

CRIME VICTIMS BILL OF RIGHTS

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:

- 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 your area.
- To be informed of the final disposition of the case.
- To be informed of changes in court dates to which you have been subpoenaed.
- To receive protection from harm or threats of harm arising from cooperation with law enforcement and prosecution efforts.
- To be informed of the procedure to be followed to apply for and receive any witness fees to which you are entitled.
- To be provided, whenever practical, with a secure waiting area during court proceedings that does not require you to be in close proximity to defendants and families or friends of defendants.
- To have any stolen or personal property returned as soon as possible after the completion of the case.
- To be provided with appropriate employer intercession regarding absence from work for court appearances.
- To be provided access to medical assistance without unreasonable delay.
- To have, whenever practical, a victim advocate present at prosecutorial or defense interviews and at judicial proceedings.
- To be present in court during trial, or if subpoenaed to testify, to be scheduled as early as practical in proceedings in order to be present during trial after testifying.
- To be informed of the date, time and place of the sentencing hearing for felony convictions upon request.
- To submit a victim impact statement, which shall be included in all pre-sentence reports and permanently included in the offender's files and records.
- To present a victim impact statement personally or by representation, at sentencing hearings for felony convictions.
- To have restitution ordered when there is a felony conviction, even if the offender is incarcerated, unless extraordinary circumstances exist.
- To present a statement in person, in writing, via audio/video tape, or by representation, at any hearing conducted regarding an application for pardon or commutation of sentence.

CHILD CRIME VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS

In addition to the rights provided for all crime victims and witnesses, Washington law states that reasonable efforts be made to ensure the following rights for child victims of violent or sex crimes or child abuse and witnesses under age eighteen:

- To have legal proceedings and legal investigations in which the child is involved explained in a language easily understood by the child.
- To have, whenever practical, a victim advocate present at prosecutorial or defense interviews and at judicial proceedings.
- To be provided, whenever practical, with a secure waiting area during court proceedings and to have an advocate or support person remain with the child prior to and during court proceedings.
- To not have the names, addresses or photographs disclosed to any agency outside the criminal justice system without the permission of the child or the child's parents or guardians.

- To allow an advocate to make recommendations to the prosecuting attorney about child's ability to cooperate with prosecution and the potential effect of the proceedings on the child.
- To allow an advocate to provide information to the court regarding the child's ability to understand court proceedings.
- To be provided with appropriate referrals to social service agencies to assist the child and/or the child's family with the emotional impact of the crime, investigation and judicial proceedings.
- To allow an advocate to be present in court while the child testifies.
- To provide information to the court as to the need for the presence of other supportive persons during the child's testimony to promote the child's feelings of security and safety.
- To allow law enforcement to enlist the services of other professional personnel such as Child Protective Services, victim advocates or prosecutorial staff trained in the interviewing of child victims.
- To receive, either directly or through the child's parent or guardian, a written statement of the rights of child victims, including the name, address, and phone number of a county or local crime victim/witness program if one is available.