



Ohio Crime Victim Rights



Victims of all **felony** and violent **misdemeanor** crimes, and those crimes if committed by a **juvenile**, have legal rights specified in Ohio Revised Code Section 2930. In brief, some of your rights are:

You have a right to be informed

- ~by **Law Enforcement about your rights, available services, victims' compensation, & the name, arrest, & release of the defendant(s)**
- ~by **Prosecutors about pretrial diversion, plea negotiation, change in charges, & of all court proceedings, hearing changes, appeals, and parole & release hearings**

You have a right to be present

- ~**at hearings and proceedings without undue delay, even if subpoenaed, unless the judge determines it will cause an unfair trial**
- ~**and to have someone represent you if you do not want to attend**
- ~**and to have someone with you for support, with a separate waiting area**

You have a right to be heard

- ~**through a Victim Impact Statement to prosecutor, judge, probation, & parole**
- ~**without penalty by your employer**
- ~**with consideration for confidentiality when you are fearful**

You have a right to restitution

- ~**to be paid by the criminal for your financial loss when ordered by the Court**
- ~**from the state of Ohio Victim Compensation program for certain injury-related expenses & counseling, even if the criminal is never identified or arrested**
- ~**to have your restitution order enforced as a civil judgement**



OHIO CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

ARTICLE I, SECTION 10(A)

VICTIMS OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES SHALL BE ACCORDED FAIRNESS, DIGNITY, AND RESPECT IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS, AND AS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL DEFINE AND PROVIDE BY LAW, SHALL BE ACCORDED RIGHTS TO REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE, INFORMATION, ACCESS, AND PROTECTION AND TO A MEANINGFUL ROLE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS. THIS SECTION DOES NOT CONFER UPON ANY PERSON A RIGHT TO APPEAL OR MODIFY ANY DECISION IN A CRIMINAL PROCEEDING, DOES NOT ABRIDGE ANY OTHER RIGHT GUARANTEED BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OR THIS CONSTITUTION, AND DOES NOT CREATE ANY CAUSE OF ACTION FOR COMPENSATION OR DAMAGES AGAINST THE STATE, ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE, ANY OFFICER, EMPLOYEE, OR AGENT OF THE STATE OF ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION, OR ANY OFFICER OF THE COURT.

Information provided by the Ohio Victim Witness Association through a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, Washington, D.C. 2004. This summary of victims' rights should not be considered legal advice. Please consult an attorney for legal advice. For further information, visit www.ovwa.org.