

# Victim Liaison Service Survey

Information for victims and their  
families

The prosecution of your matter is now at an end. As  
a result, we would like to invite you to provide  
feedback regarding the service you received from  
our Office.

Participation in this survey is voluntary.



### **Are my responses anonymous?**

Yes.

You do not need to provide your name or contact details to complete the survey. We will not be able to tell who completed the survey and you will not be contacted by our Office regarding your feedback.

If you have an enquiry that requires a response from our Office, or if you would like to make a formal complaint, please email or write to us at the address provided below.



Directorate  
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions  
GPO Box 2403  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

or



[MailboxODPP@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:MailboxODPP@justice.qld.gov.au)

### **Do I have to complete the survey?**

No.

Participation in this survey is voluntary.

If you decide not to complete the survey now but change your mind in the future, you may take the survey at a later date.

### **Will my Victim Liaison Officer see the responses I provide?**

No. The responses you provide will not ordinarily be sent to your Victim Liaison Officer.

However, you may indicate that you want some feedback to be passed on to your Victim Liaison Officer.

Please provide the name of your Victim Liaison Officer if you would like them to be advised of some specific feedback.

### **How long will it take to complete the survey?**

The survey should take between 10 and 15 minutes to complete.

The exact length of the survey and the number of questions you are asked will depend on your experience with the ODPP and the way the matter progressed through the courts.

### **Do I have to provide my personal information?**

No.

You will be asked to provide some personal details, such as your age and gender, however you do not have to answer these questions. You may select 'Prefer not to answer' if you wish.

### **What if I don't know the answer to a question?**

Most of the questions will allow you to answer 'Unsure' if you do not know the answer to the question.

### **What type of questions will I be asked?**

The purpose of the Victim Liaison Service is to ensure that victims of crime and their families are kept informed as their matter progresses through the criminal justice system. Another critical function of the service is to ensure victims are informed of external organisations who can provide specialised assistance and support.

Therefore, the survey focuses on whether our Office kept you up to date during the court process, and whether you were provided with factsheets about the criminal justice process and brochures about relevant organisations (such as Victim Assist Queensland).

You will also be asked some questions about the service you received, including whether ODPP staff treated you with respect, and adequately addressed your enquiries.

Most questions are multiple choice. You will also have an opportunity to provide general comments at the end of the survey.

### **What will the results be used for?**

Your responses will help us evaluate and improve the service provided by the Victim Liaison Service.

## Where can I access the survey?

The victim survey can be access at the website below. You will need to enter the password provided.

Website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/odppvlsurvey>  
Password: ODPPVLS

Please note, this is a generic password and will not identify you as the respondent.

Alternatively, if you would like to receive a hardcopy (paper version) of the survey, please write to us at the address below.



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## Further information

If you have any questions or need help, contact the ODPP in your region.

**Freecall**  
P: 1800 673 428

**Brisbane**  
P: (07) 3239 6840  
[DPPVictimLiaisonSupervisor@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:DPPVictimLiaisonSupervisor@justice.qld.gov.au)

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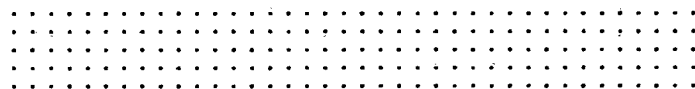
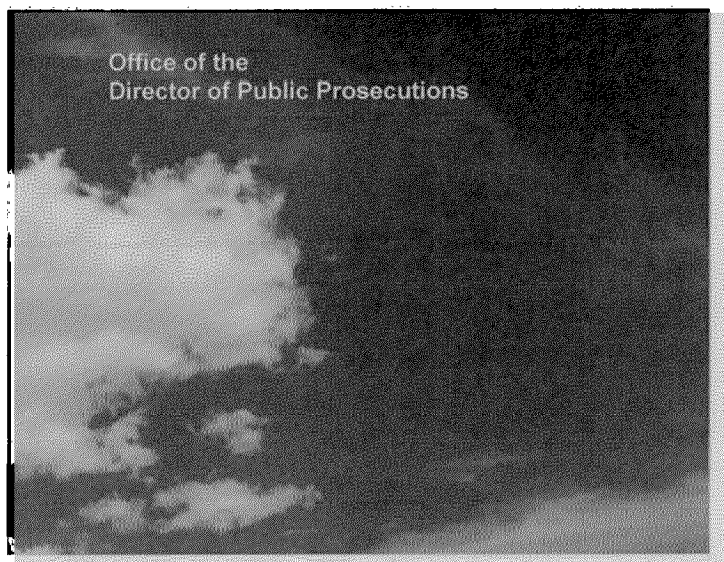
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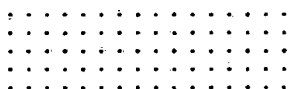


# Penalties & sentences for adult offenders

Information for victims and their families

This factsheet outlines some of the penalties and sentences commonly imposed on adult offenders in Queensland under the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* (Qld).

*Information in this brochure is general in nature.*



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## Purposes of sentencing

The reason why a sentence is imposed on an offender is:

- to punish the offender;
- to rehabilitate the offender;
- to deter (i.e. discourage) the offender and others in the community from committing a similar offence;
- to denounce (i.e. condemn) the conduct; and/or
- to protect the community.

When deciding what sentence to impose, the sentencing judge also considers:

- laws made by parliament – including the maximum penalty that can be imposed for the offence;
- decisions made by judges in similar cases;
- aggravating features of the offending; and
- personal circumstances of the offender – including their age and criminal history.

## Custodial sentences

### Suspended sentence

A term of imprisonment may be suspended after an offender has served part of it or none of it. This means that the remainder of the sentence hangs over their head for a period of time that is set by the Court ('operational period'). During the operational period the offender must not commit another offence punishable by imprisonment.

If an offender breaches a suspended sentence by reoffending during the operational period, the Judge may:

- Order the offender to serve the whole of the suspended period of imprisonment; or
- Order the offender to serve part of the suspended period of imprisonment; or
- In some circumstances, extend the operational period.

### Pre-sentence custody declaration

If an offender spent time in custody before the sentence date, the judge may declare that they have already served some of the imprisonment term. As a result, the term the offender serves after the sentence date will be reduced by the number of days spent in pre-sentence custody.

### Parole

A prisoner may be released from prison on parole before the end of the imprisonment term. Parolees are subject to strict conditions and are supervised by a parole officer. If a person breaches their parole conditions, their parole order may be amended, suspended or cancelled by their parole officer or the parole board. That means they are returned to prison until they have finished the whole sentence or are released on parole again.

**Parole release date** – a date set by the judge for the prisoner's release from custody.

**Parole eligibility date** – a date set by the judge after which the prisoner may apply to be released on parole. The parole board will determine whether or not to release a prisoner who applies for parole.

**Serious violent offence declaration** – the prisoner is only eligible for parole after serving 80 percent of the imprisonment term.

Whether the judge can fix a parole release date or parole eligibility date, or make a Serious Violent Offender declaration, is set out in legislation. It may depend on the length of the sentence, the nature of the offending and other matters.

### Intensive correction order

A judge may order that a term of imprisonment be served in the community under the intensive supervision of a corrective services officer. The order provides conditions such as reporting, not committing further offences, completing community service and undergoing counselling.

## Non-custodial orders

### Community based orders

**Community service order** – an order to perform up to 240 hours of unpaid community service within a set time.

**Probation order** – an order that the offender is to be supervised in the community for up to three years. An offender may have to report to a corrective services officer, undergo counselling, or submit to medical, psychiatric or psychological treatment.

If an offender breaches a community service or probation order by re-offending or not complying with the conditions imposed, they may be re-sentenced.

### Monetary and other orders

**Banning order** – an order that the offender must not go to a certain place for a period of time.

**Compensation or restitution** – an order to pay a sum of money to a person (via the Registry) for causing personal injury or to cover loss of/damage to property.

**Fine** – an order to pay a sum of money to the State.

**Non-contact order** – an order that the offender must not contact the victim or another person for a period of time.

**Recognisance** – an order for the offender's release on the condition they appear before the court if requested, keep the peace and be of good behaviour for a stated period.



## Concurrent vs cumulative sentences

Two or more sentences may be served concurrently or cumulatively.

**Concurrent sentences** – are served at the same time as each other. This is the most common.

**Cumulative sentences** – cannot be served at the same time. The offender has to finish serving the first sentence before they start serving the second one.

## Recording a conviction

When considering whether or not to record a conviction where the offender is sentenced to a non-custodial order, the sentencing judge must take into account the nature of the offence, the offender's age and character, and the impact that recording a conviction will have on the offender's social and economic wellbeing and prospects of employment.

**Conviction recorded** – the conviction is always treated as a conviction.

**No conviction recorded** – the conviction is not treated as a conviction except for certain purposes. For example, working with children or disability services checks will still reveal the conviction. The conviction will still appear on the offender's criminal history and can be taken into account if the offender is sentenced for other offences.

## Appeals against sentence

An offender can apply to the Court of Appeal to appeal their sentence within one month of the sentence date (or longer in some circumstances).



## Further information

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