

## Northern Territory Victims Register

### What is the Victims Register?

The Victims Register is a Northern Territory Government initiative that was established to address the concerns of victims of crime. The Victims Register is a database which enables the Crime Victims Services Unit to provide victims of violent and sexual crimes, or other concerned persons with certain information about the offender(s). It also allows victims to make written submissions to the Parole Board in relation to the relevant offender.

Information you provide will remain strictly confidential and will only be held on the Victims Register. Access to this information is strictly limited to staff with a genuine and essential need to have such access and will not be available to offenders or other persons.

### Who can register?

The following persons are eligible to be registered in relation to an offender:

- the actual victim of a violent or sexual offence;
- a legal guardian of the actual victim if that victim is a child or suffers from a disability.

Applications for registration may also be made as a concerned person, but registration will be subject to meeting certain criteria, including but not limited to the following:

- a person who has been nominated by the victim to receive information on their behalf;
- a primary care-giver or family member;
- a person against who the offender has a history of using domestic violence;
- a person who has substantial concern with the relevant offence.

You do not have to live in the Northern Territory to apply to be included on the Victims Register.

### When can you register?

You can apply to be registered after the offender is sentenced for the relevant offence or before the offender is discharged from the sentence.

### What information can be provided to victims of crime?

- the location of the offender at the time of registration, and any subsequent transfers;
- the offender(s) security classification at the time of registration;
- the result of any leave applications e.g. work release, home visits, re-integration;
- suspended sentence order (SSO) information, including date of release under SSO, the conditions of the SSO, any variation, revocation, cancellation or discharge of a SSO;
- parole information, including earliest possible date of release, date that parole Board is to consider release on parole, actual date of release on parole and any conditions of parole that are considered relevant to the victim;

- if the offender dies whilst in custody.

A registered victim or concerned person may, however, enquire at any time as to the following information on the offender(s):

- transfer to another prison in the Northern Territory;
- status of security ratings or any change in the status;
- courses or programs being undertaken for the purposes of rehabilitation;
- any approved leave of absence from prison.

**How frequently will I receive information regarding an offender?**

Upon acceptance of your registration the Crime Victims Services Unit compiles all relevant information regarding the offender at that point in time. This information forms the basis of the first letter you will receive. We will endeavour to have this information to you in a timely fashion. After receiving your first letter from us, you will receive further correspondence only if any of the previously supplied information changes, i.e. the offender changes location or is allowed leave. It is not possible to predict how often this will happen, however, it is important to remember that notification is only possible after receipt of the information on the change by the Crime Victims Services Unit.

**What should I do if I do not fully understand the information contained in a letter from the Crime Victims Services Unit?**

The Victims Register was established to keep victims of crime, or concerned persons, informed of the progress of an offender through the correctional system. If you are unsure about the meaning or possible impact of information sent to you by the Crime Victims Services Unit, we encourage you to contact the Unit on Freecall 1800 221 372.

**Where do I get an application form for the Victims Register?**

Application forms are available by contacting:

Coordinator Northern Territory Victims Register Crime Victims Services Unit Freecall: 1800 221 372 Email: <a href="mailto:victims.register@nt.gov.au">victims.register@nt.gov.au</a>	Witness Assistance Service Tel: 08 8935 7500 Darwin Tel: 08 8951 5800 Alice Springs Tel: 08 8972 8900 Katherine Freecall: 1800 659 449 Email: <a href="mailto:wasdpp.doj@nt.gov.au">wasdpp.doj@nt.gov.au</a>
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