

*Justice isn't served
until crime victims are.*

Where To Go For Help

For an offender incarcerated at a state correctional facility or under supervision in the community, go to www.doc.state.mn.us and click on "offender locator" to find the offender's case manager or supervising agent, or contact the DOC Victim Liaison at 651-642-0468 or 1-800-657-3830. To find the nearest local victim services program, go to www.ojp.state.mn.us



Minnesota Office of Justice Programs

445 Minnesota Street
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St. Paul, MN 55101
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Post Conviction Issues

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The written request to be notified of an offender's release will initiate the notification by law enforcement.

Victim Notification

MN Statute 611A.06 provides victims of crime the right to notice of release of the offender. For offenders sentenced to the Commissioner of Corrections and serving their time at a Department of Corrections (DOC) State Correctional Facility, the DOC will make a good faith effort to notify the victim 60 days before the offender's release from incarceration. This includes:

- ▶ Offenders being released to work release
- ▶ Release from a juvenile correctional facility
- ▶ And for those confined due to incompetence or mental illness, victims must request notification through the Commissioner of Human Services.

Victims must also be notified:

- ▶ If an offender's custody status is reduced and they are transferred to a less secure facility
- ▶ If an offender escapes from a DOC facility, and when that offender has been apprehended
- ▶ Upon the death of an offender.

This statute requires victims to request notification in writing to the Commissioner of Corrections. A victim Notification Request Form is available at www.ojp.state.mn.us

Restitution

MN Statute 611A.046 allows victims the right to ask the offender's probation officer to request a probation review hearing if the offender fails to pay restitution required in a restitution order.

If the offender is incarcerated at a Minnesota State Correctional Facility, the DOC will garnish the inmate's wages if the offender is earning while in prison and forward funds to the county of commitment to pay the offender's restitution requirements. For questions contact the offender's case manager (this information is available at 1-800-657-3830 or www.doc.state.mn.us under the offender locator).

Safety Planning

The offender's release from incarceration can cause victims concern for their safety. Key components in preparing a safety plan are:

- ▶ Requesting victim notification
- ▶ Contacting the offender's supervising agent prior to the release.

Information the victim provides can often assist the agent in the approval of the offender's release plan. Also, local victim services can assist in obtaining a no contact order if the victim has been threatened while the offender was incarcerated.

Parole/Life Review Hearings

Minnesota operates under a determinate sentencing structure meaning, except life sentences, there is no parole process for offenders. Offenders not serving life sentences will serve 2/3 of their sentence incarcerated and 1/3 in the community under supervision by an agent. If offenders violate the conditions of release, they may be returned to prison for up to the duration of their sentence.

For offenders serving life sentences, the victim's family has the right to attend the "Life Sentence Review Hearing" when the offender is eligible for parole. Victims can provide input to the Commissioner of Corrections regarding the offender's release. This input can be provided either in person or in writing.

Apology Letter Bank

Sometimes offenders who are incarcerated write victims letters of apology. The DOC has implemented a policy which forbids offenders from ever sending those letters to the victim directly or through a third party. If a victim is interested in whether the offender in their case has written a letter or is interested in receiving that letter, they can contact either the DOC Restorative Justice Planner or Victim Services Liaison in writing at: Minnesota DOC, 1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 200, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Offender Information

Community Notification of Predatory (Sex) Offenders

In addition to notification of release from incarceration, victim notification for offenders who are eligible for a community notification risk level assignment include notification from law enforcement of the approximate residence of the offender while they are community notification eligible (in most cases for the next 10 years). The written request to be notified of an offender's release will initiate the notification by law enforcement.

Information Involving Offenders

Sometimes victims request information pertaining to an offender's programming while incarcerated or on supervision. Victims have a right to know basic information about the offender:

- ▶ The location of the offender if incarcerated and anticipated release date
- ▶ Notification of release
- ▶ Name of the offender's supervising agent and conditions of the offender's release.

Other information (i.e. treatment, discipline, etc.) can be given to the victim only if the offender has signed a release to provide the victim the information. If a victim is interested in obtaining information about an offender, they should contact the offender's case manager or supervising agent.

Victim Offender Dialogue

Sometimes victims request to meet with the offender and participate in a facilitated Victim-Offender Dialogue process. Although this happens very rarely, the DOC has implemented a procedure to accommodate such requests. These dialogues only receive consideration if they are at the request of the victim. An offender cannot initiate a dialogue. Questions about this process should be directed to the DOC Restorative Justice Planner at 651-643-2162.