

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Q: As a crime victim, will I be notified of upcoming parole hearings or release dates for the offender?*

A: To receive notification of upcoming parole hearings, release dates, death of an offender, escape of an offender or pending execution, please fill out the Victim Notification Form and mail it to:

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction  
Office of Victim Services  
1050 Freeway Drive, North  
Columbus, Ohio 43229

*Q: Can I let the Parole Board know how I feel about a possible release of an offender?*

A: Any citizen may send information to the Parole Board at any time regarding his/her feelings about a potential parole. Due to the changes in Ohio law over the past few years, it is possible that the offender's sentence does not include eligibility for parole, but may include supervision upon his/her release. This is known as Post-Release Control. As a crime victim, if you have concerns regarding the release of an offender, you may send written information to the Office of Victim Services. For Parole eligible offenders, victims may contact OVS to schedule a meeting with the Parole Board to discuss your feelings during Victim Conference Day.

*Q: I would like to meet with the offender who hurt my family or me. Who should I call?*

A: Contact the Office of Victim Services for information on the Victim Offender Dialogue program.

*Q: If I was the victim, do I have visitation rights to see the offender?*

A: No. Visitation is a privilege for an inmate, not a right. Victims are generally denied visitation for a number of reasons, mainly to prevent re-victimization and ensure a healthy healing process. One option is to take part in the Dialogue Program. Please contact OVS for more information.

*Q: If I registered for notification with the Office of Victim Services, am I automatically registered in the VINE notification system as well?*

A: No. The VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) system is a separate automated phone notification system that is available to crime victims of incarcerated Ohio offenders. If you are a victim, you should register individually for both VINE and the Office of Victim Services' notification systems.

*Q: I have been receiving threats or unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender. What can I do?*

A: You may call the Office of Victim Services or call the Victim Coordinator at the institution from which the contact is coming and ask for assistance.

*Q: Why didn't I receive any information from the Office of Victim Services after I was victimized?*

A: Due to the high number of victims throughout the State of Ohio, the Office of Victims Services is not able to contact victims directly after sentencing. It is the county prosecuting attorney's responsibility to refer the victim and/or family to the Office of Victim Services. It is then the victim and/or family's responsibility to register with OVS.

*Q: If I move, do I need to let the Office of Victim Services know?*

A: Yes. In order to continue receiving notification and information from OVS, it is important to update your address, telephone or any other changes to your contact information.

*Q: If the offender owes child support, can he make payments while incarcerated?*

Yes. The court in which the child support order originated can send a certified copy of the order to the institution where the offender is located. Payments can be taken from the offender's account.

*If the offender owes restitution, can he make payments while incarcerated?*

A: Yes. The Clerk of Court from the county of conviction will send a certified journal entry to the institution upon sentencing. If the entry indicates restitution was ordered for a specific amount, the institution will validate that entry and upon validation begin the withdrawal any available money from the offender's account. The money is sent to the Clerk of Courts for dispersal to the victim's).