

Crime Victims' Rights

As a victim of crime, you have the right to be informed of and participate in the prosecution, including the right to:

- request a speedy trial.
- notice of changes in the schedule of court proceedings if you are required to testify.
- have a safe waiting area separate from the defendant during court.
- not give your home or work address in open court unless the judge finds that this is necessary.
- take time off work to testify without your employer disciplining you.
- be notified of any plea agreement or disposition before it is finalized.
- express to the judge, orally or in writing, any objection you may have to the proposed plea agreement or disposition, or have the prosecuting attorney do so on your behalf.
- be present at the offenders sentencing hearing. You, or the prosecutor on your behalf, can submit a victim impact statement, orally or in writing, at the sentencing hearing.
- be notified of the final disposition of the case.
- receive restitution (money the court orders the offender pay you for the actual loss you suffered). You must submit an Affidavit for Restitution in writing.
- know when an offender is released or escapes from jail, prison, or other facilities, or is transferred to a minimum security setting. You must request this in writing from the Commissioner of Corrections or the head of the facility where the offender is confined.

Victims of the following crime categories may have further options:

- Victims of **criminal sexual conduct** may ask the prosecutor to request the court order a convicted offender to submit to testing for the virus that causes AIDS if certain conditions occurred during the crime.
- Victims of **domestic assault, harassment or criminal sexual conduct** have the right to be notified if a decision is made not to prosecute or charges are dismissed. The prosecutor shall inform the victim how to obtain an Order for Protection or Harassment Restraining Order.
- Victims of specified **violent crimes** have the right to have input in a pre-trial diversion decision. The Rice County Attorney's Office, however, does not divert criminal suspects in these types of cases.
- **Injured victims** may receive financial compensation from the Crime Victim Reparations Board for certain costs, incurred as a result of a crime such as medical care, counseling costs, lost wages, child care, or funeral expenses—**not** property damage or loss. Claims must be filed within three years of the injury except cases involving domestic child abuse. For application and information call (651)201-7300 or, outside the metro area, 888-622-8799, TTY (651)205-4827.
- To exercise your victim's rights, please contact with Rice County Attorney's Victim/Witness Program at (507)332-6103 (*from Lonsdale call (507)744-5185, from Northfield call (507)645-9576*).

Tampering with a witness is against the law. If you are threatened, call your local law enforcement agency immediately and also notify the prosecuting attorney.

The Rice County Attorney's Office strives to work closely with victims to assure a successful prosecution in our efforts to bring *criminals to justice and justice to victims*.