

# Victims and Witnesses Have Rights

## Right to be Notified Of:

- ▶ Victim's Rights
- ▶ Plea bargain agreements.
- ▶ Changes in scheduling of court proceedings, date, time, and place of sentencing.
- ▶ Decision of not to prosecute a domestic assault or harassment case.
- ▶ Release of offender from prison or institution.
- ▶ Transfer to a less secure correctional facility.
- ▶ Escape and apprehension of offender.

## Remember:

Tampering with a witness is a crime. If you are threatened or harassed by anyone, call your local law enforcement agency and notify the County Attorney.

## Right to Participate in Prosecution:

- Right to inform court of impact of crime at pre-trial and sentencing or disposition hearings.
- Right to have input in pre-trial diversion program for crimes against persons.
- Right to object to a plea bargain.
- Right to request a speedy trial.
- Right to bring a supportive person to pre-trial hearing.
- Right to receive restitution.
- Right to attend sentencing or disposition hearings.
- Right to give written objections to plea bargain agreement or final sentence.
- Right to be notified of the outcome of the case.

## Right to Protection from Harm:

- ***Tampering with a witness is a crime in Minnesota.***
- Witnesses do not have to give their addresses in open court.
- Victims have the right to a secure waiting area during court.
- Employers may not discipline or discharge victims or witnesses who are called to testify in court.

## Financial Assistance:

Victims may be eligible for financial assistance from the state if they have suffered economic loss.

**Minnesota Office of Justice Program**

**(888) 622-8799**

**No one asks to become a victim. If you are confused about your rights call WINDOW victim Services for more information and assistance.**

**WE CAN HELP!**

**(320) 384-7996 or (800) 644-0003**

## Commonly Asked Questions

### *How can I get specific information about the case?*

Call the office that is prosecuting the case. If you don't know who that is, call your County Attorney or call the 24 hour toll-free information line at 1-800-247-0390 for a referral.

### *What if I need financial Assistance?*

You could be eligible for reparations from the state if you 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 am called to testify or receive a subpoena?*

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. You cannot ignore a subpoena; however, if you have a scheduling conflict or have any questions, you should call whoever sent the subpoena. As a witness, you will receive a small payment for your time and mileage.

## Key Testifying Tips

- ▶ Tell the truth and take your time.
- ▶ Think before you speak. Make sure you understand each question, then give the answer. If you don't understand the question, say so or ask to have it repeated.
- ▶ Answer all questions out loud in a clear voice.
- ▶ Always try to stay calm. Your only obligation is to describe the people, events, times, distances or places as you remember. If you have to estimate or have forgotten information, simply tell the court.

## Your rights are important!

If you need help, contact

### **WINDOW Victim Services**

204 Fire Monument Road  
Hinckley, MN 55037

(320) 384-7996

or

(320) 384-7113

# Crime Victim Rights



You don't need to navigate the criminal justice system alone!

**WINDOW**  
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