**What Happens After Sentencing?**

 Many people believe that a criminal case is over after a defendant is sentenced. But most of the time, defendants ask courts to review their conviction, or change their sentence. This is a normal part of the criminal justice process. It can take years or even decades. **While it can be very frustrating, it’s important for you to know that a defendant’s efforts are very rarely successful.**

 Many people choose not to be notified about post-conviction proceedings unless something changes with the conviction or sentence, because it can be disruptive to their lives or affect their healing process. Others want to be notified only in certain circumstances. **To decide what is right for you, please read the information below and let the Washoe County District Attorney’s Office know your preference by returning the enclosed notification form.**

**Appeals:** After sentencing, a defendant may appeal to the Nevada Appellate Courts. Usually, the defendant argues that mistakes happened before or during trial, or at sentencing.

 Sometimes, the defendant’s attorney and a prosecutor may be ordered to argue the case at the Nevada Supreme Court or Court of Appeals. sThis is not hearing where anyone testifies, and the defendant will not be present. Instead, the attorneys argue about the law. Although victims are not allowed to speak, you can watch the hearing online or in person, or just request to be notified about the outcome. Either way, the vast majority of the time, the Nevada Appellate Courts do not grant the defendant’s appeal.

**Writs:** Another option for defendants is to file a writ petition with the trial court. Usually, the defendant argues that the trial attorney did not do a good job, and that there should be a new trial or sentencing. Defendants make this type of argument frequently, but courts very, very rarely agree that the defendant should get a new trial or sentencing.

 Sometimes, the trial judge may hold a hearing where the defense attorney or other members of the defense team may testify about why they made certain choices in representing the defendant. The defendant may also testify. Although victims are not allowed to speak at these hearings, you can attend in person, or just request to be notified about the outcome. After, the defendant can appeal the writ to the Nevada Appellate Courts, and the process works as described in the appeals section above. The defendant may also choose to pursue writs or appeals in federal court, which are handled by the Attorney General’s Office, and rarely successful.

**Please complete the enclosed form and return it to our office at your earliest convenience, so that we can know your notification preferences.**

DA # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Defendant Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**POST-SENTENCING VICTIM NOTIFICATION PREFERENCE FORM**

**If you would like to be notified of future events in this case, please complete the victim information below and indicate your notification preferences. It is important to keep your contact information with our office up to date, since these proceedings may occur months or years after the sentencing hearing.**

VICTIM INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell/text phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred language: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is the best way to reach you during the day?

  Home phone  Cell phone  E-mail

You will be receiving automated notifications. Please select below.

 Phone call  Text message (Data rates may apply)  E-mail

NOTIFICATION PREFERENCES

*Please check the boxes associated with your notification preferences:*

* Please do not notify me unless the defendant is granted a new trial or a new sentencing hearing.
* Please notify me of the result of any post-conviction hearing.
* Please notify me of any oral argument at the Nevada Appellate Courts.
* Please notify me of any writ hearing at District Court that will include testimony.

**Please return to this form to the Washoe County District Attorney’s Office at 1 South Sierra Street Reno, NV 89502, or e-mail the form to** **victiminfo@da.washoecounty.us****. You may also contact our Victim Witness Assistance Center by calling (775) 328-3210 to provide us with your updated contact information and/or notification preferences.**