

## The Enforcement Program

The Victims' Rights Enforcement Officer promotes compliance with victims' rights mandates through performance audits of criminal justice agencies and examination of victims' rights complaints.

The Victims' Rights Enforcement Officer investigates complaints in an unbiased manner aiding in their resolution through an understanding of both the spirit and letter of the law; and, knowledge of agency implementation practices.

The Victims' Rights Enforcement Officer is ready to assist victims concerned about possible violations of their rights and victims' rights providers about the implementation of victims' rights statutes. These rights are available to individuals against whom a *criminal offense* or *delinquent act* has been committed.

## What Does The Victims' Rights Enforcement Officer Do?

### For crime victims:

- Investigate complaints of alleged victims' rights violations
- Help ensure justice is served through upholding victims' rights
- Promote victim participation in the criminal justice process
- Identify gaps in victims' rights services and disparities in the application of victims' rights laws

### For criminal justice agencies:

- Promote accountability
- Provide support and technical assistance to assist agencies in performing mandated victims' rights duties
- Recommend changes to avoid future problems; provide feedback to agencies looking to improve
- Provide agencies with sample policies and procedures and victim notification letters
- Exonerate criminal justice agencies from unjustified criticism when alleged violations are unfounded

## Scope and Limitations

The Victims' Rights Enforcement Officer takes complaints from individuals who allege violations of their rights under Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) Title 13 Chapter 40, or Title 8, Chapter 3 Article 7, Arizona's victims' rights laws.

The Enforcement Officer's authority is limited to victims' rights and has no authority to direct a prosecution of a criminal proceeding, to interfere with a criminal investigation or to review decisions about how, or whether to process a case.

The Enforcement Officer is neither an advocate nor an attorney. Information provided to the Enforcement Officer is not privileged or confidential and may be shared with the government or legal agency that is the subject of the complaint or other relevant parties.

**For more information or to file a complaint please go to [www.azag.gov/complaints/victims-rights](http://www.azag.gov/complaints/victims-rights)**



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Learn more about  
Victims' Rights at  
[www.azag.gov](http://www.azag.gov)



**Arizona Attorney General  
Mark Brnovich**

Serving Arizona's Crime Victims

For Victims of  
Crime and Delinquency  
in Arizona and the  
Governmental Agencies  
That Serve Them

**Office of Victim Services**

## The Office of Victim Services

The Mission of the Office of Victim Services is to promote justice and healing for people affected by crime in the state of Arizona.

The Office of Victim Services provides a number of services to crime victims and justice agencies throughout the State. Those services are described herein:

### Victim Assistance

Victim assistance is provided to victims in the cases being prosecuted by the Attorney General as well as capital cases and those cases on direct appeal.

#### Some types of direct assistance:

- Information on the criminal justice process and notification of court proceedings
- Accompaniment to court proceedings and attorney interviews
- Assistance for victim compensation and restitution
- Referrals to community resources to address victims' needs in the aftermath of crime
- Guidance with Victim Impact Statements

***Be sure to keep your address up-to-date with the Office of Victim Services to ensure notification of trial and/or post conviction activity in your case.***

## Victims' Bill of Rights

**Victims of crime in the State of Arizona have a number of rights guaranteed to them by the State Constitution, including a right:**

**To** be treated with fairness, respect and dignity and to be free from intimidation, harassment or abuse throughout the criminal justice process.

**To** be informed, upon request, when the accused or convicted person is released from custody or has escaped.

**To** be present at and, upon request, to be informed of all criminal proceedings when the defendant has the right to be present.

**To** be heard at any proceeding involving a post-arrest release decision, a negotiated plea and sentencing.

**To** refuse an interview, deposition or other discovery request by the defendant, the defendant's attorney or other person acting on behalf of the defendant.

**To** confer with the prosecutor – after charges have been filed, before trial or before any disposition of the case – and to be informed of the disposition.

**To** read pre sentence reports relating to the crime against the victim when they are available to the defendant.

**To** receive prompt restitution from the person or persons convicted of the criminal conduct that caused the victim's loss or injury.

**To** be heard at any proceeding when any post-conviction release from confinement is being considered.

**To** a speedy trial or disposition and a prompt and final conclusion of the case after the conviction and sentence.

**To** have all rules governing criminal procedure and the admissibility of evidence in all criminal proceedings protect victims' rights and to have those rules be subject to amendment or repeal by the legislature to ensure the protection of these rights.

**To** be informed of victims' constitutional rights.

Arizona Constitution, Article II, Section 2.1

## Support For Justice Agencies

Each year, the Attorney General's Office of Victim Services establishes a State Plan of Assistance, a blueprint for providing victims' rights funding and program assistance to State and local governmental entities. Annually, the Office of Victim Services:

- Disburses millions of dollars to criminal justice agencies charged with applying, maintaining and enhancing victims' rights under Arizona law.
- Develops and distributes commonly used forms for victims to request or waive pre-conviction rights for use by law enforcement agencies in each of Arizona's 15 counties.
- Develops and distributes post-conviction notification request forms for use by agencies throughout the State.
- Provides basic and advanced victims' rights training for justice professionals and victim advocates in each of Arizona's 15 counties.
- Provides support and technical assistance for agencies that are mandated to provide victims' rights notifications.

