



Victim Rights Transcript

Victim Rights

<<Music>>

FEMALE NARRATOR: 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 the result of a crime. In 1984, the Victims of Crime Act, or VOCA, was passed in Maryland to “improve the treatment of victims of crime by providing victims with the assistance and services necessary to aid their restoration after a violent criminal act, and to support and aid them as they move through the criminal justice process.

Victim assistance includes services such as crisis intervention, counseling, emergency transportation to court, temporary housing and criminal justice support and advocacy.”

Victims of crime in Maryland have 11 specific rights. By law, victims of crime have a right to be:

1. Treated with dignity, respect, and sensitivity
2. Informed of their rights and how to apply for services
3. Notified of crisis intervention and counseling services
4. Notified of domestic violence programs and support groups
5. Notified of criminal injuries compensation and other social services available
6. Permitted to seek restitution from their offender(s)

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, or CICB, is an organization designed to provide aid and assistance to 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 Control and Prevention (GOCCP) website.

CICB compensation may include benefits, such as: medical and dental bills, counseling services, lost wages or disability, funeral or burial costs, crime scene clean up, and even loss of support.

It's important to note that CICB benefits do not include: property Loss, mileage, lock changes, relocation, child care, or pain and suffering.

Victims of crime have a right to be:

7. informed of protections available to them and how to request protections for their safety
8. Informed by the police or the State's Attorney of the arrest of a suspect and closing of the case, and
9. Notified of court hearings 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 Oprimira 8
www.hruth.org • **Facebook:** facebook.com/houseofruthmaryland • **Twitter:** @houseofruthmd



Victim Rights Transcript

Maryland has two automated systems to provide victims with ongoing information about their cases: the Victim Information & Notification Everyday, or VINE, system, and VINE Protective Order (VPO). VINE provides information to victims on the custody status of offenders and upcoming court hearing dates. VINE Protective Order notifies victims when a protective order has been served.

Victims also have the right to be present and heard at criminal justice proceedings, or request hearings when applicable. This right includes the victim's ability to deliver a written and/or oral Victim Impact Statement to the Court before the offender is sentenced.

Statements may include information 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.

And finally, Victims of Crime have a right to request notice about any DNA profile or report in their case. These Rights are guaranteed to all crime victims in Maryland. For information specific to your case, contact your local law enforcement agency or State's Attorney's Office. Each State's Attorney's Office has staff dedicated to working with victims of crime throughout the criminal justice process.

For further information about your rights and other crime victim services, visit the Governor's Office website at goccp.maryland.gov/victims or the Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center at <https://www.mdcrimevictims.org/>.

Website address: Hruth.org

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services funded this project under sub-award number MVOC-2021-0014. All points of view in this video are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State or Federal agency.

<<Exit Music>>