

Help Starts Here.

Information on Victim Notification

What is victim notification?

Victim notification is when information is provided to victims about the status of the accused (person charged with the crime) or offender (person convicted of the crime). The Victim Safety Unit provides information to victims when the accused or offender is supervised by B.C. Corrections. Some information may also be provided to persons protected by a Family Relations Act restraining order.

Who can register with the Victim Safety Unit?

- Victims of crime, and
- persons protected by a Family Relations Act restraining order who have significant safety concerns who want ongoing notification about the status of an adult accused/offender being supervised by B.C. Corrections.

When should I register?

You can register at any time, but it is best to do so as soon as B.C. Corrections is involved. For example, you can register if the accused is on bail and required to report to a bail supervisor, or if the accused is held in jail pending trial. You don't have to wait for a conviction. B.C. Corrections supervises adults in the community (bail, probation) and in custody (jail).

Do I have to register?

If you want to receive ongoing notification, you must register with the Victim Safety Unit. Otherwise, you will not receive automatic updates from us. You do not have to be registered to phone the Victim Safety Unit and ask for specific information.

What information will I receive if I register?

That depends on whether you are a victim of crime or you are protected by a Family Relations Act restraining order. Different factors determine what information can be provided and when. The Victim Safety Unit will review this with you. The Victims of Crime Act sets out what information may be provided to victims, such as:

- whether the accused or offender is in jail
- when the accused or offender may get out of jail
- the name and location of the offender's probation officer
- whether the accused or offender is in the community and what conditions the accused or offender has to follow

Persons protected by a Family Relations Act restraining order may receive information about when the offender will be released from jail.

How will I be notified?

Notification may be provided by phone, mail or email depending on your circumstances and preferences. If you wish, you may be notified through a third party such as a victim service worker, family member or friend.

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What kind of notifications are available?

- Significant court updates: trial dates set, pleas entered, sentencing dates set, criminal court orders issued (bail, probation, peace bond).
- Final court results: sentencing outcomes (jail sentence, stay of proceedings, probation issued, conditional discharge, acquittals, abated, not criminally responsible due to mental disorder, unfit to stand trial).
- BC Corrections information: if the accused/offender is reporting in the community, details of their reporting conditions, admissions, transfers, or release from provincial custody, changes to their potential release dates.
- Administrative (procedural) court matters: fix a dates, consult with counsel, particular matters, first appearances, compliance with instruction, pre-trial conferences, etc. These are interim hearings and are procedural in nature. Several court appearances may occur before a trial starts, and their purposes include:
 - asking for adjournments while the accused finds a lawyer or gets more information about the charges.
 - formally requesting more information (called particulars) from Crown Counsel about the charges.

What about cases of domestic violence?

B.C. Corrections has a mandate to provide notification to victims of domestic violence. However, victims may still want to register with the Victim Safety Unit.

What if the offender is in federal custody (sentence of two years or more)?

Call Correctional Service Canada toll free at 1-866-806-2275 or the Parole Board of Canada toll free at 1-866-789-4636.

How do I register with the Victim Safety Unit?

Complete the application form on page three of this information sheet (also available online). Mail, fax or scan and email the signed form to the Victim Safety Unit (see contact details below). You can get help filling out the form through your local victim services or the Victim Safety Unit. You can also call the Victim Safety Unit to register by phone.

VICTIM SAFETY UNIT

Notification Application Form

Victims of crime (and their immediate family members as defined by the [Victims of Crime Act](#) can apply to the Victim Safety Unit (VSU) to receive ongoing notifications about the status of an adult accused/offender who is going through the criminal court process in British Columbia or is being supervised by BC Corrections. Persons named as a protected party on a criminal protection order (such as a peace bond or probation order), or civil protected parties named on a [Family Law Act](#) order, can also apply to receive notifications. Please complete this application form to the best of your ability. If you require assistance in completing the form, please contact us or your [Victim Service Worker \(VSW\)](#). VSU staff will contact you once your application has been received to confirm your contact information and to discuss your eligibility to receive notifications.

The Community Safety and Victim Services Division, Victim Safety Unit, will collect your personal information for the purpose of providing you with services in accordance with sections 26(a) and (c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA), and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). Your personal information will also be collected as per section 26(e) of FOIPPA in order to evaluate the program to better serve you. Should you have any questions about the collection of your personal information, please contact the Victim Safety Unit Manager at 604-660-0316 or 1-877-315-8822 (toll-free) or at Community Safety and Victim Services Division, #302-815 Hornby St., Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2E6.

CASE INFORMATION

Name of Victim/Civil Protected Party <small>(Last) (First) (Middle)</small>	Gender	M	F	X	Date of Birth <small>Year Month Day</small>
Court File Number	Court Location			Relationship to the Accused	
Name of Accused/Offender/Respondent <small>(Last) (First) (Middle)</small>	Date of Birth (if known) <small>Year Month Day</small>				
Name(s) of Additional Accused/Offender(s) on this Court File				Date(s) of Birth (if known)	
Does the victim identify as an Indigenous person? First Nations Métis Inuit Prefer not to answer Not applicable					

APPLICANT INFORMATION

I am the: Victim Civil Protected Party Victim's Parent/Guardian Other family member:					
Name (if different from Victim/Civil Protected Party) <small>(Last) (First) (Middle)</small>				Date of Birth (if different) <small>Year Month Day</small>	Preferred Language
Mailing Address (Apt., Street, PO Box)					Interpreter Needed: <small>Yes No</small>
City/Town		Province		Postal Code	
May we send correspondence and notification information to the above address? Yes No <i>(If no, please provide your email address below)</i>					
Please list your contact information (telephone # / cellular # / email address) in order of preference and indicate if we may leave a detailed message (e.g. our organization name, phone number, case information, notification details):					
1)		2)		3)	
May we leave a detailed message? Yes No		May we leave a detailed message? Yes No		May we leave a detailed message? Yes No	

B. NOTIFICATION DETAILS

I would like updates to be provided on the following:

Please check all that apply:

Significant court updates (e.g. trial dates set, plea entered, sentencing date, criminal court orders issued)

Final court results (e.g. sentencing outcome, stay of proceedings, acquittal, unfit for trial)

Administrative court appearances (e.g. fix a date, consult with counsel, particulars, first appearances)

BC Corrections information (e.g. if the accused/offender is reporting in the community; details of their reporting conditions; admission/transfer/release from provincial custody; changes to potential release dates, etc.)

All of the above

INFORMATION SHARING

If the offender enters federal custody or applies for parole you will need to register with the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) or the Parole Board of Canada (PBC) if you would like to receive federal notifications. CSC/PBC will assess your eligibility to register for federal notification. Call 1-866-806-2275 (CSC) or 1-866-789-INFO/4636 (PBC) for more information.

1. I request the VSU to forward this application form to CSC/PBC on my behalf if the offender enters federal custody or applies for parole.
2. I acknowledge that the VSU may share my contact information (including any updates) with BC Corrections and CSC/PBC for the purpose of contacting me regarding the accused/offender.
3. I acknowledge that the VSU may contact my VSW or other designate named on this form for the purpose of confirming/updating their contact information (to ensure they are able to receive notifications on my behalf).

Additional Comments

How did you hear about us?

I, _____ am the applicant named on this form. I am requesting notification information about the accused/offender/respondent. By signing this application form, I give permission (where applicable) to the Victim Safety Unit to release notification information to the designate(s) that I have named above. I understand that any information provided by the Victim Safety Unit is confidential and is intended only for the named recipient (i.e. myself plus my designate(s) if applicable). This information may not be distributed, copied, or otherwise used without the express permission of the Victim Safety Unit.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

By checking this box and typing my name in the signature box on the date entered above, I am giving permission to the Victim Safety Unit without physically signing this form.

Mail, fax or email your completed and signed Notification Application Form to:

**Victim Safety Unit
Community Safety & Victim Services Branch
Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General
#302-815 Hornby Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2E6**

Telephone: 604-660-0316 or Toll Free 1-877-315-8822

Fax: 604-660-0335

Email: vsusg@gov.bc.ca

For more information please visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/bcs-criminal-justice-system/if-you-are-a-victim-of-a-crime/victim-of-crime/victim-notification>