

Irish Prison Service Victim Liaison Service



Victim Liaison Officer

Irish Prison Service Headquarters
IDA Business Park
Ballinalee Road
Longford

Telephone: (043) 333 5100

Email: vlo@irishprisons.ie

Information Booklet



Department of Justice and Law Reform
An Rionn Dlí agus Cirt agus Athchóirithe Dlí

Keeping Victims Informed of Prisoner Releases

Introduction

The Irish Prison Service is extremely conscious of the plight of victims and the harmful, potentially devastating consequences of offences.

The Service acknowledges that the impact of crime on victims varies in nature and force and seeks to take account of their experiences and needs by offering victims the opportunity to give and receive information about prisoners who have been convicted of a crime against them.

While it is appropriate that the sensitivities and concerns of victims of crime should be carefully considered, other sometimes conflicting factors, such as the rehabilitation of offenders and their reintegration into the community, must also be considered and a balance struck.

The Role of the Victim Liaison Officer

Where victims of crime so request, the Prison Service Victim Liaison Officer will enter into direct contact with them on an ongoing basis to inform them of significant developments in the management of a prisoner's sentence. Significant developments may include the following:

- Inter-prison transfers
- Parole Board hearings (in the case of prisoners sentenced to eight years or more) and decisions arising out of this process
- Temporary releases
- Expected release dates

Normally, information on a prisoner's temporary release from prison is provided in advance, but there are some exceptions. On occasion, urgent applications may be considered on compassionate grounds or prisoners can sometimes be released by Court Order. In such cases, every effort will be made by the Victim Liaison Officer to inform the victim of the prisoner's release (temporary or otherwise) within the shortest practicable timeframe.

The Victim Liaison Officer will also provide victims with general information on the prison system, such as the regime in different prisons, remission on sentences and the operation of the Parole Board.

Who is Eligible to Receive Information

A victim may be eligible to receive information, if:

- He or she is the victim of an offence for which the offender was imprisoned
- He or she is not the victim but is the next of kin, is an immediate family member or has a close relationship with someone who has died or was injured as a result of the crime

It is important to note that this is a voluntary service. It is for the victim or their families to choose if they wish to receive information about a prisoner. Victims can change their mind and opt out of the service at any time

How Do I Apply

If you wish to avail of the Victim Liaison Service, you can do so by writing to the Victim Liaison Officer, details below, or by completing the application form provided in this booklet.

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Licence No. LO41

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2

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APPLICATION FORM

I wish to apply to receive information about a prisoner

MY DETAILS:

Name

Address

Contact Telephone Number

Important Note: If your contact details change, you must provide new details to the Victim Liaison Officer in order to receive information

DETAILS OF OFFENCE:

Name of Offender

Date of Offence

Nature of Offence

You may wish to have someone else act or receive information on your behalf. If so, please provide the following details:

DETAILS OF REPRESENTATIVE:

Name

Organisation (if applicable)

Address

Contact Telephone Number

Please Peel Off Tape, Seal Form and Place in Post
(No Stamp Required)