

Victims Rights

It is a fundamental belief of the New South Wales Government that victims should be treated with courtesy and compassion and respect for their rights and dignity.

The New South Wales Government enacted the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013 to establish the Charter of Victims Rights. This requires State Agencies to have regard to it in the administration of Justice and other relevant affairs of the state.

The Government also enacted legislation contained in the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999 to establish the Victims Register, which requires that a victim's submission be taken into consideration in certain circumstances

What is the Victims Register?

The purpose of the Victims Register is to enable CSNSW to keep victims informed if the offender:

- Is to be considered for a change in security classification that may result in the offender being eligible for unescorted leave of absence (i.e. pre-release leave)

- Is due for parole consideration
- Is due for release
- Has escaped from custody
- Has died whilst in custody.

The Victims Register will not as a matter of course advise victims of changes in security classification (except as stated above) or routine transfers between Correctional Centres or for medical treatment. A victim may however enquire at any time about the offender's location.

Who runs the Victims Register?

Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) maintains the Victims Register which records the names and contact details of the victims who have requested registration of their interests.

The Register is strictly controlled and access is limited to staff with a genuine and essential need to have such access.

Victim Submissions

Under the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999, the State Parole Authority and the Serious Offender Review Council must be advised of any registered victim of a serious offender.

A registered victim of a serious offender has the opportunity to make submissions to the Serious Offender Review Council concerning unescorted leave. These submissions are taken into consideration before making any recommendation to the Commissioner about unescorted leave. A registered victim of a serious offender also has an opportunity to make submissions to the State Parole Authority about the offender before it is decided if the offender should be released on parole.

CSNSW also welcomes submissions from victims of other than 'serious offenders'. Assistance with the preparation of a submission is available from the Victims Register.

Victims Register

Victims Support Unit
(02) 8688 6833

Who is a Victim?

The Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999 defines a victim as:

- A victim of the offence for which the offender has been sentence of any offence taken into account under Division 3 of Part 3 of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999, or
- A family or representative of such a victim (if the victim is deceased or under any incapacity or in such circumstances as may be prescribed by the regulations), and includes
- A person who suffers actual physical harm, mental illness or nervous shock, or whose property is deliberately taken and destroyed.

If you believe you are a victim and wish to register your interest please contact the Victims Register to discuss the matter.

Enquiries

Victims Register

Phone: (02) 8688 6833

Email: victims.support@justice.nsw.gov.au

Fax: (02) 8688 9624

All Correspondence to:

Victims Register

Victims Support Unit

Level 5, Parramatta Justice Precinct

160 Marsden St,

Parramatta NSW 2150



Justice
Corrective Services