



**U.S. Department of Justice**

District of Nebraska

1620 Dodge Street

Suite 1400

Omaha, NE 68102

Phone: (402) 661-3701

Fax: (402) 345-1166

December 18, 2020

[REDACTED]

Re: United States v. Defendant(s) Austin Thomas  
Case Number 2020R00147 and Court Docket Number 20-CR-00139

Dear [REDACTED]:

The enclosed information is provided by the United States Department of Justice Victim Notification System (VNS). As a victim witness professional, my role is to assist you with information and services during the prosecution of this case. I am contacting you because you were identified by law enforcement as a victim or potential victim during the investigation of the above criminal case.

The trial previously scheduled for defendant(s) Austin Thomas on January 25, 2021, 09:00 AM at in Courtroom 4, Roman L. Hruska Federal Courthouse, 111 South 18th Plaza, Omaha, NE has been rescheduled by the court. VNS will continue to provide you with updated case scheduling and event information.

A trial is scheduled before Judge Robert Rossiter on February 8, 2021, 09:00 AM at in Courtroom 4, Roman L. Hruska Federal Courthouse, 111 South 18th Plaza, Omaha, NE for the case which involves defendant(s) Austin Thomas.

Please be aware that many criminal cases are resolved by a plea agreement between the United States Attorney's Office and the defendant. You should also know that it is not unusual for a defendant to seek to negotiate a plea agreement shortly before a trial is scheduled to begin. Plea agreements can be made at any time and as late as the morning of trial, leaving little or no opportunity to provide notice to you of the date and time of the plea hearing. If the court schedules a plea hearing in this case, we will use our best efforts to notify you of available information as soon as practicable. If you want to inform the prosecutor of your views regarding potential plea agreements, or any other aspect of the case, please contact the prosecutor assigned to this case or me.

Unless you have received a subpoena to attend as a witness in this matter, your attendance is not required. Because of the Court's schedule, hearing dates could change on very short notice. If you plan on attending, you may want to call the VNS Call Center or check the web site to confirm the date and time.

Because of the Court's schedule, hearing dates could change on very short notice. If you plan on attending, you may want to call the VNS Call Center or check the website to confirm the date and time. Please note, there is a 24-hour delay in information transfer to the website.

**Reminder: Please contact our office prior to appearing for this proceeding.** It is not uncommon for the court schedule to change before we can notify you of the change in a timely manner. Your contact may save you an unnecessary trip to court. Email notification is a way to eliminate the delay in time of waiting for regular mail service. Through the Victim Notification System (VNS) we will continue to provide you with updated scheduling and event information as the case proceeds through the criminal justice system. You may obtain

current information about this case on the VNS website at <https://www.notify.usdoj.gov> or from the VNS Call Center at 1-866-DOJ-4YOU (1-866-365-4968) (TDD/TTY: 1-866-228-4619) (International: 1-502-213-2767). In addition, you may use the Call Center or Internet to update your contact information and/or change your decision about participation in the notification program.

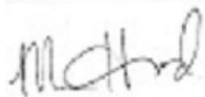
For many VNS registrants email will provide the most timely notification. VNS does not currently have an email address for you. You can provide VNS an email address by accessing the VNS Internet Web page using the login information provided below. By entering your email as part of the VNS registration process future notifications will be delivered by email, except in rare circumstances when you might also receive a letter from VNS. In order to continue to receive notifications, it is your responsibility to keep your contact information current.

You will use your Victim Identification Number (VIN) [REDACTED] and Personal Identification Number (PIN) [REDACTED] anytime you contact the Call Center and the first time you log into VNS on the website. If you are receiving notifications with multiple victim ID/PIN codes please contact the VNS Call Center. In addition, the first time you access the VNS website, you will be prompted to enter your last name (or business name) as currently contained in VNS. The name you should enter is [REDACTED]

Remember, VNS is an automated system and cannot answer questions. If you have other questions which involve this matter, please contact this office at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Kelly  
United States Attorney



MaKayla Heard  
Victim Witness Specialist