

## Why should I sign up for notification with a post-sentencing agency?

Now that the offender in your case has been sentenced and as a victim of a case that falls under the Victim Rights Act, we want to let you know about the next step in the criminal justice process if you wish to continue to be notified of the offender's status. We realize that the criminal justice system can be a difficult, confusing, and trying process. Following the sentencing of an offender, the offender will be supervised by a post-sentencing agency, such as the Department of Corrections, the Probation Department, a Community Corrections facility, jail, or the Division of Youth Corrections. Prior to the sentence, all criminal justice agencies were required to proactively notify you about events that were occurring in your case. However, after sentencing, you will need to enroll with the post-sentencing agency that is supervising the offender to continue to be informed about the status of the offender\*. One reason that victims/survivors are not automatically notified after an offender has been sentenced is because not all victims/survivors want to continue to be notified after sentencing. By having an opt-in process, the choice is up to you as to what is best for you.

### **We encourage you to consider enrolling in the post sentencing Victim Notification Program.**

By signing up for notification through the post sentencing agency, you will continue to be informed of significant events that are occurring with the offender in your case. This includes, but is not limited to, where the offender is located, if the offender escapes/absconds, if there are additional court hearings, if the offender's sentence is modified, and when the offender's sentence is discharged or terminated from supervision. It is important to keep your contact information current so that the criminal justice agency can reach you!!

## How do I sign up for a Post Sentence Notification Program?

A victim/survivor wishing to be notified by a post-sentencing Victim Notification Program should complete a Victim Notification Program Enrollment Form. The forms are available from the Victim/Witness Unit at the District Attorney's Office or the post sentencing agency. The offender will be sentenced to one or more of the following post sentencing criminal justice agencies:

- ✓ Probation Department
- ✓ The Department of Corrections
- ✓ Community Corrections (halfway house)
- ✓ \*The Division of Youth Corrections (DYC) - **DYC is the only agency where you are automatically enrolled. You have the choice to remain enrolled or to opt-out of the notification program.**
- ✓ Local Jail
- ✓ Colorado Mental Health Institute of Pueblo

If you enroll with a post sentencing agency, your enrollment status and contact information will not be shared with the offender and the offender will NOT be informed that you have enrolled in the Victim Notification Program. If the offender gets transferred to a different post-sentence agency (for example, if the offender is sentenced to probation, but his/her probation is revoked and he/she is sentenced to the Department of Corrections), you will have to re-enroll with the new post sentence agency.

### **What happens if I don't enroll in the post sentencing Victim Notification Program?**

The choice is yours as to whether you enroll or not. If you do not enroll, you will no longer receive any information from a post sentencing agency regarding the offender in your case. This can include early termination of the offender's sentence, future court hearings, probation revocation hearings, or parole hearings. You can enroll at any time so if you decide you want to enroll in the future, please fill out the Victim Notification Form that was provided to you by the District Attorney's Office or you can contact the post sentencing agency directly.