

VICTIMS REGISTERS

The NSW Police Force does not maintain the victims registers. However, police should inform victims about the existence of victims registers. The victims registers contain information about adult offenders, young offenders and forensic patients who have been found guilty of a crime, sentenced and currently in custody or if they were found not guilty by reason of mental illness or unfit at a special hearing and received a limiting term.

As part of the Charter of Victims Rights, victims have the right to:

Right 15: Information about impending release, escape or eligibility for absence from custody "A victim will, on request, be kept informed of the offender's impending release or escape from custody or of any change in security classification that result in the offender being eligible for unescorted absence from custody."

Right 16: Submissions on parole and eligibility for absence from custody of serious offenders "A victim will, on request, be provided with the opportunity to make submissions concerning the granting of parole to a serious offender or any change in security classification that would result in a serious offender being eligible for unescorted absence from custody."

A newly revised Charter of Victims Rights - Part 6A of the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013* No 37 explicitly applies to victims of forensic patients.

Victims of crime may be able to be listed on a victims register to receive information about an offender who is an adult or a young person in custody, or who is a forensic patient. There are 3 victims registers in NSW. They are:

FOR VICTIMS OF ADULT OFFENDERS

1. The Corrective Services New South Wales (CSNSW) Restorative Justice Unit, Victims Register is the primary point of contact for victims of offenders supervised by Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW). You can apply to go on the Victims Register for any crime for which an offender has received a custodial sentence if:

- you are a victim of an offence for which the adult offender has been sentenced, or
- you are a family representative of such a victim of crime - if the victim of crime is deceased, incapacitated or under 18 years of age
- Registered victims can receive:
 - information on the offender's sentence and what is likely to happen throughout their time in custody
 - information on your rights under the legislation
 - support to have your say and make submissions, where the legislation allows
 - on request, an annual update of the offender's location in custody and security classification

For further information or to formally register on the Victims Register for adult offenders, please contact:

Victims Register

Locked Bag 5111

PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Phone: 02 8688 6833

Email: victims.supoort@dcj.nsw.gov.au

<https://correctiveservices.dcj.nsw.gov.au/csnsw-home/support/victim-support.html>

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FOR VICTIMS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

2. The Youth Justice Victims Register can provide certain information to registered victims of young offenders who have been found guilty of a crime and sentenced by the courts and who are currently in custody in a Youth Justice centre.

Registered victims can be provided with information relating to:

- any change to the young offender's earliest possible release date
- the general area of residence on discharge from custody
- the young offender being transferred to a correctional centre or mental health facility
- the young offender dying while serving a sentence or released on parole
- the young offender escaping or failing to return from leave and subsequent re-apprehension
- the young offender receiving initial approval to undertake day and overnight leave
- the young offender becoming eligible for release on parole or when a parole order has been made and the date of release and any conditions placed on the parole order and any subsequent condition changes the young offender's parole has been revoked and they are returned to custody

For further information or to formally register on the Youth Justice Register please contact:

Strategy & Engagement Directorate:

Phone: (02) 8346 1333 or

Email: JjVictimsRegister@justice.nsw.gov.au or visit:

<http://www.juvenile.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/youth-justice/about/victimsregister.aspx>

Postal address:

The Victims Register

Strategy & Engagement Directorate

Juvenile Justice

GPO Box 31 SYDNEY NSW 2001

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FOR VICTIMS OF FORENSIC PATIENTS

3. The Specialist Victims Support Service (SVSS) within Victims Services maintains the Specialist Victims Register of victims of forensic patients as defined in the Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990 on behalf of the Commissioner of Victims Rights.

If you are formally registered on the Specialist Victims Register you can elect to be notified of the following:

- when the forensic patient is due for a mandatory Tribunal hearing
- when an application is made for a review of the forensic patient (outside of the regular mandatory hearings)
- when the Tribunal makes or changes an order granting the forensic patient leave or release
- when the Tribunal makes an order to apprehend and detain a forensic patient who has breached their leave or release conditions
- if the forensic patient appeals against the Tribunal's decision, or
- if the forensic patient is no longer a forensic patient

Registered victims also have the further rights to information outlined at:

<https://www.victimsservices.justice.nsw.gov.au/victims-services/how-can-we-help-you/programs-and-initiatives/specialist-victims-support-service/specialist-victims-register.html>

For further information please contact: Specialist Victims Support Service, Victims Services

Phone: 1800 411 422

Email: vs@dcj.nsw.gov.au

Postal address

Specialist Victims Support Service

Victims Services

Locked Bag 5118

PARRAMATTA NSW 2124