

Basic Bill of Rights for Victims

As a victim you have the right to.....

- Receive basic information on the services available.
- Be notified of significant actions and proceedings within the criminal and juvenile justice systems.
- Be accompanied to all criminal and all juvenile proceedings.
- Submit prior comment on the potential reduction/dropping of a charge or change in a plea in a criminal or delinquency proceeding or diversion of any case, including an informal adjustment or consent decree.
- Submit prior comment on sentencing decisions or the disposition of a delinquent child to include the submission of a written and oral victim impact statement.
- Be restored to the pre-crime economic status through restitution, compensation through the Crime Victims Compensation Program, and the expeditious return of property.
- Be given the opportunity to provide prior comment on and notice of post-sentencing release decisions involving an offender who is sentenced to a state correctional institution when a personal injury crime is involved.
- Receive notice of the release of an offender from a local correctional facility and immediate notice of the escape and subsequent apprehension of such offender in cases involving personal injury crimes.
- Be present at trials, including murder trials, and the right not to be excluded from the trial if the victim will be providing input at sentencing.
- Receive notice of the release of a juvenile and immediate notice of the escape and subsequent apprehension of such juvenile, including failure to return from temporary leave or home pass.
- Receive notice of transfer of a juvenile who has been adjudicated delinquent from a placement facility and to have the opportunity to express a written objective prior to the release or transfer of the juvenile.
- Receive immediate notice of the release of an offender on bail from a local correctional facility when the offender either violates a protection from abuse order or commits a personal injury crime against a victim protected by the order.
- Receive notice when an offender is transferred from a state correctional institution to a mental health facility and of the discharge, transfer or escape of the offender from the mental health facility.
- Have assistance in the preparation of, submission of and follow-up on financial assistance claims to the Crime Victims Compensation Program.
- Be notified of the details of the final disposition of the case of a juvenile offender.
- Be notified of the termination of the courts' jurisdiction.
- Be present at executions providing the victim has registered with and been selected by the victim advocate (PA Act 80 of 1998).