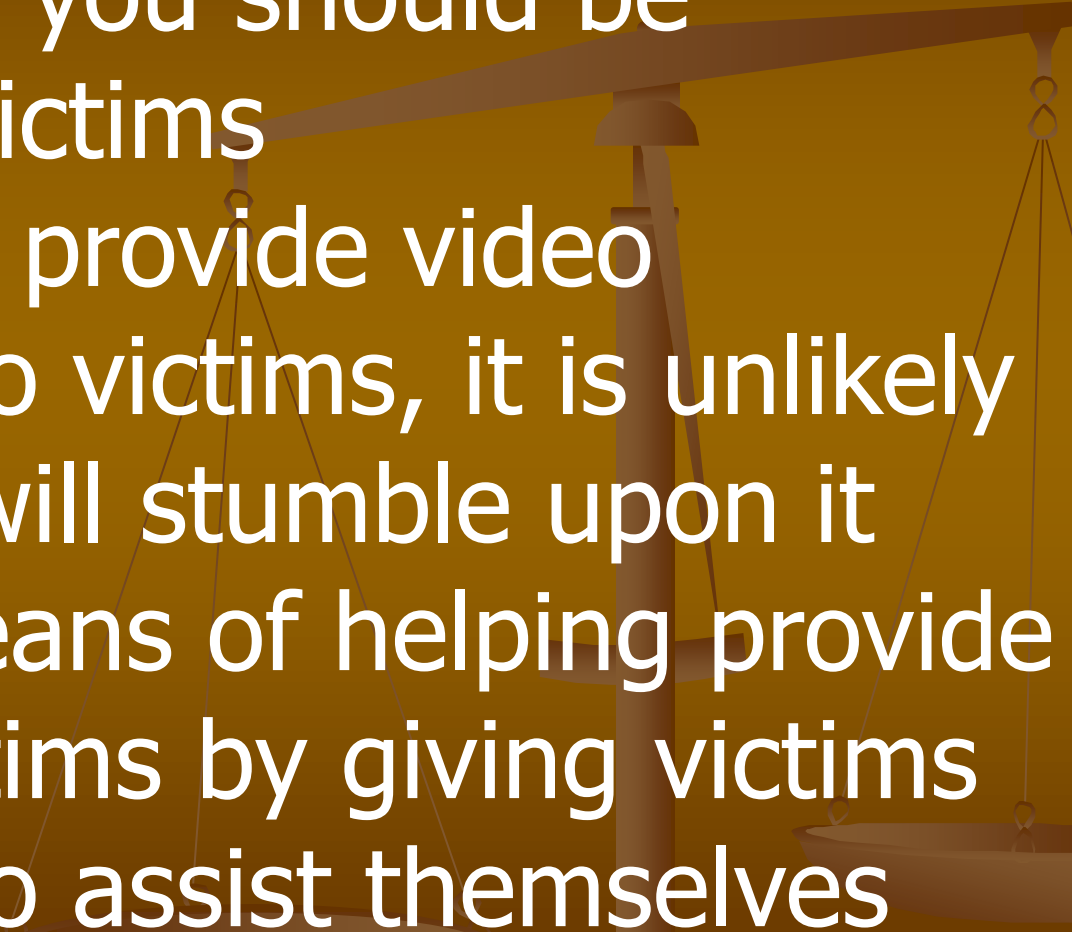
- Help to provide resources to victim
 - Help probation agent regarding:
 - Factors in the PSR (Guidelines and Departures)
 - Victim Impact Statement
 - Written
 - Oral
 - Restitution
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SENTENCING COMMISSION VICTIM VIDEO – BENEFIT TO VICTIMS

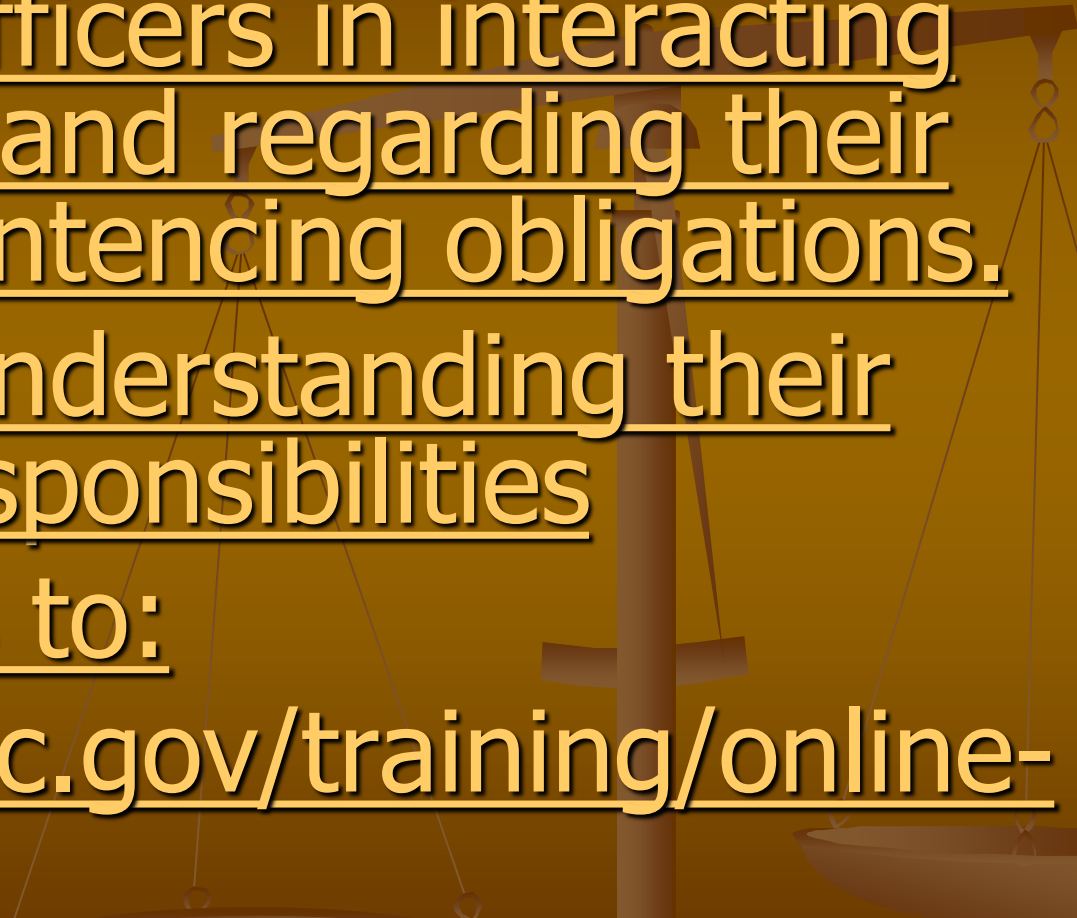


- Better understand process
- Better understand roles and responsibility
- Better convey to probation officers and court the impact of the crime and their views related to sentencing and restitution

TAKE HOME POINTS

- Sentencing Commission video is a resource that you should be provided to victims
 - If you do not provide video information to victims, it is unlikely that victims will stumble upon it
 - Video is a means of helping provide justice to victims by giving victims information to assist themselves
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CONCLUSION

- Video's availability will help:
 - Probation officers in interacting with victims and regarding their other pre-sentencing obligations.
 - Victims in understanding their roles and responsibilities
 - Direct victims to:
<http://www.ussc.gov/training/online-learning-center>
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Questions

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