



# Crime Victims' Bill of Rights

Understanding your rights in the criminal justice system as a victim of crime in the State of Washington.

As a crime victim, survivor of a crime victim, or witness to a crime, Washington State law provides that reasonable efforts be made to ensure the following rights in the criminal justice system (RCW 7.69.030):

- **Written statement of rights:** to be provided with a written statement of the rights of crime victims, including the name, address, and phone number of a county or local crime victim/witness program if one is available in the area.
- **Informed of final determination:** to be informed of the final disposition of the case of which the victim, survivor, or witness is involved.
- **Informed of changes in court dates:** to be notified that a court proceeding to which they have been subpoenaed will not occur as scheduled.
- **Protection from harm:** to receive protection from harm and threats of harm arising out of cooperation with law enforcement and prosecution efforts, and to be provided with information as to the level of protection available.
- **Informed of witness fees:** to be informed of the procedure to be followed to apply for and receive any witness fees to which they are entitled.
- **Secure waiting area:** to be provided, whenever practical, a secure waiting area during court proceedings that does not require them to be in close proximity to defendants and families or friends of defendants.
- **Personal property returned:** to have any stolen or other personal property returned as soon as possible by law enforcement agencies or the superior court when no longer needed as evidence.
- **Work absences explained:** to be provided with appropriate assistance to explain to an employer any absences related to cooperation with the criminal justice process in order to minimize an employee's loss of pay and other benefits resulting from court appearance.
- **Medical assistance:** to have access to immediate medical assistance without unreasonable delay.

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- **Victim advocate:** to have a crime victim advocate or any other support person of the victim's choosing, present at any prosecutorial or defense interviews and at judicial proceedings.
- **Present in court:** to be physically present in court during trial, or if subpoenaed to testify, to be scheduled as early as practical in the proceedings.
- **Informed of date, time, and place of trial:** to be informed by the prosecuting attorney of the date, time, and place of the trial and of the sentencing hearing for felony convictions upon request.
- **Victim impact statement:** to submit a victim impact statement or report to the court which shall be included in all presentence reports and permanently included in the file and records.
- **Present a statement:** to present a statement personally or by representation at the sentencing hearing for felony convictions.
- **Restitution:** to have restitution ordered when there is a felony conviction, even if the offender is incarcerated, unless extraordinary circumstances exist.

To find help:

Office of Crime Victims Advocacy Direct Services Line

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm

**1-800-822-1067**

Find a local service provider: [www.ocva.wa.gov](http://www.ocva.wa.gov)

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