



*“Justice cannot be for
one side alone, but must be
for both.”*

— Eleanor Roosevelt



Minnesota Office of Justice Programs

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For offender information, call the **Minnesota Victim
Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)**
Service at **1.877.MN.4.VINE**

May 2004



**Crime
Victim Rights**
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Right to be Notified

- ▶ Victim rights
- ▶ Content of any plea bargain agreements
- ▶ Changes in the schedule of court proceedings to a victim who has been subpoenaed or requested to testify
- ▶ Final disposition of the case
- ▶ Any pending appeals by the defendant, including the right to attend the oral argument or hearing
- ▶ Sentence modifications for the offender, including the date, time and location of the review
- ▶ Release of the offender from prison or custodial institution
- ▶ Transfer of the offender from prison or custodial institution
- ▶ Escape of the offender from prison or custodial institution
- ▶ The offender's petition for expungement
- ▶ The right to request restitution and apply for reparations

Right to Participate in Prosecution

- ▶ Right to request a speedy trial
- ▶ Right to provide input in a pre-trial diversion decision
- ▶ Right to object orally or in writing to a proposed disposition or sentence
- ▶ Right to bring a supportive person to the pre-trial hearing
- ▶ Right to attend plea agreement hearings
- ▶ Right to object orally or in writing to a plea agreement at the hearing

Right to Protection from Harm

- ▶ Right to inform court of impact of crime at the sentencing hearing
- ▶ Right to inform court at the sentencing hearing of social and economic impact of crime on persons and businesses in the community
- ▶ Right to attend the sentencing hearing
- ▶ Right to request a probation review hearing
- ▶ Tampering with a witness is a crime in Minnesota and should be reported
- ▶ Employers may not discipline or dismiss victims or witnesses who are called to testify in court
- ▶ Right to request address be withheld in open court
- ▶ Right to a secure waiting area during court
- ▶ Right to request law enforcement to withhold their identity from the public

Right to Apply for Financial Assistance

- ▶ Victims may be eligible for financial assistance (reparations) from the state if they have suffered economic loss as a result of a violent crime
- ▶ Victims may request the court to order the defendant to pay restitution

Commonly Asked Questions

How can I get specific information about the case?

Call your local law enforcement agency or your county attorney.

What if I need financial assistance?

You could be eligible for reparations from the state if you are a victim of a violent crime and have out-of-pocket costs related to medical, counseling, a funeral or wage loss. You could be eligible for restitution from the defendant if he/she is found guilty or enters a guilty plea.

What should I do if I receive a subpoena or I am called to testify?

A subpoena is a court order to appear in court. Read it very carefully. It will have instructions on who you should call for court information and location. However, if you have a scheduling conflict or have any questions, you should call whomever sent the subpoena. As a witness, you will receive a small payment for your time and mileage.

If you feel your victim rights have been violated, contact the Crime Victim Justice Unit at 1-800-247-0390 or 651-282-6256.