



Victims' Rights (Victim)

By law, victims of crime have rights. In Maryland, a crime victim is a person who suffers direct or threatened physical, emotional, or financial harm as a result of a crime. In 1984, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) was passed in Maryland to improve the treatment of victims of crime. You are not alone.

11 Crime Victims' Rights in Maryland (Watch 00:55 – 01:30)

- By law, victims of crime have the right to be:
 - Treated with dignity, respect, and sensitivity
 - Informed of their rights and how to apply for services
 - Notified of crisis intervention and counseling services
 - Notified of domestic violence programs and support groups
 - Notified of criminal injuries compensation and other social services available
 - Permitted to seek restitution from their offender(s)

Criminal Injury Compensation Board (CICB) (Watch 01:30 – 02:27)

- The CICB is an organization designed to assist victims of crime in Maryland. The two-page application and eligibility requirements for crime victim compensation can be found on the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services website: <http://goccp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/cicb-application-instructions-english.pdf>
- The CICB may pay for medical and dental bills, counseling services, lost wages/disability, funeral/burial cost, crime scene clean up, or loss of support. CICB benefits do not include property loss, mileage, lock changes, relocation, childcare, or pain and suffering.

11 Crime Victims' Rights in Maryland (Continued) (Watch 02:27 – 02:47)

- By law, victims of crime have the right to be:
 - Informed of protections available to them and how to request protections for their safety
 - Informed by the police or their state's attorney of the arrest of a suspect and closing of the case
 - Notified of court hearing and offender custody status

2201 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218 • **24 Hour Hotline:** 410-889-RUTH (7884)

Administrative Office: 410-889-0840 • **Linea en Español:** 410-889-7889 Oprimas 8

www.hruth.org • **Facebook:** facebook.com/houseofruthmaryland • **Twitter:** @houseofruthmd



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Maryland's Automated Systems (Watch 02:45 – 03:14)

- Maryland has two automated systems to provide victims with ongoing information about their cases.
- The Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINELink) system provides information to victims on the custody status of offenders and upcoming hearing dates: <https://vinelink.com/#state-selection>
- The VINE Protective Order (VPO) system notifies victims when a protective order has been served: <https://www.registervpo.com/>

11 Crime Victims' Rights in Maryland (Continued) (Watch 03:15 – 04:04)

- By law, victims of crime have the right to be:
 - Permitted to be present and heard at criminal justice proceedings or request hearings when applicable
 - This right includes the victims' ability to offer a written or oral victim impact statement to the court before the offender is sentenced.
 - Statements may include more about how the crime has impacted their life, including relationships, the emotional well-being of the victim and loved ones, physical injuries, ability to function, ongoing health issues, and other difficulties resulting from the crime.
 - Permitted to request notice about any DNA profile or report in their case

Information Specific to Your Case (Watch 04:04 – 04:35)

- For more information about your case, contact your law enforcement agency or state's attorney's office. You can find your state's attorney's office at: <https://www.mdsaa.org/maryland-states-attorneys>
- The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services website provides further information about your rights and other crime victims' services: <http://goccp.maryland.gov/victims/>
- The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center provides more resources for victims: <https://www.mdcrimevictims.org/>



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Online Resources

**Governor's Office of Crime Prevention,
Youth, and Victim Services:**

<http://goccp.maryland.gov/victims/>

**Victim Information & Notification
Everyday (VINELink):**

<https://vinelink.com/#state-selection>

**Maryland Crime Victims' Resource
Center:**

<http://www.mdcrimevictims.org/>

VINE Protective Order (VPO):

<https://www.registervpo.com/>

**Maryland State's Attorneys'
Association:**

<https://www.mdsaa.org/maryland-states-attorneys>

**House of Ruth Maryland Hotline: 410-889-RUTH (7884) | www.hruth.org
National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 | www.thehotline.org**