

## Crime Victims' Rights

Wisconsin law directs law enforcement, prosecutors, judge and other criminal justice officials to inform victims of their rights and how to exercise those rights. If you have specific questions about your rights or would like to receive a complete list of rights, please contact the Victim/Witness Program or the District Attorney.

Counties vary in their practices, and it will be important for you to clarify and discuss the rights you have and how to exercise them. It is important to know which rights you need to request and how to request them.

In order to receive information, it is important that you keep the appropriate agency informed of your current address and telephone number.

### As the victim of a crime, Wisconsin law provides you with the following rights:

- To receive written information from law enforcement within 24 hours of their first contact with you.
- To be informed of your rights and how to exercise them
- To contact information to find out if the offender is in custody.
- To notice of a decision not to prosecute if an arrest has been made.
- To speak (confer) with the prosecutor about the possible outcome of the case, potential plea agreements and sentencing options, **if you request it.**
- To attend court proceedings.
- To notice of the time, date and place of upcoming court proceedings, **if you request it.**
- To a waiting area separate from defense witnesses.
- To a speedy disposition of the criminal case.
- To have the court consider your interest before deciding to grant a request for a delay (continuance).

- To request help with talking to an employer about court appearances and meetings with the prosecutor (in an attempt to avoid work problems).
- To be contacted about the right to make a statement at the disposition or sentencing (victim impact statement).
- To provide to the court at the time of sentencing, a written and/or oral victim impact statement concerning the economic, physical and psychological effects of the crime.
- To have the impact of the crime on you included in a pre-sentence investigation.
- To sentencing or dispositional information, **if you request it.**
- To restitution.
- To a civil judgment for unpaid restitution.
- To apply for crime victim compensation.
- To have property returned when it is no longer needed as evidence.
- To be notified if a prisoner is released or escapes.
- To contact the Department of Justice to complain about any concerns you may have about your treatment as a crime victim.
- To request an order for an offender to submit to a test for sexually transmitted diseases or HIV test. The right to request this is limited to offenses where the law allows.

To receive a complete list of rights or for information or explanation about these rights or any other rights, please contact the Victim/Witness Program or District Attorney.



*I thought people would understand my anger, my rage, but they didn't. I found instead that the anger felt by a parent of a murdered child is too strong an emotion for our society. It is too threatening to most people, and yet if this anger is not worked through, is not channeled and is not dissipated, it will fester forever.*

– victim's mother

