

Help is Available

The pain and suffering experienced by a victim of violent crime cannot be measured. Recovering from such tragedy emotionally and financially is equally difficult, but there is help. As a victim you have rights; but you must assume the responsibility of learning about the trial process, including what happens after the conviction of an offender and how it affects your safety and well-being.

In an effort to alleviate hardships suffered by victims of crime, the Alabama Legislature passed the **Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Law** in 1984. The Commission provides financial compensation to cover expenses related to the crime such as: funeral costs, and medical and counseling expenses.

There is help for victims like you, and you are encouraged to become involved in the offender justice process. While you have the right to be provided with information, you must register for victim notification with all appropriate agencies.

Work Release

Work release allows inmates nearing parole or the end of their sentence (EOS) to work outside the prison during the day, but requires them to return to the facility at night. By working within the community, the inmate earns a salary that helps pay for child support, attorney's fees, fines, and/or court-ordered restitution to victims. You will not be notified when an inmate is released from prison for a work release program. However, the sheriff and district attorney of the county where the crime was committed are notified.

Pre-Discretionary Leave (PDL)

Pre-Discretionary Leave is for inmates that are to be released within one year of his/her end of sentence (EOS) or parole date, and living with an approved sponsor. This community custody program allows the inmate to live at home and work in the community.

Passes or Furloughs

A pass or furlough allows brief periods of time away from prison for offenders with good behavior.

Supervised Intensive Restitution

The SIR program is a Department of Corrections' program for offenders who pose minimum security risks. No inmate who has ever been convicted of murder, kidnapping in the first degree, rape in the first degree, sodomy in the first degree, arson in the first degree, selling or trafficking in controlled substances, robbery in the first degree, burglary in the first degree, sexual abuse in the first degree, or assault in the first degree, if the assault left the victim permanently disfigured or disabled, is allowed to participate in a SIR program. The inmate must perform a forty-hour workweek of paid, private employment, public service work program, or a combination of both. Inmates in the SIR program are required to pay their court-ordered restitution to their victims until the restitution is paid in full.

Parole

Parole is a discretionary decision made by the three-member Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles in Montgomery. In cases involving violence and injury, the Alabama Victim Notification Law requires that the victim be notified thirty days before the inmate is considered for parole (you must register with the Board in order to receive victim notification). The victim's parole hearing notice will include the date and location of the parole hearing. You have a right to protest parole, and may do so either in writing or by appearing in person before the Board.

Pardon

When an inmate has completed a substantial amount of the sentence, and has successfully served parole requirements, he/she may apply for a pardon. Some pardons do not excuse the inmate of the crime, but restores the inmate's civil rights (rights to vote in state or local elections and run for public office). However, an unconditional pardon (full pardon) may be granted. This type of pardon freely and unconditionally absolves the offender of all legal consequences of the crime.

End of Sentence

The end of sentence (EOS) is the date set by statute based on the sentence imposed by the courts, and is the date the Department of Corrections must release a offender.

Alabama law permits "good time" credits to be given to offenders for good behavior. These credits affect the calculation of the end of sentence date which is set at the time of sentencing. The length of time an offender serves can be lessened for "good behavior."

Your rights

As of January 1, 1996, and for crimes occurring after that date, you as the victim, or a family member of the victim have a constitutional right to be notified of certain changes in writing by the Department of Corrections, provided you have made your request known to that department.

You Shall:

- be notified of an end of sentence release within 15 days prior to the end of the offender's sentence
- be notified within 15 days following the offender's death
- be notified as soon as practicable of the offender's escape, and recapture
- you also have the right to submit a written statement, or oral transcription to the Department of Corrections, and have your statement considered should your offender be reviewed for a community release program.
- you have the right to be notified by the Board of Pardons and Paroles and allowed to be present and heard at a hearing when parole or pardon is considered. However, you **MUST** register for victim notification with the Board and keep your address current.

Correctional Facilities

Correctional facilities are located throughout Alabama. A convicted offender may be sent to a maximum, medium or minimum security prison facility. The Department of Corrections is the agency which determines where a prisoner will be placed. Inmates sentenced to death row or life without parole, as well as inmate who are considered security risks are sent to a maximum security prison. All other inmates are sent to medium or minimum security prisons.

Answering Your Questions

Following conviction, the offender who committed the crime against you or your family member can be ordered by the sentencing judge to serve time in prison. There are sentencing options available to the courts, and the Department of Corrections must abide by those options to manage the offender and the prison population. The following state agencies including the Crime Victims' Compensation Commission can answer your questions and provide you with specific information about the offender who victimized you. You should register for victim notification with all the agencies listed.

Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission

P.O. Box 231267
Montgomery, AL 36123-1267
(334) 290-4420
(800) 541-9388
www.acvcc.alabama.gov

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RESOURCES

Department of Corrections

301 South Ripley Street
P.O. Box 301501
Montgomery, AL 36107
(334) 242-9400

Attorney General's Office of Victims Assistance

500 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130-0152
(334) 242-7300
(800)-626-7676

Board of Pardons and Paroles

301 South Ripley Street
P.O. Box 302405
Montgomery, AL 36130-2405
(334) 242-8700

Your local district attorney or sheriff can also assist you. You can find a listing for those offices in your local telephone directory.

Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission

P. O. Box 231267
Montgomery, Alabama 36123-1267
Phone (334) 290-4420
1-800-541-9388 (Victims only)
FAX (334) 290-4455



AFTER THE TRIAL

The Corrections
Process

