

Inmate Locator *

To locate a federal inmate using the *Inmate Locator* tool on the internet:

-Go to the Bureau of Prisons website at: www.BOP.gov.

-Select the “*Inmate Locator*” tab at the top of the webpage.

-Then, enter in either the inmate’s first and last name or search by ID number.

The *Inmate Locator* provides information regarding the inmate’s location, type of prison, and projected release date.

Search By ID Number	OR	Search By Name
<small>Searching for an inmate by ID Number will return a better match; therefore, we recommend you use this method to locate an inmate. You can usually find an inmate's ID Number (Register Number) on any type of record or written correspondence.</small>		<small>* When searching by name, an inmate's first and last name are required and must be an exact match (i.e. John Doe will not find Jon Doe).</small>
Type of Number <input type="text" value="Register Number"/>		First Name* <input type="text"/>
Number <input type="text"/>		Middle Name <input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="SEARCH"/>		Last Name* <input type="text"/>
		Race <input type="text" value="Unknown"/>
		Sex <input type="text" value="Unknown"/>
		Age <input type="text"/>
		<input type="button" value="SEARCH"/> <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/>

Also, victims may learn the location of any confined inmate by calling or writing the Bureau of Prisons.

**U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 1st Street NW, Room 536
Washington DC 20534
(202) 307-3126**

* Information from www.bop.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Good Time-Parole-Prison Location

- Parole was abolished in the federal criminal justice system in 1984. Federal defendants sentenced today are not eligible for parole.
- The most “good time” credit an inmate can earn is 15%. This credit is not given to an inmate until the majority of the sentence has been served. Also, there is no guarantee that an inmate will receive the entire 15%. There are certain programs available that may reduce an inmate’s time, also. The *Inmate Locator* tool is the best way to see when an inmate is scheduled for release.
- The Judge can recommend that an inmate serve his or her sentence at a certain institution but it is up to the sole discretion of BOP to determine where the inmate will actually be

Victim-Witness Contact Information

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Victim-Witness Coordinator:

**Maureen French
Victim-Witness Coordinator
U.S. Attorney’s Office
Northern District of California
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36055
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415)436-6834**



Information about the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) for Crime Victims

Prepared by the
U.S. Attorney’s Office
Northern District of California

MELINDA HAAG
United States Attorney
Northern District of California

MAUREEN FRENCH
Victim-Witness Coordinator

Federal Bureau of Prison's Victim Notification Program*

The Federal Bureau of Prison's (BOP) Victim Notification Program ensures that crime victims enrolled in the program are notified within specific time frames of an inmate's admission to or release from an institution, and about other events concerning an inmate, such as changes in status or parole hearings.

The BOP's Victim Notification Program was established as a result of the 1982 Victims and Witness Protection Act, the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, and the Attorney General's Guidelines for Victims and Witness Assistance. A major goal of these directives is to ensure all law enforcement agencies advise victims of critical stages in the criminal justice process. BOP implemented procedures in accordance with these guidelines to respond to the needs of crime victims.

Procedures*

In 2002, in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Executive Office for the U.S. Attorneys' office, BOP implemented the automated Victim Notification System (VNS); and in 2004, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service became a partner in the system. The VNS is a Department of Justice (DOJ) system that is designed to provide information and notification to victims of Federal crime. The VNS links participating agencies through the DOJ Intranet and allows each agency to share victim information, thus ensuring continuous service to crime victims throughout the criminal justice process. The system contains the names of all identified victims of Federal crimes. Information about victims is entered into the system at the time they are identified following the commission of a crime and the information is used to make notification(s) during the arrest, arraignment, prosecutorial, and confinement phases.

VNS is a free service to crime victims by which notifications are sent providing information about significant events during an offenders' incarceration. Notifications are made available in English or Spanish. In addition to the notification letters provided, VNS provides a toll-free Call Center and a VNS Internet Site to crime victims. Individual victims will be provided a Victim Identification Number (VIN) and a Personal Identification Number (PIN). These numbers are necessary to access information available via the VNS Call Center or the VNS Internet Site. Each of these services allow victims to access information, receive notifications, change contact information, and/or elect to stop receiving notifications.

The VNS Call Center can be reached at 1-866-365-4968 and [Notify USDOJ](#) can be used to access the Victim Internet Site. Most questions regarding the VNS are addressed in the brochure entitled "The Department of Justice Victim Notification System" provided to victims in their initial notification letter. Additional questions regarding the VNS or the BOP's notification procedures can be addressed to the BOP's Victim-Witness Coordinators at 202-307-0884 or 202-307-2878.

(It typically takes approximately three months for victims to receive their initial notification from BOP.)

Related Release Activities* (Type of Notification)

Release. Before an inmate completes his or her sentence, the victim will be notified of the release date, the city and state of destination, and if applicable, the supervising U.S. Probation office.

Escape. If an inmate escapes, the victim will be notified by phone of the date and time of the escape as soon as possible.

Furlough. If an inmate is approved for an unescorted trip to the community, the victim will be notified of the starting and ending dates of the furlough, as well as the specific location. Only inmates who meet specific security standards are considered for furloughs, and these typically occur during the inmate's final year of confinement.

Transfer to a community corrections center (halfway house). Once it is confirmed that an inmate has been approved for transfer to a halfway house, the victim will be notified of the name and location of the facility, the transfer date, and the inmate's tentative release date from the halfway house. Transfers to halfway houses usually happen 3 to 6 months before an inmate's final release date to the community. The halfway house is generally located near the inmate's projected area of release.

Parole Hearings. If an inmate is eligible for parole and is receiving a parole hearing, the victim is notified. The victim may appear in person or submit a written statement to the U.S. Parole Commission.

Death. If an inmate dies while confined, the victim will be notified of the date of death.

From time to time, inmates are transferred between BOP facilities for various reasons. Victims are not routinely notified of these internal transfers; however, the location of inmates in the custody of BOP can be determined by using the "Inmate Locator" tool on the BOP website at www.BOP.gov. Additional information on how to use this tool is on the next page.

Please remember to update your contact information in VNS. This is the system used to provide victims information about an inmates custody status.