

DECLARATION OF KIRSTIN FLORES

I, Kirstin Flores, declare under the penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the following is true and correct:

1. I am Director of the Office of Victim Services at the Arizona Attorney General's Office ("AGO").

2. I am familiar with the information in the statements set forth below either through personal knowledge, consultation with AGO staff, or from my review of relevant documents and information.

3. The AGO's Criminal Division is responsible for, among other things, investigating and prosecuting crimes involving human trafficking, child sexual abuse material (CSAM), white collar fraud schemes, public corruption, elder abuse and exploitation, and health care fraud and abuse. When a County Attorney's Office has a conflict, the AGO's Criminal Division will also prosecute cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault and homicide. Further, the office provides rights, services, and support to victims on all state and federal appeals in cases that were prosecuted in Arizona, including capital death penalty cases. The Office of Victim Services ("Office") is embedded with the AGO Criminal Division and provides support both to crime victims and to state, county and municipal law enforcement, custodial, prosecutorial and correctional agencies, as well as courts that have duties established by victims' rights laws.

4. The Office employs ten full-time Victim Advocates who provide mandated victims' rights notification as well as advocacy services to the thousands of crime victims in cases investigated, prosecuted, and litigated by the AGO. For example, Advocates keep victims informed of their constitutional rights and the status of their cases, explain the criminal justice system in lay terms, provide court orientation and accompaniment, assist with restitution and

victim compensation claims, and set meetings so that victims can exercise their right to confer with the prosecutor. Additionally, Advocates act as a liaison between the victim and criminal justice partners and provide emotional support and appropriate community resources to further their healing.

5. The AGO is also required to provide certain services under the Victims' Bill of Rights, Arizona Constitution, article 2, section 2.1., A.R.S. Title 13, Chapter 40 and A.R.S. §§ 8-381 *et seq.* These required services include: providing victims with forms to opt-in for services informing victims of the charges against the defendant and of their rights (1) to be heard at any proceeding regarding a post-arrest release decision, negotiated plea or sentencing, (2) to confer with the prosecutor and (3) to refuse a defense interview request.

6. The Office's mission is to provide support for all victims of crimes being investigated or prosecuted by the AGO, as determined by law enforcement agencies and prosecutors. There is no application or screening process for victims before services and rights are provided as long as the individual meets the definition of a victim, Ariz. Const., art 2, sec. 2.1(C). Victims opt into receive victims' rights when there is probable cause by law enforcement that a criminal offense has occurred. In Arizona, victims are statutorily entitled to receive rights until the final disposition of the charges, including prosecution and all post-conviction appeals.

7. The Office is currently funded almost entirely by the federal Victims of Crime Act ("VOCA") program to provide mandated rights and advocacy services to all victims.

8. On July 11, 2025, the United States Department of Justice issued an Order titled "Revised Specification Pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996" ("Notice"), which notified grant recipients like the AGO that the Department was revoking "Life/Safety Exemptions" to certain funding that had been in place. It

is my understanding that, starting on August 15, 2025, this may require our Office to verify the immigration status of victims receiving support services that are funded (even in part) by the VOCA grant.

9. Requiring victims to provide paperwork to prove their immigration status would have a substantial detrimental impact on our ability to effectively provide services. Any delay in our provision of services can put victims at risk or prevent them from receiving the vital support services we provide.

10. It is also important for Advocates to build a relationship of trust and confidence with the victims they serve to ensure that victims' rights are protected and that they will cooperate with the prosecution by appearing for hearings and providing testimony in order to secure justice. Requiring victims to provide paperwork proving their immigration status at the start of this process could significantly undermine that relationship and, as a result, inhibit the Office's ability to successfully prosecute state crimes.

11. Additionally, if undocumented victims learn that their immigration status will be checked when reporting a crime, they are likely to be deterred from reporting incidents to law enforcement putting their health and safety at risk while allowing crime to go unchecked. This will have a major impact on public safety throughout Arizona.

Executed this 21 day of July, 2025 in Phoenix, Arizona:



Kirstin Flores
Director, Office of Victims' Services
Arizona Attorney General's Office