

Communication

FACILITATED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS:

The DOC recognizes the value of allowing crime victims, including survivors in homicide cases, to participate in facilitated communication with the perpetrator of the offense through established and structured processes. Facilitated communication is voluntary for both the victim and the offender. Either party may withdraw from the process at any time.

The two types of facilitated communication offered by DOC are:

ACCOUNTABILITY LETTER BANK :

The Accountability Letter Bank (ALB) provides offenders an opportunity to convey their understanding of the harm caused by their crime(s) to the victim/survivor(s). This may include acknowledgement of fault, injury, responsibility, and pain caused, as well as the steps they have taken toward accountability for their criminal behavior. Letters are reviewed by Victim Services Program staff prior to being accepted into the ALB.

Victim/survivor(s), 18 years and older, may register to be notified if a letter has been accepted into the ALB. Contact the Victim Services Program for more information.

Meetings

VICTIM – OFFENDER DIALOGUE MEETING:

A Victim-Offender Dialogue Meeting (VODM) is a service provided to victims or next of kin that offers an opportunity to have a one-time, structured, facilitated meeting with the offender within a prison facility. The meetings are intended to assist the participant(s) in dealing with the impact of the crime. VODM are facilitated by a trained and experienced facilitator.

While VODM can be healing, this process is not for everyone. It requires a substantial commitment of time for preparation (months or longer) and can have a lasting emotional impact.

The victim or next of kin must initiate a request for a meeting with the offender through the DOC Victim Services Program Manager in writing, by email, or by phone:

If you are interested in applying for or would like more information regarding a Facilitated Communication program, contact Victim Services 800-322-2201 or email victimservices@doc1.wa.gov

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS

Victim Services Program

**Advance Notification and
Advocacy for Crime Victims,
Next of Kin, and Concerned
Community Members**



Victim Services

PO Box 41119
Olympia, WA 98504-1119

Telephone: 360-485-1778

Toll Free: 1-800-322-2201

Email: victimservices@doc1.wa.gov

Website: www.doc.wa.gov/victims/



The Department of Corrections (DOC) **VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM (VSP)** was created in 1983 and is the oldest Corrections-based victim assistance program in the United States. The program serves as a point of contact for victims, next of kin, witnesses, and concerned community members.

Services

ADVANCED NOTIFICATION:

If you are a victim, next of kin, or witness of an eligible crime, you are entitled to Advanced Notification by the DOC when the offender moves through the prison system and when they are released to the community.

If you choose to enroll in Advance Notification, DOC can provide you with information regarding an offender serving their sentence when the following events occur:

- A date is set for the offender to release to the community, Graduated Reentry program, or supervision
- The offender dies during their confinement in prison
- The offender escapes / recaptured following an escape
- Certain types of escorted leave.

Is Advance Notification automatic?

No. Participation in the Advance Notification program is voluntary, not automatic.

You must enroll by filling out and submitting the enrollment form.

Submit online: www.doc.wa.gov/victims/
Or call 1-800-322-2201 for an application to be mailed to you.

Once you are enrolled: VSP will provide you with the offender's projected release date up to 35 days prior to the offender's release from confinement.

To receive Advance Notification, it is important to keep your contact information up to date.

DOC **does not** notify when an offender transfers from one prison to another as this occurs frequently. If you would like this type of notification, you can enroll in the Washington State Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) program www.vinelink.com. This service is separate and independent from the DOC Victim Services Program.

GRADUATED REENTRY PROGRAM NOTIFICATION:

Enrollees are notified when the offender transfers to a Graduated Reentry Program. Offenders participating in these programs will be in the community at times. The time the offender spends on a Reentry program is considered "partial confinement" and is part of their court-imposed prison sentence. Under current law, an offender may serve up to 18 months on partial confinement, which may include Electric Home Monitoring (EHM) and Work Release.

Under state law, enrollees have an opportunity to submit input to the DOC regarding an offender's placement in a Reentry facility.

Advocacy

If you have safety concerns related to an offender's reentry into the community, a **Community Victim Liaison (CVL)** is available in your area to assist with developing a personalized safety plan to reduce the risk of harm to you and your family. A CVL is a victim advocate who can assist you with questions or concerns you have regarding incarcerated offenders or offenders in the community under DOC supervision. CVL's may also provide community referrals to local resources.

If you have any safety concerns regarding an offender, it is important that you contact the Victim Services Program. Please remember, you are not alone and there is help available for you.

UNWANTED CONTACT WITH OFFENDERS:

If you receive unwanted contact from an offender, or from anyone else on behalf of an offender, please contact the Victim Services Program. We will assist in taking measures to stop the contact.

If you have been threatened or are in immediate danger, you are encouraged to contact law enforcement (911) first.

Our vision for victims and survivors of crime is that their voices are heard, valued, and included in a collective effort to hold offenders accountable, prevent future harm, and enhance community safety.