













Crime Victims: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

The Ohio Constitution defines a “victim” as a person against whom a criminal offense or delinquent act is committed or who is directly and proximately harmed by the offense or act.

Neither the defendant, nor a person whom the court finds would not act in the best interests of a deceased, incompetent, minor, or incapacitated victim, is a “victim.”

If you are the victim of a crime, you have the right to:

-  Be informed, in writing, of your constitutional rights as a victim.
-  Be treated with fairness and respect for your safety, dignity, and privacy.
-  Reasonable protection from the defendant or any person acting on the defendant's behalf.
-  Reasonable and timely notice of all public proceedings involving the criminal offense or delinquent act (**upon request**).
-  Be present at all public proceedings involving the criminal offense or delinquent act.
-  Be heard in any public proceeding involving release, plea, sentencing, disposition, or parole, or in any public proceeding in which your rights as a victim are involved.
-  Confer with the prosecutor (**upon request**).
-  Proceedings free from unreasonable delay and a prompt conclusion of the case.
-  Refuse to an interview, deposition, or other discovery request made by the defendant or any person acting on the defendant's behalf—unless a court finds such a refusal violates the defendant's constitutional rights.
-  Full and timely restitution from the person who committed the criminal offense or delinquent act against you.
-  Reasonable notice of the defendant's release or escape (**upon request**).

**DID
YOU
KNOW** 

You or the prosecutor (upon your request) or your lawyer may assert your constitutional rights as a victim. If your victim's rights are not being honored, you or your lawyer may seek review from the appropriate court of appeals and demand that your rights be respected.