



WRITTEN STATEMENT AND EXPLANATION OF RIGHTS

Victims of violent crimes have constitutional and statutory rights. These rights apply whether the offender is an adult or a juvenile. Violent crimes include homicide, felony assaults and batteries, kidnapping, sexual assault and abuse, arson, domestic battery, misdemeanors that result in death or great bodily harm, stalking, driving under the influence, and violations of orders of protection, civil no contact orders and stalking no contact orders.

Some of the victims' rights become rights only if you request them. These rights are marked with an asterisk (*). Contact your local state's attorney to request these rights. If you have questions or need referral services in your area, please call the Attorney General's Crime Victims Assistance Line, 1-800-228-3368 (TTY: 1-877-398-1130.)

You may be eligible for financial assistance for your out-of-pocket expenses under the Illinois Crime Victims Compensation Act. For information and applications, contact the Attorney General's Crime Victims Assistance Line at 1-800-228-3368 (TTY: 1-877-398-1130) or visit the Attorney General's website at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/victims/cvc.html.

If the Offender is Convicted or Found Not Guilty By Reason of Insanity:

You can make a written statement about how the crime has affected you for sentencing. If you are in the courtroom for the sentencing hearing, you can make an oral statement. Your written victim impact statement can be sent to the Prisoner Review Board.

You can have the prosecutor ask the judge to order the offender to pay restitution for your crime-related expenses.

*You can ask the prosecutor to explain in non-technical terms what the plea, verdict and sentence mean.

*You can get information about the final disposition of charges, whether the defendant appeals the conviction or sentence, and whether the defendant challenges the conviction in other ways.

General Rights:

You should be treated with fairness and respect for your dignity and privacy throughout the criminal justice process.

You can ask the police for information about the status of the investigation. The police must notify you if they reopen a closed case.

You can hire an attorney to represent you.

You have the right to have a translator or sign language interpreter for all court proceedings.

You may have an advocate or support person with you in the courtroom, subject to the rules of evidence.

*You have the right to be notified of court proceedings and when proceedings are cancelled or rescheduled.

You can attend court proceedings.

You can attend the trial, unless the court finds that your testimony will be affected if you hear the testimony at trial.

*You can be notified when the offender is released from custody.

After Charges Are Filed:

You have a right to a prompt disposition of the charges after the arrest of the accused.

You can get information about the charges from the prosecutor.

You can get information about victim services, social services and financial assistance from the prosecutor.

The judge must consider your safety when setting release conditions for the offender.

The prosecutor can assist you in having your property that was seized by police returned to you as soon as possible.

The prosecutor can communicate with your employer to minimize your loss of pay and benefits when you attend court proceedings.

The prosecutor will tell you if there is a secure waiting area during court proceedings so you are not near the offender or the offender's family.

*You have the right to talk to the prosecutor about plea offers before the prosecutor negotiates with the offender, if practical.

After Sentencing:

*If the defendant is sentenced to jail or prison, you can be notified when the defendant is released on parole, mandatory supervised release, electronic detention, work release, or furlough, or when the defendant is discharged or escapes. You can also be notified if the defendant is being considered for parole, submit information for consideration by the Prisoner Review Board, and be notified if parole is granted.

*You can provide information to the Prisoner Review Board for consideration by the Board at proceedings to determine conditions of release and revocation of parole or mandatory supervised release.

*If the defendant was convicted of a felony, you can get a picture of the offender when the offender is released from custody.

*If the defendant goes to a Department of Human Services facility, you can be notified when the court approves passes and when the offender leaves the facility on a pass, leaves on conditional release, escapes or is discharged.

*You can be notified if an offender escapes from custody, is caught after an escape or dies before final discharge.

Acknowledgment of Rights

Victim's Signature: _____

Date: _____