

Queensland Corrective Services Victims Register

The Victims Register is part of Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) and is established under the *Corrective Services Act (2006)* s320. The Register works with the assistance of other parts of Queensland Corrective Services to inform eligible persons about important events in the sentences of those who they have registered against.

Information is provided to an eligible person in accordance with ss 324A and 325 of the *Corrective Services Act (2006)*.

Information that must be provided to eligible person:

- » The prisoner's eligibility or actual date for discharge or release
- » The death or escape of the prisoner
- » The fact and date of any other circumstances relating to the prisoner that may endanger the eligible person's life or physical safety.

Information that may be provided to an eligible person:

- » The prisoner's location
- » The prisoner's security classification
- » The prisoner's transfer between corrective services facilities
- » The outcome of parole applications or other exceptional events relating to the prisoner

The QCS Victims Register also advises an eligible person when:

- » a prisoner has made an application for parole, excluding exceptional circumstances and provides them with the relevant form to make a submission to the Parole Board Queensland;
- » a prisoner/offender has made a request to change their name and provides them with the relevant form to make a submission to the delegate.

Additionally, for those prisoners or offenders who fall under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*, the QCS Victims Register, as prescribed under s9AA and s21A provides an eligible person with the relevant form to make a submission to the Supreme Court.

Who is eligible?

- » The actual victim of a violent or sexual offence for which an offender has been sentenced to a period of imprisonment (unless it is a wholly suspended sentence) or who is a supervised dangerous prisoner (sexual offender)
- » An immediate family member of a deceased victim of a violent or sexual offence
- » The victim's parent or guardian (if the victim of a violent or sexual offence is under 18 years or has a legal incapacity)
- » A person who has been subject to domestic violence and the offender has been sentenced to a period of imprisonment for any offence.

If you do not meet the above registration criteria, you may still be considered for placement on the QCS Victims Register if you can demonstrate:

- » a documented history of violence against you by an offender (e.g. a current or expired Domestic Violence Order); or
- » that your life or physical safety may be endangered due to a connection to the offence for which an offender has been imprisoned (e.g. you have given evidence against the offender in a court proceeding).

In these instances, the offender must be convicted of a violent or sexual offence. Applications submitted under this category will only be accepted for registration in certain circumstances.

The registering victim may nominate another person to receive information on their behalf.

Contact us:

Victims.Register@dcs.qld.gov.au
Freecall 1800 098 098 (business hours)

Queensland Corrective Services Victims Register

Application to register

What is the Register?

The Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) Victims Register is an information service established to provide certain information to eligible persons in regards to prisoners who have been convicted of offences and are serving a period of imprisonment, including parole, in accordance with s320 (1)(a), (b) or (c) of the *Corrective Service Act 2006 (CSA 2006)*.

Where can I get more information about the QCS Victims Register?

You can log onto the Queensland Corrective Services website at: www.correctiveservices.qld.gov.au

You can contact the Queensland Corrective Services Victims Register on the following:

Freecall: 1800 098 098
Email: victims.register@dcs.qld.gov.au
Mail: Victims Register
Queensland Corrective Services
GPO Box 1054
Brisbane QLD 4001

Who can Register?

In accordance with s320 (2) of the *CSA 2006* in order to be eligible to apply for registration, you must be:

- the actual victim of an offence of violence or a sexual offence;
- an immediate family member of a deceased victim (meaning a victim's spouse, child, step-child, parent, step-parent, sibling, stepbrother, stepsister, grandparent or legal guardian);
- a parent or guardian of a victim of a violent or sexual offence who has legal incapacity or who is under 18 years;
- another person who can provide a documented history of violence, including domestic violence, being committed against them by the prisoner; or
- another person who can demonstrate that their life or physical safety may be endangered due to a connection to the offence for which the prisoner has been imprisoned.

NB. The prisoner must be serving a sentence, this includes parole.

What information may be provided?

If your application is approved, information will only be provided about a prisoner who is under the supervision of QCS.

Information that must be provided to an eligible person includes the prisoner's eligibility and release dates, date of discharge or release, death or escape or any other exceptional circumstances that could be reasonably expected to endanger the eligible person's life or physical safety.

Information that may be provided to an eligible person includes a prisoner's current location, security classification, transfers, the results of applications for parole and other exceptional events.

If the prisoner lodges an application for parole, other than exceptional circumstances parole, or the Attorney-General makes an application to the Supreme Court for an order under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*, eligible persons will be notified that they may make a written submission to the Parole Board Queensland or the Supreme Court.

Privacy notice

This application form is provided in accordance with the *Corrective Services Act 2006* s320 – s325. QCS collects the information provided in your application form in order to establish your eligibility to register with the QCS Victims Register and for the following purposes:

- to enable the Department to provide certain information relating to the status of prisoner(s) against whom you have registered with the QCS Victims Register; and
- to enable the Department to discharge its legislative accountability and administrative function.

The QCS Victims Register will store your information securely. QCS will not disclose your personal information without your consent to the extent that it can be legally refused or unless satisfied on reasonable grounds that the disclosure is necessary to lessen or prevent a serious threat to your life or safety or unless legally required.

Does the information provided to me need to remain confidential?

All information provided by the QCS Victims Register must be treated confidentially. Information from the Victims Register must not be disclosed for public dissemination by either the eligible person or their nominee.

This includes but not limited to disclosure of confidential information to any media outlet (e.g. television, newspaper, radio, the internet, book or other form of communication), distributing the confidential information in leaflets or brochures in letterboxes or by announcing the confidential information at a meeting.

Disclosure of this information publicly may result in completion of your registration and other penalties as described in s341 of the CSA 2006, including up to 2 years imprisonment.

An eligible person or their nominee may disclose relevant confidential information (such as the prisoner's discharge date) to a third party, for example a Domestic and Family Violence Support Service, for the purposes of obtaining support and assistance.

How long does my registration remain current?

A registration will remain current until a prisoner has completed their sentence. However an eligible person may be removed from the QCS Victims Register in other circumstances, including where:

- the eligible person requests to be removed;
- the prisoner in relation to whom the person is registered dies in custody or in the community;
- the prisoner is transferred interstate or overseas;
- the eligible person discloses, for public dissemination, any prisoner information released to them by the QCS Victims Register;
- the QCS Victims Register is unable, after making reasonable efforts, to contact the eligible person; or
- until the child victim of an offence reaches 18 years and has legal capacity to apply with the QCS Victims Register in their own right.

How do I apply for registration?

A person who wishes to apply for registration must complete and sign the attached Form 49 Application to Register with the Queensland Corrective Services Victims Register.

Should a person wish to apply for registration in relation to multiple prisoners, a Form 49 Application to Register with the Queensland Corrective Services Victims Register must be completed for each prisoner.

Completed applications should be emailed or posted to the address provided.

The QCS Victims Register seeks to provide information in a timely manner. Provision of an email address ensures the timely release of information.

What happens after I submit my Application to Register?

Your application and the supporting documentation will be assessed against several criteria. It is your responsibility to provide documentation in support of your application. The Victims Register may seek further information or clarification from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Queensland Police Service or the Courts.

An assessment will also be made if releasing information will affect the safety and security of QCS facilities, staff, prisoners and other persons.

Once your application has been processed, you will be advised of the outcome. If you are registered, your initial letter will provide information regarding the prisoner's current status.

If you are ineligible for registration you will be notified.