

## For serious sexual offences

A serious sex offender may be put on a supervision order or detention order after they finish their prison sentence.

The Victims Register will let you know if there is a court hearing date for a supervision or detention order. You may be invited to make a victims submission for the court hearing.

## Supervision orders

An offender on a supervision order is supervised in the community after they are released from prison, and have conditions they must follow.

The County Court or Supreme Court decides if an offender needs a supervision order.

## Detention orders

If a serious sex offender is an unacceptable risk to the community after they have finished their prison sentence, a detention order can be used to keep them in prison.

The Supreme Court decides if an offender needs a detention order.

## When the sentence finishes

The Victims Register **can't** give you any information after the offender finishes their:

- sentence
- supervision order
- or
- detention order.

Depending on the details of the case, the offender's sentence is finished when they are released from prison or finish their parole period.

## The Victims of Crime Helpline

**Open** 8am–11pm every day

**Call** 1800 819 817

**Text** 0427 767 891

**Email** [vsa@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:vsa@justice.vic.gov.au)

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.

For more information, visit [www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au)

[www.victimsofcrime.vic.gov.au](http://www.victimsofcrime.vic.gov.au)

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If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, such as large print or audio, please telephone the Victims of Crime Helpline on 1800 819 817 or email [vsa@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:vsa@justice.vic.gov.au)

# Getting information about the offender

The Victims Register

## The Victims Register

The Victims Register is a service that can give you information about the offender who was sent to prison for a violent crime.

### Who can get information?

There are laws in Victoria about who can get information, and what information is available from the Victims Register.

You can get information if:

1. you or a family member has been affected by a crime such as:
  - assault
  - armed robbery
  - stalking
  - kidnapping
  - breach of a family violence intervention order
  - threats to kill
  - sexual offences
  - culpable driving
  - manslaughter
  - murder
2. a family member has died because of the crime
3. you have been a victim of family violence or
4. you have a connection to the crime.

### Apply to be on the Victims Register

To get information from the Victims Register, you will need to fill out an application form.

For more information, or to get the application form:

- visit [www.victimsofcrime.vic.gov.au/victimsregister](http://www.victimsofcrime.vic.gov.au/victimsregister)
- email [VictimsRegister@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:VictimsRegister@justice.vic.gov.au)
- call the Victims of Crime Helpline on 1800 819 817 and ask to speak to the Victims Register.

**The Victims Register is private.** The offender will not know if you get information about them.

When you apply, you can ask for someone else to get the information on your behalf. This could be a family member, close friend or case worker.

### Information you can get

Once you are on the Victims Register, you **can** find out:

- the length of the offender's sentence
- the offender's earliest possible release date
- if the length of the offender's sentence changes
- if the offender applies for parole
- if the offender is released on parole
- the conditions of the offender's parole that could improve your safety
- if the offender's parole is cancelled
- if the offender is transferred to another state of Australia
- if the offender escapes from prison
- if the offender dies during their sentence.

### Information you can't get

Some examples of information you **can't** get from the Victims Register are:

- which prison the offender is in
- where the offender will live when they are released
- details of any program the offender attends or completes
- details of any assessments of the offender
- details of any appeal hearings related to the case
- details of court hearings for any other crimes the offender may have committed.

## Parole

Parole is when an offender is released from prison and serves the rest of their sentence in the community.

Offenders on parole are supervised in the community, and have rules (called conditions) they must follow.

The Adult Parole Board decides if offenders are released from prison on parole, and the conditions that they must follow.

### You get a say about parole

If the offender applies for parole, the Victims Register will invite you to write to the Adult Parole Board to tell them how you might be affected if the offender is released on parole. This is called a victims submission.

The offender will not be told if you make a submission to the Adult Parole Board.

In your submission you can also ask the Adult Parole Board to think about parole conditions for the offender that could help improve your safety, such as:

- asking that the offender does not contact you
- asking that the offender not be allowed near where you live or work.

If the offender is allowed to go on parole, the Victims Register will let you know at least 14 days before the offender is released from prison.