



Victim Liaison Officer



What are my rights as a victim of an offender incarcerated in a Newfoundland and Labrador correctional facility?

As a victim of crime, you are entitled to have access to certain information regarding the offender who harmed you. This information is usually provided by a correctional officer in the facility where the offender is serving his/her sentence. The correctional officer is called a victim liaison officer (VLO).

Upon request, you are entitled to the following information:

- The offender's name;
- The offence for which the offender was convicted;
- The start date and length of sentence;
- Eligibility dates for parole or other forms of release;
- The location of the correctional facility where the offender is incarcerated;
- The name and telephone number of the contact person whom that victim may call for further information; and
- Assistance when concerns arise regarding inmates behavior while incarcerated.

How do I contact a victim liaison officer (VLO)?

If the individual who harmed you is in jail, your victim services regional coordinator will advise you of the VLO services available, answer any questions you have regarding the VLO process, and refer you if you request it.

If you do not wish to receive information directly from the VLO, the regional coordinator can act as your agent to receive and provide information to the VLO. The regional coordinator is only available during working hours so this may limit information getting to you in a timely manner.

Once a referral is made to the VLO, a letter will be forwarded to you or your agent providing details (as indicated previously) regarding the offender.

Separate referrals from Victim Services to the VLO are required if there are multiple offenders.

You must ensure the VLO or regional coordinator, if acting as your agent, is aware of your current contact information so you can be kept up to date. Please note that offenders have telephone access and unless the VLO is notified, the offender may be able to have telephone contact with you, even if there is a no-contact order in place. In the event that you do not wish to receive telephone calls from the offender, please contact Victim Services or the VLO directly.



Why do most offenders get released from jail before their full sentence is served?

An offender would be released from jail after serving two thirds of their sentence, unless the Parole Board of Canada ordered the detention of the offender to serve the full sentence.

Parole allows some offenders to serve a portion of their sentence under supervision in the community. Parole is based on the belief that the best way to protect society is to help offenders gradually re-integrate into the community as law-abiding citizens under supervision and with conditions. Parole is not automatic — parole board members must decide whether to release an offender. For sentences under two years, day parole eligibility comes at one-sixth of their sentence. All offenders may be considered for a temporary absence program which allows them to leave the facility to attend work, school, rehabilitation, or for other humanitarian reasons. If a temporary absence is granted and the victim requested victim liaison officer information, attempts will be made to inform the victim. Before someone is granted a temporary absence, a comprehensive investigation is undertaken and all of those who may be impacted may be contacted by the institution.

Will the offender know I am in contact with a victim liaison officer?

Offenders will be told when they begin their sentence that victims they have offended against have a right to certain information. The offender will not be advised that you have requested this information. Every effort will be made to keep your involvement with the victim liaison officer confidential, unless it is required by law to be released.

If you have not been in contact with Victim Services and would like support and assistance as a victim of crime, or would like a referral to a victim liaison officer, contact us:

Telephone: 709.729.7970

E-mail: victimservices@gov.nl.ca

Web: victimshelp.ca