

What Does The Victims' Rights Enforcement Officer Do?

For crime victims:

- Investigates complaints of victims' rights violations.
- Facilitates resolution of problems with criminal and juvenile justice entities.
- Promotes participation in the criminal justice process by victims of crime.
- Identifies gaps in victims' rights services and disparities in the application of victims' rights laws.

For criminal justice agencies:

- Promotes accountability.
- Recommends changes to avoid future problems.
- Exonerates agencies from unjustified criticism when alleged violations are unfounded.
- Develops and distributes best practices manuals.
- Recognizes excellent performance.
- Provides feedback to agencies looking to improve.

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 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 be informed of victims' constitutional rights.

Arizona Constitution, Article II, Section 2.1



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Learn more about
Victims' Rights at
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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 Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services is a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary program established to promote justice and healing for people affected by crime in Arizona.

The Office of Victim Services provides a number of services to crime victims and justice agencies throughout the State, including:

- Direct assistance to crime victims.
- Administration of victims' rights funding and program assistance to government providers of victim services.
- Enforcement of victims' rights to ensure compliance with the law.
- Introductory and advanced training for providers of services to victims.

Victim Assistance

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.

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 prosecutorial and correctional agencies throughout the State.
- Provides introductory 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.

The Enforcement Program

A Victims' Rights Enforcement Officer promotes compliance with victims' rights mandates through performance audits of agencies and facilitation of fair and appropriate resolutions to complaints by victims.

The Enforcement Officer is ready to assist victims concerned about possible violations of their rights and victim advocates with questions about the implementation of victims' rights statutes.

The Enforcement Officer may investigate an alleged violation only after the complainant has attempted to seek relief with the agency involved.

The Enforcement Officer is not an attorney and therefore cannot give legal advice.

The Enforcement Officer has no authority to direct a prosecution of a criminal proceeding.

The Victims' Rights Enforcement Officer is an advocate for compliance with victims' rights. The Enforcement Officer investigates complaints in an unbiased manner aiding in their resolution through an understanding of both the spirit and the letter of the law and knowledge of agency implementation practices.