

MN law provides victims of crime with specific rights as listed in [Minnesota State Statute 611A](#).

Right to be Notified

By law, victims of crime are to be notified of their rights including:

- Prosecution process and the right to participate in it
- Contents of any plea agreement
- Right to request restitution
- Right to apply for reparations
- Information on the nearest crime victim assistance program or resource
- Proposed sentence modifications for the offender, including the date, time, and location of the review and the right to provide input
- Changes in court proceeding schedule when a victim has been subpoenaed or requested to testify
- Final disposition of the case
- Appeals filed by the defendant, the right to attend the oral argument or hearing, and the right to be notified of the final disposition
- Release or escape of the offender from prison or a custodial institution or transfer to a lower security facility
- Offender's petition for expungement
- Petition to civilly commit an offender, outcome of that petition, and notice of the offender's possible discharge/release from civil commitment

Right to Protection from Harm

Victims of crime have the right to:

- A secure waiting area during court proceedings
- Request that home and employment address, telephone number, and birth date be withheld in open court
- Request that law enforcement withhold their identity from the public
- Protection against employer retaliation for victims called to testify

Right to Participate in Prosecution

Victims of crime have the right to:

- Be present at all hearings
- Request a speedy trial
- Provide input in a pretrial diversion decision
- Object orally or in writing to a plea agreement at the plea hearing
- Object orally or in writing to a proposed disposition or sentence
- Inform the court of the impact of crime on themselves and on the social and economic impact of the crime on persons and businesses in the community both orally or in writing at the sentencing hearing
- Submit a statement regarding the decision to discharge or release the offender from civil commitment

Right to Apply for Financial Assistance

Victims of violent crime may:

- Apply for financial assistance (reparations) from the state if they have suffered economic loss as a result of the crime
- Request the court to order the defendant to pay restitution if the defendant is found guilty or pleads guilty
- Request that a probation violation hearing be scheduled 60 days prior to the expiration of probation if restitution has not been paid

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Harassment Victims

Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and harassment have a right to:

- Be informed of prosecutor's decision to decline prosecution or dismiss the case and receive information about seeking a protective or harassment order Protection against employer retaliation for reasonable time off to attend order for protection or harassment restraining order proceedings
- Domestic violence victims have the ability to terminate a lease without penalty
- Sexual assault victims can make a confidential request for HIV testing of a convicted offender
- Sexual assault victims do not have to pay the cost of a sexual assault examination
- Sexual assault victims may not be required to undergo a polygraph examination in order for an investigation or prosecution to proceed.

If you are a crime victim or witness and you believe your rights have been violated, call:

Crime Victim Justice Unit
651-201-7301 or 1-800-247-0390 ext. 3