

Information and Resources

Criminal Justice Council
302-577-5030
Delaware Victims' Rights Task
Force
delvrtff@gmail.com
Delaware Domestic Violence Task
Force
dvtfd@gmail.com

Delaware Victim's Services

Delaware State Police/Delaware
Victims Center (24 hrs)
1-800-VICTIM-1
Dover Police Department Victim
Services: 302-736-7134
Georgetown Police Department
Victim Services: 302-856-6613
Newark Police Department Victim
Services: 302-366-7110 X137
New Castle County Police
Department Victim Services:
302-395-8135 or 302-395-8117
Wilmington Police Department
Victim Services
302-576-3622 or 302-576-3648
Delaware Department of Justice
Victim/Witness Program
1-800-870-1790



Victim's Bill of Rights

Informing Communities.
Empowering Victims.



Criminal Justice Council

Carvel State Office Building 10th Floor
820 N. French Street
Wilmington, DE 19801-3590
Phone: 302-577-5030
Fax: 302-577-3440
Website: www.cjc.delaware.gov

The funding for this resource about crime victims' rights has been provided to the Delaware Criminal Justice Council through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime, VOCA-Victims Assistance Formula Grant Program.



Criminal Justice Council
Carvel State Office Building 10th Floor
820 N. French Street, Wilmington, DE
19801-3590
www.cjc.delaware.gov

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW!

Victim's Bill of Rights

Reporting a crime to the police

- Police must give victims written information on this Bill of Rights, social services, referral numbers, information on how the suspect might get out on bail, how to check the status of the arrest and a copy of the crime report.

Pre-Trial

- The Attorney General's Office is also known as The Department of Justice. They must, depending on which court will hear the case, give victims information such as the right to talk to the prosecutor before trial, notice of court proceedings, sentencing and other major events in the case.
- The prosecutor shall discuss major case decisions with the victim. These include: changing or dropping the charge against the suspect, and the offer of a plea bargain.
- A victim can be present at each court date when the suspect has the right to be there. The victim can have a support person along unless the judge says it could prevent the defendant from having a fair trial. Victim is to be notified of all court dates that they have a right to attend.
- At the court, the victim should be able to wait for trial away from people connected to the defendant. Victims are also given numbers to call in case of threats, intimidation or violation of bail from suspect

- An employer cannot discipline or fire a victim for attending a proceeding if the prosecutor asked that person to come, or the victim went to protect their interests.

Going to court

- The court should consider the interests of the victim in going to trial without delay. Child abuse and sex abuse cases shall be expedited
- A victim can talk to the court official who writes the Presentence Report. At sentencing, the victim can tell the judge either in person or writing about the harm that the crime did.

After Conviction

- The prosecutor will tell the victim if the defendant appeals the conviction and how it turns out
- These notices can be done in writing or verbally. It is up to the victim to have up to date contact information.
- The Department of Corrections and the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families shall write and tell the victim when the offender gets out of prison and the date of any Parole Board hearing, as well as the terms of probation and other conditions of release. If there is an escape, the DOC and DSCYF will tell the victim by phone or in person.
- A victim must be told in writing of the right to address the Board of Parole of the Board of Pardons. They must be told what the Board decides about their offender.

Privacy

- Law enforcement, courts, prosecution and corrections should keep a victim's personal information confidential except when otherwise required or allowed by the law.

- Certain neighborhoods and homeowners associations can receive information on illegal drug activity.

Property Rights

- Once it is not needed for a case, the agency holding property shall give it back (unless forfeited)

Annual Reports

- All agencies given duties in the Victims' Bill of Rights must send a report to the Governor and the Criminal Justice Council each year

Victims' Rights Fund

- All fines collected under Chapter 48 Title 21 go into Victims' Rights Fund. The money is used to improve victim notification.



For more information about Victims Bill of Rights in Delaware, please refer to Title 11, Chapter 94 of Delaware State Code