



Tasmania

DEPARTMENT *of* JUSTICE

Victims Assistance Unit

Victims' Register

What is the Victims' Register?

The Victims' Register is an automated database that enables the Victims Assistance Unit to provide timely and accurate information to victims of crime regarding the offender who committed the offence(s) against them, or a member of their immediate family.

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

What information can the Unit provide to victims of crime?

- the nature of the offence committed and the sentence imposed by the court
- the location of the offender at the time of registration, and any subsequent transfers
- the offender(s) security classification at the time of registration, and any classification changes
- the offender(s) release eligibility dates
- the result of any leave applications e.g. work release*, home visits, re-integration or parole
- if the offender escapes from custody, and
- if the offender dies whilst in custody.

* The Victims Register will only be notifying of Section 41 leave granted for work in a public areas such as the Botanical Gardens, Government House, Parliament House or the cemetery maintenance gang. Any minimum security related inmate may be granted work release. We will not be advising of work release leave where work will be performed in areas that are not generally accessible to members of the public.

The Victims' Register is a new initiative for Tasmania and will be implemented in distinct stages. Stage one of the register includes information on offenders currently held within the Tasmanian prison system only.

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How frequently will I receive information regarding an offender?

Upon receipt of your registration form for the Victims' Register, the Victims Assistance 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 within ten days of receipt of your registration. From that point in time, you will receive further correspondence only if any of the agreed 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 Victims Assistance Unit.

The need for urgent medical treatment or special leave may not be registered with the Unit. A victim may however enquire at any time as to the offender's location.

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

The Victims' Register was established to keep victims of crime, or their family members, informed of the progress of an offender through the correctional system. If you are unsure about the meaning or impact of information sent to you by the Victims Assistance Unit regarding an offender, we encourage you to contact the Unit on 6233 5002 or 1300 663 773.

The aim of the Victims' Register is to provide timely and accurate information in a sensitive manner to victims of crime. Please feel free to contact us with your questions and concerns.

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

Application forms are available by contacting the Victims Assistance Unit or the Victims of Crime Services.

Contact: Victims Assistance Unit
Department of Justice
54 Victoria Street, Hobart, Tas., 7000.

Postal Address: GPO Box 825, Hobart, Tas., 7001

Phone: (03) 6233 5002
or 1300 663 773

Facsimile: (03) 6233 5031
Email: victims@justice.tas.gov.au