

Accountability... The next step in Restorative Justice



Restorative Justice is a way of viewing, understanding and responding to crime and the effects it has on victims/survivors, communities and offenders.

Crime is recognized as harm done to a person and the aim of justice is to promote understanding, accountability and healing.

Offenders are held personally responsible to their victim/survivor for making amends and, to the extent possible, helping to repair the damage they cause.

Accountability Letters written by offenders are an attempt to communicate remorse, acknowledgement and/or the pain caused by the offense committed.

How the Accountability Letter Program Works

Victims/Survivors shall determine if they would like to accept a letter of accountability from the offender that has harmed them or their loved ones.

The offender must participate in a class that will assist in writing a letter.

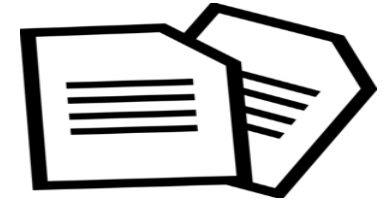
- An offender must acknowledge the crime.
- An offender must acknowledge the harm done to the victim/survivor.
- The offender must express regret for the harm done.

It is a confidential program, the offender will not know if a letter has been requested or sent to a victim/survivor.

The letter is not a method of obtaining future contact, such as special or approved visiting into a Correctional Institution.

If a victim/survivor wishes to receive a letter, it will be sent from the Crime Victims Services Bureau. The offender will not have access to victim/survivor addresses or be able to contact victims/survivors directly.

Facts about the Accountability Letter Program



An accountability letter is one tool that an offender can use to show the victim/survivor that he/she understands the harm that has been caused by their crime and is taking responsibility for it.

Participation in the program is voluntary and will not affect the offender's release date or conditions of incarceration and cannot be used to assist in the Parole/Pardon or appeal process

Offenders are prohibited from communicating either by electronic communications, in writing, or orally with a victim or survivor of the offense unless it is an approved program of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

A letter will never be used to ask for forgiveness or to make excuses for the crime and the harm that has been caused.

**Accountability Letter
Notification Request Form**

Yes, I would like to be notified if the Louisiana Victim Outreach Program receives an accountability letter addressed to me.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (Daytime) _____
(Evening) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Offender ID # _____

Parish / Offense: _____

Date of crime: _____

Signature: _____

Mail To:
Louisiana Victim Outreach
P.O. Box 94304
Baton Rouge, LA. 70804

**The Accountability
Letter Bank**



The accountability letter bank is where all accountability/apology letters written by offenders are held until a victim/survivor requests to see them.

Victims/Survivors who wish to receive a letter from an offender may contact:

Louisiana Victim Outreach
Program at (225) 342-1056
or
submit an Accountability Letter
Notification Request Form

**Louisiana Department of Public
Safety and Corrections**

Louisiana Victim Outreach Program



**Jeff Landry
Governor**

**Gary Westcott
Secretary**

**Phone: (225) 342-1056
or (888) 342-6110
Fax: (225) 342-3095**

www.doc.louisiana.gov