



## Office of Legislative Corrections Ombudsman

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Ombudsman

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### **Information for Crime Victims**

Michigan Department of Corrections Victims Services Contact Information:

Michigan Department of Corrections  
Crime Victim Services  
P O Box 30003  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Local: (517) 373-4467  
Toll-Free: (877) 886-5401  
Fax: (517) 241-0536 Fax  
Email: [CORR\\_CRIME\\_VICTIMS@michigan.gov](mailto:CORR_CRIME_VICTIMS@michigan.gov)  
Website: <http://www.michigan.gov/corrections/0,1607,7-119-1384---,00.html>

### **Crime Victim Notification Request Form:**

1. Individuals wanting to receive information about certain prisoners can submit a Crime Victim Notification Request Form to the MDOC Crime Victim Services, which can be found at the above website. Victim Services will send a letter acknowledging the receipt of the notification request. A separate form should be submitted for each prisoner. Victims will automatically be registered to receive automated telephone notification through the Michigan Crime Victim Notification Network (MCVNN) upon receiving the notification request. It is the responsibility of the individual to update Crime Victim Services with current address/telephone information.
2. If you register, you will receive the following information:
  - a. The earliest parole eligibility date of the prisoner with all potential good time or disciplinary credits considered. This is the earliest date that a prisoner can be considered for parole. This is a one-time notice.
  - b. The transfer to a minimum security facility and the address of the facility.
  - c. Discharge of the prisoner: This notice will be sent 90 days before the prisoner is discharged on his or her maximum sentence. You will also be notified if the prisoner is to be released by court order.
  - d. Notice of a public hearing regarding a reprieve, commutation or pardon of the prisoner's sentence by the Governor, or a public hearing scheduled for a prisoner serving a life

sentence where the parole board has voted to consider parole. In addition, a notice will be sent if a reprieve, commutation, or pardon is granted.

- e. Escape of the prisoner: In the event of an escape, victims will be notified by telephone within one hour of the escape by the MCVNN. This will be an automated call and will require the victim to enter a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to confirm they have received the notification and to discontinue the call. Following the generated call, the victim will also receive written notification from Crime Victim Services.
  - f. The victim's right to address or submit a written statement for consideration by a parole board or panel member. This notice will be given not less than 30 days before the parole board begins consideration of parole.
  - g. Notice of the Parole Board decision. This notice will be sent to you within 14 days of the decision.
  - h. Prisoner placement in Special Alternative Incarceration (SAI). SAI is a 90-day boot camp program with automatic parole upon completion for carefully screened prisoners who are serving a minimum term of three years or less. Prisoners serving for crimes of a sexual nature or certain other assaultive crimes are not eligible for placement in this program.
    - Prior to placing a prisoner in SAI, the MDOC must send notification to the sentencing judge to ensure the judge does not have any objections, unless the judge has already approved placement at the time of sentencing. A copy of this notification will be provided to the victim and the prosecuting attorney who may contact the sentencing court to express their support or objection of the prisoner's placement in this program.
  - i. Legal Name Change. Notification will be sent if a prisoner legally changes his or her name while under the jurisdiction of the MDOC.
  - j. New Conviction: Notice that a prisoner has been convicted of a new crime.
  - k. Parole Violation: Notice that a prisoner has been returned from parole to a correctional facility due to an alleged violation of the conditions of his/her parole.
3. If you registered as a Concerned Citizen, you will receive the same notifications as listed above. When you are notified that the prisoner is going to be considered for parole, you may submit your concerns in a written statement, which will be factored into the Board's decision to grant or deny parole.

### **Other Resources:**

1. Michigan Crime Victim Notification Network (MCVNN): 1 (800) 770-7657: This service is a free, confidential 24-hour telephone-computer interface that provides automated telephone notifications to registered crime victims and citizens when a prisoner's custody status changes. MCVNN provides court schedule information and the current custody status of prisoners. Anyone may call the MCVNN to get information about a person who is currently incarcerated.

2. If you are being threatened or receiving unwanted contact from a prisoner under MDOC jurisdiction, call 911 or the local police department; unwanted contact can be referred to Crime Victim Services at (517) 373-4467 or (877) 886-5401.
3. Crime Victim's Rights Act of 1985: This established the rights of notification and participation in all stages of the criminal justice process for crime victims. The prosecuting attorney is required by law to inform the victim of his/her rights under the the Crime Victim's Rights Act during the pre-conviction process. The law creates a duty for police, sheriffs, the MDOC, prosecutors, courts and other agencies to include victims in the conduct of investigative, judicial, sentencing, and post sentencing proceedings.
4. Personal Protection Orders:
  - a. Visit <http://courts.mi.gov/Self-help/center/casetype/Pages/PersonalProtection.aspx> to learn about PPOs. A description of a PPO, the two types of PPOs (domestic and nondomestic), how PPOs are issued, and how PPOs can be filed for stalking are detailed by the Michigan Courts.
5. Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence: This is an organization that assists victim/survivors of domestic and sexual violence and attempts to provide resources for these individuals. <http://www.mcedsv.org/>.
6. The Offender Tracking System (OTIS): <http://mdocweb.state.mi.us/otis2/otis2.html>.
  - a. OTIS offers information to the public regarding offenders previously or currently under the jurisdiction or supervision of the MDOC.
  - b. Offender information is kept on OTIS for three years after discharge.
  - c. You can search OTIS by: last name, first name, MDOC number, sex, race, age, offender status, and/or marks, scars and tattoos.
  - d. Information provided on OTIS includes: all of the above information, offender date of birth, demographic information, the statute s/he was sentenced under, current prison location, current status, sentences, release and discharge dates, parole conditions, etc.
7. The Parole Consideration Process: The Michigan Parole Board is the sole paroling authority for prisoners sentenced to the jurisdiction of the MDOC.
  - Prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence are subject to the jurisdiction of the Board after serving the minimum sentence imposed by the court less good time and disciplinary credits, if applicable.
  - Prisoners whose crimes were committed since enactment of truth-in-sentencing legislation are not eligible for good time or disciplinary credits.
  - By statute, even after serving the minimum sentence, a prisoner may not be granted parole until the Board has reasonable assurance that the prisoner will not become a menace to society or a risk to the public safety.
  - The factors considered by the Board in making parole decisions include the nature of the current offense, the prisoner's criminal history, prison behavior, program performance, age, parole guidelines score, risk as determined by various validated assessment instruments and information obtained during the

prisoner's interview, if one is conducted. The Board also considers information from crime victims and other relevant sources.

**Michigan Department of Community Health Resources for Crime Victims:**

1. [http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-54783\\_54853---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-54783_54853---,00.html)
2. Victims Only Toll-Free Number for information on victim compensation: 1-877-251-7373
3. The following forms/brochures can be found at the above website:
  - a. SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Exam) Response: Victims of sexual assault are eligible for free forensic exams.
  - b. Application for Crime Victim Compensation: This is the form victims need to fill out to receive financial assistance for losses related to being a victim of crime.
  - c. Crime Victim Compensation Brochure: This explains the eligibility for victim compensation, the types of financial assistance available, when to file the claim, how the process works, and other relevant information.
4. Michigan Constitutional Amendment for Crime Victims Rights of 1988: This amendment gave constitutional authority for the statutory rights of crime victims, provided legislative authority to enforce victims' rights, and provided legislative authority to assess convicted defendants to pay for crime victim's rights.
5. Michigan Criminal Assessments Act of 1989: This provides for criminal assessments to support the Crime Victims Rights Fund. Courts can order and collect financial assessments from defendants to support the fund, and the Act also provides for disbursements from the fund to support crime victim rights services.