

## The Right to Compensation

### *Through your local State's Attorney's Office:*

- You have the right to **receive witness fees and mileage costs** if you are subpoenaed to testify in court.
- You have the right to seek **restitution**. To do this you must fill out a Victim Impact Statement about your financial loss. You can get this form from your Victim Advocate, who can also help you fill it out.

### *Through the Victims Compensation Program:*

- **You have the right to file a claim for yourself or your legal dependent.** This Program provides financial assistance to victims of crime.
- To be eligible, your physical injury or emotional harm must be **the direct result of a crime.**
- **Family members of homicide victims are also eligible.**
- You may be able to get compensation for:
  - ~ Medical care
  - ~ Counseling
  - ~ Funeral expenses
  - ~ Lost wages
  - ~ Certain other expenses

### *For more information, contact:*

#### **Victims Compensation Program**

Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services  
1-800-750-1213 (VT only)  
802-241-1250  
1-800-845-4874 (TTY)

## Statewide Victim Resources

### **Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services**

1-800-750-1213 (VT only)  
802-241-1250  
1-800-845-4874 (TTY)

#### **Department of Corrections**

Director of Victim Services  
802-241-2302

#### **Department of State's Attorneys**

802-828-2891

#### **Vermont Sex Offender Registry**

802-244-8727

#### **Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence**

802-223-1302; 802-223-1115 (TTY)

#### **"Safe at Home" Address Confidentiality Program**

1-800-439-8683; 802-828-0586 (TTY)

#### **Emergency Relief from Abuse Orders**

1-800-540-9990

#### **Adult Protective Services**

1-800-564-1612

#### **Statewide Hotlines**

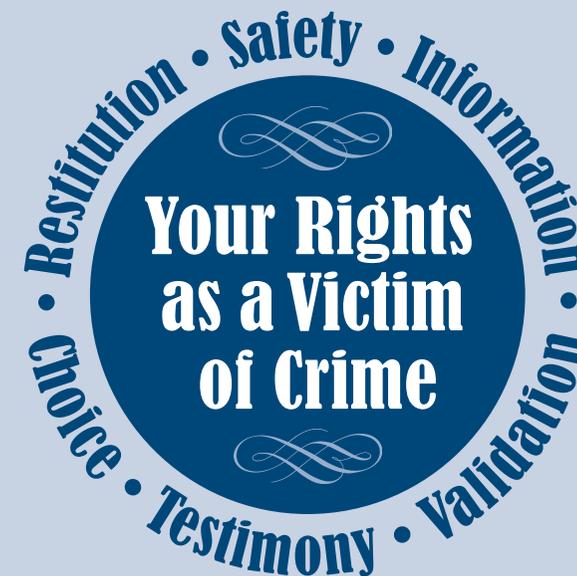
**(automatically connect the caller with local program)**

Domestic Violence.....1-800-228-7395  
Sexual Assault.....1-800-489-7273  
Child Abuse.....1-800-649-5285

### **Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services**

58 South Main Street  
Waterbury, VT 05676-1599  
<http://www.ccvv.state.vt.us>

*This pamphlet is available in large print format, Braille, and other languages*



*You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect by everyone in the criminal justice system.*

**If you have questions, call:**



# About Your Rights

Being a victim of crime can be a painful and difficult experience. As a victim, or a victim's family member, you may feel helpless, angry, or fearful. You also may be frustrated and confused by the legal system. **You have rights!** There are **free services** designed to help you recover from the crime and deal with the legal system.

## The Right to Choice

As a victim of crime, **you have the right to choose** some of the ways you participate in the criminal justice system. For example:

- **It is your choice** to attend hearings.
- **It is your choice** to speak at sentencing, or send a written or tape-recorded statement, or have someone speak for you.
- **It is your choice** to receive notice about court dates.
- **It is your choice** to ask for restitution.

## The Right to Victim Assistance

The **Victim Assistance Program** was created by the Vermont Legislature. This program **supports crime victims** while their cases move through the criminal justice system.

The **Victim Advocate** is responsible for helping you understand the court process and supporting you through that process. Victim Advocates are located in each county's State's Attorney's office.

Your advocate **will help you with your rights**, and provide you with:

- **Information about your role** in the criminal justice process.
- Short-term **counseling and support** during that process, and **referrals for other services.**
- **Prompt notification of court dates.**
- **Information on the status of your case.**

- **Help getting restitution** (payment from the offender for monetary losses suffered as a result of the crime).
- **Information on how to get protection.**
- **Go with you to court proceedings** if you ask for personal support.
- Help filling out **Victim Impact Statements** and **Victim Compensation forms.**
- Help with the **return of your property**, if it is being held as evidence.
- Help with **arranging transportation** to court.

**NOTE:** Information shared with the Victim Advocate is **not confidential**. It can be shared with the State's Attorney, who may have a responsibility to share it with the defense attorney and the court.

## The Right to Safety

- **If you think you are being harassed or intimidated**, you have the right to ask the police for protection.
- **You do not have to speak to anyone about this case unless you have been served a subpoena** (a court order requiring you to appear and testify in court or at a deposition).
- **If you are testifying in a criminal case**, you can't be forced to reveal your address or place of employment on the record, unless the court finds that keeping this information private will hurt the defendant's case.
- **If you are a victim of domestic or sexual violence or stalking**, you can ask the court for an order of protection. You can also get information from your State's Attorney Victim Advocate, your local Network Program, or the "Safe at Home" Address Confidentiality Program (see back page for contact numbers).
- **If you are a witness, you may have to give a deposition** (recorded sworn testimony).
  - ~ You may ask for a Victim Advocate and/or a private attorney to be there.
  - ~ The defendant may not be there without your agreement, unless the judge orders it.
  - ~ The attorneys may not act in ways that harass or intimidate you.

## The Right to Information and Notification

**You have the right:**

- **To be notified promptly** when a court proceeding involving your case is scheduled, canceled, or postponed.
- **To be notified of the court's final decision.**
- **To receive advance notice of the sentencing date, if you ask for it.**
- **To ask for prompt notification of the defendant's release, escape, recapture, death, pardon, or commutation of sentence.** To get this information, you must fill out a **Release Notification form**. You can get it from the Victim Advocate, the Department of Corrections, or your local police.
- **Victims of sexual crimes** have the right to receive information from the Vermont Sex Offender Registry (see back page). This office will notify you in writing if your offender changes his address.

## The Right to be Heard (Testimony)

- **You have the right to come to the sentencing hearing.** Your views must be heard and considered.
- **If you are not there, you may send a written or tape-recorded statement** about the impact the crime had on you, and how you feel about the sentence. You can also have someone read this out loud or speak for you. Those views must be considered by the court.
- **If you are a minor**, or unable to exercise your rights at sentencing, a family member, the Victim Advocate, or another representative may do so in your place.

**NOTE: Certain serious crimes are known as "listed crimes."** These include aggravated assault, domestic assault, sexual assault, stalking, kidnapping, or violation of a final relief from abuse order. If you are the victim of one of these crimes, you are entitled to all of the rights above, plus others. For more information on your rights and a description of "listed crimes," call your local State's Attorney's Office.