

Why Should I Enroll in the Victim Notification Program at the Probation Department?

Now that the offender in your case has been sentenced and will be supervised by the Probation Department, we encourage you to consider enrolling in the Probation Department's Victim Notification Program. As a victim of a case that falls under the Victim Rights Act, you have been proactively notified about events that were occurring in your case throughout the sentencing phase. However, following the sentencing of the offender, victim/survivors must initiate enrollment in the Victim Notification Program to continue to be notified about the offender. The reason that victims/survivors are not automatically notified after an offender has been sentenced is that not all victims/survivors want to continue to be notified after sentencing. This way, the choice is up to you as to what is best for you and your family. You can be notified by letter, email, or by phone. When you enroll in the Probation Victim Notification Program, you have the right to be notified of certain changes under the Colorado Victim Rights Act concerning the offender's status.

The choice is yours as to whether you enroll or not. If you do not enroll, you will no longer be informed of anything to do with the offender in your case. This can include early termination of the offender's sentence, future court hearings, and probation revocation hearings.

How do I sign up for the Probation Notification Program?

A victim/survivor wishing to be notified by the Probation Department's Victim Notification Program should complete a Victim Notification Program Enrollment Form. You should have received an Enrollment Form from the District Attorney's Office following the sentencing in your case, but if not, the forms are available from the Victim/Witness Unit at the District Attorney's Office or the Probation Victim Services Unit.

What can I expect if I enroll in the Probation Department's Victim Notification Program?

You will be notified of future events in this case, such as court actions and probation activities listed below. Your enrollment status and contact information will not be shared with the offender and the offender will not know that you have enrolled in the Victim Notification Program.

Specifically, you will be kept informed by mail, email, or by phone of the following:

- The location and telephone number of the probation department responsible for the supervision of the defendant
- The date of the person's termination from probation supervision
- Any request for release of the offender in advance of the offender's imposed sentence or period of probation (early termination)

- Any probation revocation or modification hearing or any changes in the scheduling of the hearings
- Any motion filed by the probation department requesting permission from the court to modify the terms and conditions of probation
- Any change of venue, transfer of probation supervision from one jurisdiction to another, or interstate compact transfer
- Any complaint, summons or warrant filed for any failure to report or because the location of a person convicted of a crime is unknown
- When a person's probation sentence is terminated
- If the offender absconds and his/her whereabouts are unknown
- The death of the offender while under the jurisdiction of the probation department
- Concerning Domestic Violence cases ONLY – any conduct by the defendant which results in an increase in their probation supervision level

The Victim Notification Program can also assist victims who are enrolled in the Victim Notification Program with other services such as:

- Safety planning
- Obtaining protection orders
- Restitution questions
- Completing a Victim Impact Statement
- Delivery of appropriate letters of apology
- Assistance with applying for Victim Compensation
- Referrals to other community based service providers and programs

Certain information about the offender cannot be released to the victim/survivor in a case. This includes information such as drug/alcohol treatment, mental health information and various assessments that are conducted. There are also additional restrictions on the accessibility of information about juvenile offenders due to the confidentiality issues in the Children's Code.

Victim Notification Program

Each judicial district has their own Victim Notification Program and the staff is available to assist and support you during the time the offender is under the jurisdiction of the Probation Department. This can include assistance with information, victim services resources, and guide you through the complex steps of probation supervision.

For specific questions, please contact the probation department in the judicial district where the offender is being supervised. You can find all of the Probation Departments at Judicial Branch website at <http://www.courts.state.co.us/Probation/Index.cfm>.