



# Victims' Rights Brief

For Arizona's Justice System Administrators, Practitioners, and Advocates



September 2025

## Legislative Updates

This issue highlights victims' rights related laws passed during the 2025 Arizona legislative session which take effect on September 26, 2025. The information below provides a brief summary of changes to laws related to victims' rights but does not include all statutory provisions. We encourage you to visit the Arizona State Legislature's website at <http://www.azleg.gov> for a complete review of the statutes. Please consult with your agency's legal team if you have any questions or need help implementing statutory changes. Links to the chaptered versions of the laws are also included below.

### Legislative Update

The following measures enacted in 2025 amend Arizona law in areas that affect victims' rights or related procedures.

#### *SB 1103, Penalty Assessment; Victims' Rights Enforcement.*

This measure amends A.R.S. § 12-116.09 to increase the victims' rights enforcement penalty assessment from two dollars to four dollars on each applicable fine, penalty, and forfeiture. The amendment changes the dollar amount; the statute's transmittal and deposit provisions otherwise continue as provided.

#### *SB 1104, Police Reports; Victims; Prosecuting Agency.*

This measure amends A.R.S. §§ 8-386, 13-4405, and 39-127 to add the charging prosecutorial agency as an entity that must provide, upon request, one free copy of the police report (including supplements) and video recordings to a victim, or to a qualifying immediate family member if the victim is killed or incapacitated; prioritizes processing; defines "domestic violence offense"; and makes conforming changes.

#### *SB 1220, Victims' Rights; Audio Recordings; Appeal.*

This measure amends A.R.S. §§ 8-386, 13-4405, 39-121.02, and 39-127 to add audio recordings to the materials a victim is entitled to receive at no charge and creates a procedure for a victim who is denied access to a public record during a superior-court criminal case to seek review by special action within the criminal case.

#### *SB 1449, Lifetime Injunction; Undesignated Offenses.*

This measure amends A.R.S. §§ 13-604 and 13-719 to clarify that a lifetime no-contact injunction remains valid even if the underlying conviction is later designated a misdemeanor under § 13-604. The measure states no changes to the established petition, service, or registration process for these injunctions and makes related cross-reference updates.

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If you have questions, suggestions, or an idea for an article, please contact Ryan Clark at (602) 542-8848 or by email at [ryan.clark@azag.gov](mailto:ryan.clark@azag.gov)

HB 2108, Communications from Inmate; Victims’ Right.

This measure amends A.R.S. §§ 8-392.01, 13-4411.01, and 31-235 to expand a victim’s no-communication request from inmate “mail” to any written, verbal, or nonverbal communication, including electronic communications and telephone calls, and permits extension of the request to designated family or household members; it requires notice to the inmate and provides for sanctions.

HB 2653, Victims; Disclosure Requirements; Witnesses; Names.

This measure amends A.R.S. §§ 8-413, 13-4434, and 39-123.01 to allow, on request and subject to specified exceptions, redaction of victims’ and certain witnesses’ names from public records created or received by law-enforcement or prosecution agencies; it permits disclosure with written consent, by court order or rule, or after final disposition, and makes conforming changes. The amendments operate across juvenile and criminal provisions as well as Title 39 public records requirements.

Other Legislation of Interest.

For awareness: SB 1585; HB 2114; HB 2115; HB 2207; HB 2281; HB 2581; HB 2611. Agencies should review applicability within their own operations and trainings.

# Victims' Rights Complaints

## *A Year in Review FY25*

The Victims’ Rights Complaint Program, under the Attorney General’s Office of Victim Services (AGO/OVS), is a nationally acclaimed multidisciplinary initiative dedicated to ensuring the rights of victims are consistently upheld. Overseen by the Compliance Administrator (CA), the Complaint program plays a pivotal role in the AGO’s mission to champion justice and healing for those affected by crimes in Arizona. This includes fostering victim engagement in the judicial process, investigating victims' rights concerns with criminal and juvenile justice bodies, and pinpointing service gaps or inconsistencies in the interpretation of victims' rights legislation. Furthermore, the CA ensures accountability, offers guidance and technical support to agencies tasked with delivering mandated victim services, and exonerates agencies against unwarranted criticisms from unsubstantiated claims of violations.

Complaint Process



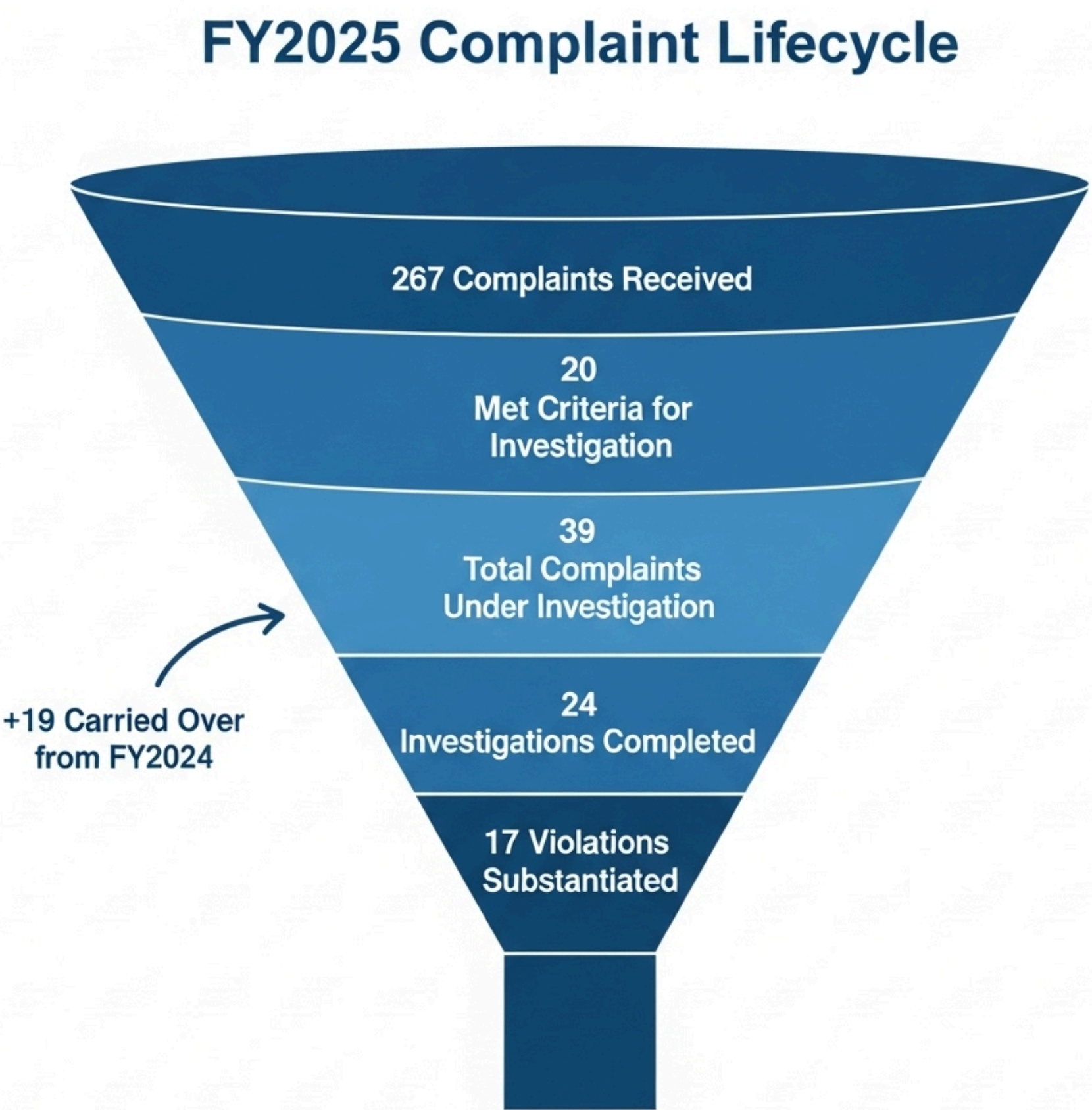


# Program Review

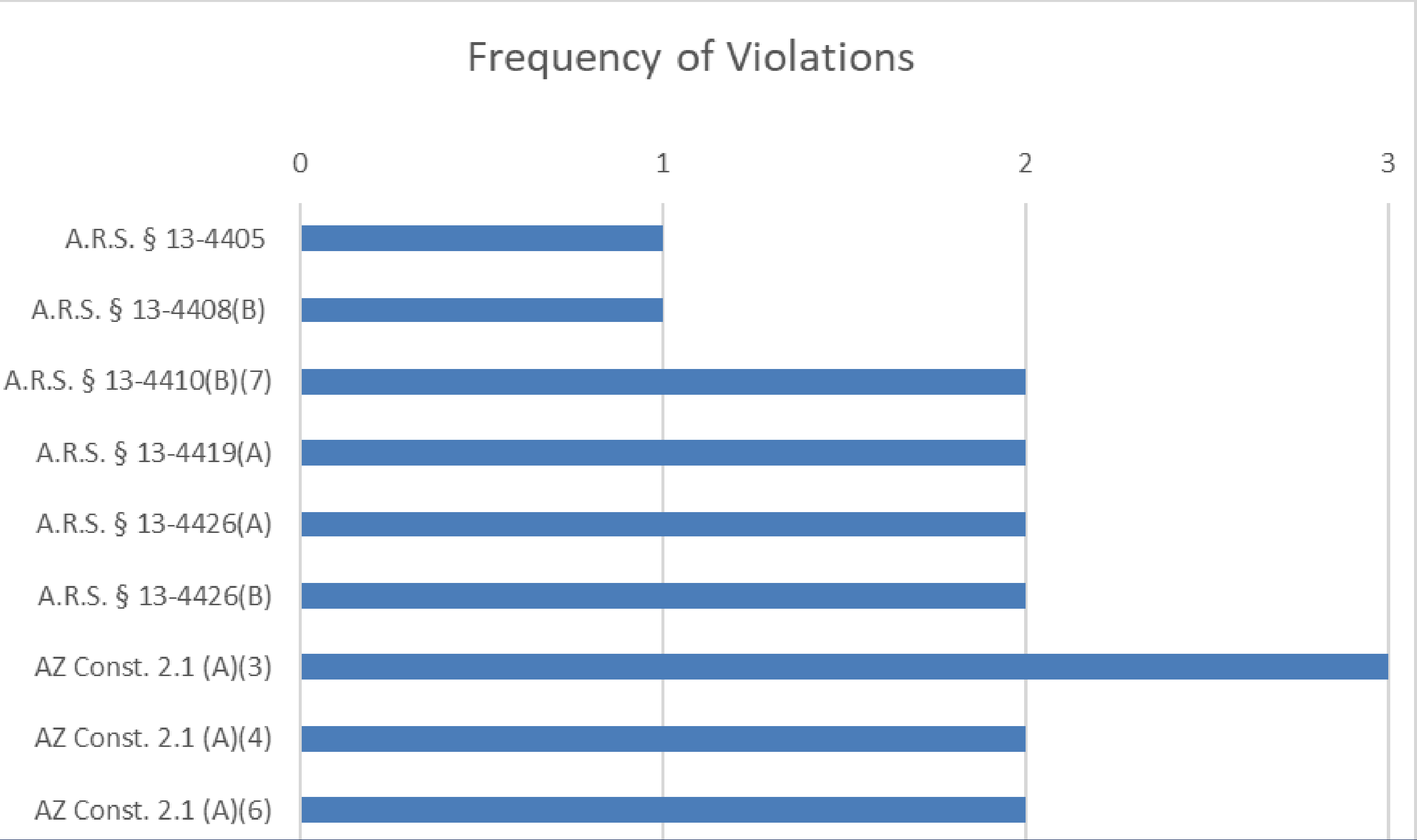
In Fiscal Year 2025, the Complaint Program received 267 complaints alleging violations of victims’ rights. Of these, 20 complaints met the criteria for further investigation, which requires the complainant be a crime victim, lawful representative, or victim’s legal counsel; the complaint was made within one year of the alleged violation; and the complaint alleges a violation under the Victims’ Bill of Rights or associated Arizona Revised Statutes. Additionally, 19 complaints were carried over from the previous fiscal year, bringing the total number of complaints under investigation to 39. Throughout the year, OVS completed 24 investigations, substantiating 17 violations across multiple agencies.

A particularly noteworthy trend this year was the concentration of findings in sentencing-related rights and the right to confer. Substantiated violations most commonly involved notice of sentencing and victims’ opportunity to confer with the prosecuting attorney, with implicated provisions including A.R.S. §§ 13-4405, 13-4408(B), 13-4410(B)(7), 13-4419(A), and 13-4426(A)–(B), as well as Article II, §§ 2.1(A)(3), (A)(4), and (A)(6) of the Arizona Constitution.

As a result of the substantiated complaints, OVS issued letters of findings to the relevant agencies, outlining the specific violations and recommending improvements where necessary. The most frequently cited violations pertained to victims’ right to confer with a prosecutor under A.R.S. § 13-4419 and related constitutional provisions, emphasizing the need for procedures that ensure victims have a meaningful opportunity to communicate with the prosecuting attorney before key decisions.



# Victims’ Rights Violations by Statute



- 13-4405 - Information Provided to Victim by Law Enforcement Agencies
- 13-4408(B) - Pretrial Notice
- 13-4410(B)(7) - Notice of Sentencing
- 13-4419(A) - Victim Conference with Prosecuting Attorney
- 13-4426(A) - Sentencing
- 13-4426(B) - Sentencing
- AZ Constitution 2.1 (A)(3) - Right to be Present
- AZ Constitution 2.1 (A)(4) - Right to be Heard
- AZ Constitution 2.1 (A)(6) - Right to Confer



## Results Driven Data

The Compliance Administrator makes conclusions and findings on victims’ rights complaints from a detailed review of all evidence presented or discovered during the investigative process. This includes items such as judicial records, law enforcement reports, notification letters, file annotations, and insights learned from interviews. Annually, OVS aggregates data to identify recurring issues and areas that need attention across the state. This information shapes statewide training agendas and guides committee deliberations.

Additionally, this year the Compliance Administrator delivered trainings in multiple national forums. Recognizing AZ’s unique and well-regarded model for state-level compliance, the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) invited the CA to speak about the Arizona Victims’ Rights Compliance Program at their conference in August 2024. In September 2024, the Compliance Administrator taught at the National Center for Victims of Crime – National Training Institute, focusing on approaches for working with victims navigating the criminal justice system in an empathetic, supportive manner while meeting statutory requirements. In May 2025, the Compliance Administrator presented at the National Crime Victims’ Law Institute (NCVLI) on the impact of vicarious trauma on an attorney’s ability to adhere to the rules of professional responsibility, including practical considerations for supporting legal staff and victims.

## Impact

During the course of our investigations, the relevant agencies were receptive to OVS’ recommendations and demonstrated a commitment to enhancing services for victims. Based on OVS’ feedback, numerous agencies reviewed daily operations, updated policies and procedures, and sought training on victims’ rights for their personnel. The Complaint Program benefits the wider victim community, not just those who have lodged a complaint with OVS; improvements adopted by criminal justice agencies, whether in response to a substantiated complaint or otherwise, have broad application across future cases.

We encourage all criminal justice agencies to proactively review policies, procedures, daily operations, and notification letters to ensure alignment with statutory requirements, whether or not a victims’ rights complaint has been lodged against the agency.





# Victims' Rights Education

The OVS Victims' Rights Education Program is currently updating the Basic and Advanced Victims' Rights presentations to develop a new Advanced presentation for FY26. Presentations for FY26 will begin in October via webinar. Please keep an eye out for registration opportunities on the OVS Education website noted below.

Participants are reminded of their training obligations within the Victims' Rights Education Program. It is mandatory to complete the Basic Victims' Rights course every 5 years. Additionally, systems-based practitioners should engage in the Advanced Victims' Rights course annually, with community-based practitioners encouraged to attend yearly as well.

For more details, to request a training and to register for courses, please visit <https://www.azag.gov/criminal/victim-services/training>



## Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services Information

Phoenix Victim Service's Office:

Mainline: 602-542-4911

Fax: 602-542-8453

2005 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ, 85004



Tucson Victim Service's Office:

Mainline: 520-628-6459

Fax: 520-628-6566

400 W Congress, S-315, Tucson, AZ, 85701

**Victims' Rights Program (VRP):** Email [OVSVRP@azag.gov](mailto:OVSVRP@azag.gov) for questions or information related to the Arizona VRP Program.

**Victims' Rights Compliance:** Email [VictimRights@azag.gov](mailto:VictimRights@azag.gov) for questions or information related to Arizona Victims' Rights Compliance.

**Training and Education:** Reach out to [OVSTraining@azag.gov](mailto:OVSTraining@azag.gov) for information about the vicarious victims' rights trainings or education opportunities provided by the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

The Arizona Attorney General's Office is dedicated to a system of justice that is inclusive of crime victims and will remain vigilant in striving to provide the most efficient and effective service to the people of Arizona. For more information and resources about the Arizona Attorney General's Office, please visit: [azag.gov](http://azag.gov).