

Victim Notification COVID-19 Update

Letter notifications from the Victim Notification System (VNS) may be delayed due to the availability of staff at government agencies during the COVID-19 outbreak. The other methods of notification provided by VNS (email, the VNS internet site, toll-free telephone number) will continue in operation and will provide timely information. If you have not already done so, we suggest you access the VNS website (<https://www.notify.usdoj.gov>) and enter a verified email address to receive email notifications from VNS.

Registrants of VNS with a verified email address will receive the same notification information via email as provided by the VNS letters. Instructions for accessing the VNS website can be located at the bottom of any previously received victim notification letter.

For assistance please contact the victim assistance specialist assigned to your case. To reach Victim Witness Coordinator, Marlys Big Eagle (605) 357-2325; Victim Witness Specialist/PIO, Aileen Crawford (605) 341-1915; or Victim Assistance Specialist, Jo Lepkowski (605) 945-4558.

If you plan to attend a court hearing, prior to the scheduled date of the event, be sure to contact the victim assistance specialist assigned to your case to for any special guidance on courthouse and/or courtroom access during the COVID-19 outbreak. Please be aware that access may be limited based on government guidelines or restrictions in the local area.