

Why do most offenders get released from jail before their full sentence is served?

All offenders may be considered for a temporary absence program as part of their reintegration process. This can allow them to go to a half-way house or treatment facility or return to the community under conditions until the remainder of their sentence is served. They can also be considered for release to attend work, school or for other humanitarian reasons.

If a victim has registered with the victim liaison program, Victim Services may be contacted to seek input from the victim before a temporary absence is granted. If a temporary absence is granted and the victim has requested victim liaison information, attempts will be made to inform the victim.

Some inmates are eligible for parole and may be released to serve a portion of their sentences under supervision in the community. Parole is not automatic and the decision to release an offender remains with the Parole Board of Canada. In order to receive information on the Parole process and any outcomes, victims must also register with the Parole Board of Canada in addition to the victim liaison officer program.

Will the offender know I am in contact with a victim liaison officer?

Offenders will be told when they begin their sentence that victims they have offended against have a right to certain information. The offender will not be advised that you have requested this information. Every effort will be made to keep your involvement with the victim liaison officer confidential, unless it is required by law to be released.

If you have not been in contact with Victim Services and would like support and assistance as a victim of crime, or would like a referral to a victim liaison officer, contact us:

Telephone: 709.729.7970

E-mail: victimservices@gov.nl.ca

Web: victimserviceshelp.ca



Victim Liaison Officer

What are my rights as a victim of an offender incarcerated in a Newfoundland and Labrador correctional facility?

As a victim of crime, you are entitled to have access to certain information regarding the offender who harmed you. This information is usually provided by a correctional officer in the facility where the offender is serving their sentence. The correctional officer is called a victim liaison officer.



Upon request, you are entitled to the following information:

- The offender's name;
- The offence for which the offender was convicted;
- The start date and length of sentence;
- Eligibility dates for parole or other forms of release;
- The name and telephone number of the contact person whom that victim may call for further information; and
- Assistance when concerns arise regarding inmates behavior while incarcerated.

How do I contact a victim liaison officer?

If the individual who harmed you is in jail, your victim services regional coordinator will advise you of the victim liaison officer services available, answer any questions you have regarding the process, and refer you if you request it.

If you do not wish to receive information directly from the victim liaison officer, the regional coordinator can act as your agent to receive and provide information on your behalf. The regional coordinator is only available during working hours so this may limit information getting to you in a timely manner.

Once a referral is made to the victim liaison officer, a letter will be forwarded to you or your agent providing details (as indicated previously) regarding the offender.

Separate referrals from Victim Services are required if there are multiple offenders.

You must ensure the victim liaison officer or regional coordinator, if acting as your agent, is aware of your current contact information.

Offenders have telephone access and unless the victim liaison officer is notified, the offender may be able to have telephone contact with you, even if there is a no-contact order in place. If you do not wish to receive telephone calls from the offender, please contact Victim Services or the victim liaison officer directly.