

Important points to note

It is important that people wanting to register with the VNR understand that there are some limitations to the service.

- Given the confidential nature of offender information, you can only receive information on the sentence or aggregate (total overall) sentences that relate to the specific crime/s relevant to your registration.
- The exception to the above is when people with a current Family Violence Restraining Order against the offender or an ex-partner, and who can prove a history of family violence in their relationship with the offender.
- Information cannot be supplied once the offender has served his/her sentence or their post sentence supervised order, been discharged from their order or when they cease to be under the Department of Justice's supervision.
- If the offender completes their sentence for the offence against you and subsequently re-offends, we cannot provide information relating to their new sentence unless you are registered under the domestic violence provisions outlined above or the victim of the new charges.
- Not all information about an offender can be released. Only certain information, as outlined in this brochure, can be released.
- Information about offenders under the control of other agencies, such as mental health authorities or police, cannot always be provided.
- If you give us any information that may help manage the offender, this may be referred to the relevant area within the Department of Justice.
- If you are concerned about potential future contact with the offender, you may wish to contact the Victim-offender Mediation Unit to discuss your concerns.
- It is important to keep your personal information up to date so we can get in touch with you as soon as we need to. Please inform the VNR of any changes in your personal details as soon as possible. This will ensure that you can be contacted quickly if there has been a major change or emergency which you need to know about.

If you are unsure about anything sent to you by the VNR, please contact:

Victim Notification Register

Phone 9425 2870
Email vnr@justice.wa.gov.au

Other services for victims of crime:

Victim-offender Mediation Unit

Phone 9425 3200 or 1800 214 655
Email vmu@justice.wa.gov.au

Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime

Phone 1800 428 873
Email cvoc@justice.wa.gov.au
Web www.victimsofcrime.wa.gov.au

Victim Support and Child Witness Service

Phone 9425 2850 or 1800 818 988
Email vss@justice.wa.gov.au

Department of Justice

Phone 13 67 57
Web www.justice.wa.gov.au



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Justice**
Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime

Victim Notification Register

Victim Notification Register

The Western Australian justice system acknowledges and supports victims of crime. Being a victim can be a painful and traumatic experience.

The Victim Notification Register (VNR) is part of the Office for the Commissioner for Victims of Crime in the Department of Justice.

The VNR can help you feel more secure by giving you important information that you might want to know.

The VNR allows you to access information about the offender who committed the offences against you, even if the offences committed against you happened a long time ago.

As a victim, you are still eligible to register if the offender is still under the supervision of the Department of Justice (for example, in prison or on parole) for the offence committed against you.

Registering with the VNR is voluntary. You do not have to register if you do not want to.

The VNR will always keep your details confidential.

While an offender may find out that someone is registered on the VNR relating to their offending, the VNR will never tell an offender who a registration relates to.

This brochure and application form gives you details about the VNR and how to apply.

Please read it carefully and send your completed form to the address shown. You can also apply online at www.justice.wa.gov.au and click on the Commissioner for Victims of Crime link, then on You and the Offender.

Who can apply to go on the VNR?

- The direct victim - the person who has suffered injury, loss or damage as a direct result of any offence committed against them.
- An immediate family member of a victim, where the offence resulted in the death or the incapacitation of the direct victim.
- The holder of a current Family Violence Restraining Order against the offender, or someone who can show they have had a previous relationship with the offender which involved family and domestic violence.

If you meet the above criteria, you may also nominate another person to receive the information on your behalf.

If you are under 18 years of age, we will give the information to a parent or guardian, unless you are over 16 years old and living independently.

Who is not eligible to register?

- Witnesses to the crime or bystanders.
- Family members of the victim, if the offence did not result in the death or incapacitation of the victim.
- An unrelated individual interested in following the progress of the offender.
- A community representative or group.
- Anyone not directly involved in the offence.

Why does the Department of Justice need to check if the people applying for the VNR are victims?

As information about the status of an offender is highly confidential, the Department of Justice must check to make sure you are eligible to know the details you are applying for. Everyone who applies to go on the register is checked before approval is granted. You must give your consent for your application to be verified by the WA Police Force.

What information is available from the VNR?

- Details of the sentence imposed on the offender, including their eligibility dates for inclusion in early release programs like home leave or parole.
- Changes to sentencing of the offender, including any arising from an appeal heard in the courts.
- Dates for the release of the offender from custody either to bail, to a community supervision order or to freedom.
- Advice about when you should write to the releasing authorities about any concerns you have about the offender's potential early release.
- The completion date of the sentence, or any subsequent return of the offender to custody following a breach of a release order.
- Notice if the offender escapes from custody and their recapture.

How often will I receive information about the offender?

- When your application to join the VNR is approved, you will receive a compilation of information on the offender, including their status.
- When there is a significant change to the offender's status.
- When the offender applies for early release, or when hearing dates are set by the releasing authorities.
- Information will continue to be given to you until the offender's sentence is complete.
- The VNR will notify you of a relevant change to the offender's circumstances as soon as is practicable, which is generally within five working days, or more quickly if the information is urgent.

What if the crime was committed a long time ago?

If the offender is still under the supervision of the Department of Justice, either in custody or serving an order for the offence/s against you, you can still apply.