

Crime Victims' Rights

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As heard on Crime
Prevention 101: The
Radio Show:

<http://www.voiceamerica.com/episode/53030/if-youve-been-a-victim-of-crime-know-your-rights-and-electronic-pickpocketing-how-to-protect-against>



Source: VictimLaw, www.victimlaw.info

VictimLaw was established with a grant for the US Office of Victim Services. The website offers brief overviews of the justice system, victims' rights, legal terms and links to additional resources on related issues.

More Resources: *Crime Victims Who've Turned Their Lives Around Pt 1 and Pt 2:*

<https://www.voiceamerica.com/episode/43192/crime-victims-who've-turned-their-lives-around-and-now-inspire-others>

<https://www.voiceamerica.com/episode/43594/crime-victims-who've-survived-and-triumphed-part-2>

Every State has basic rights and protections for victims of crime. Individual states definitions of victims and specific rights do vary, but core rights for crime victims include:

- ✓ The right to attend criminal justice proceedings.
- ✓ The right to be heard and participate in criminal justice proceedings.
- ✓ The right to be informed of proceedings and events in the criminal justice process, of legal rights and remedies, and of available services.
- ✓ The right to protection from intimidation and harassment.
- ✓ The right to apply for compensation.
- ✓ The right to restitution from the offender.
- ✓ The right to prompt return of personal property seized as evidence.
- ✓ The right to a speedy trial.

You also have the right to the enforcement of these rights.

In addition, nearly 2/3 of the States have adopted amendments to their State Constitutions guaranteeing rights that give crime victims further constitutional rights:

- ✓ To be treated with fairness, dignity and respect.
- ✓ To be informed of proceedings and events, such as the release of the defendant.
- ✓ To attend the trial and other proceedings.
- ✓ To be heard at critical points in the criminal justice system, such as sentencing or parole hearings.
- ✓ To be awarded restitution from a convicted offender.