

## VICTIM NOTIFICATION AND BILL OF RIGHTS

### ***As a victim of crime, you have the following rights:***

- To be notified that a court proceeding to which a victim or witness has been subpoenaed will or will not go on as scheduled, in order to save the person an unnecessary trip to court;
- To receive protection from harm and threats of harm arising out of their cooperation with law enforcement and prosecution efforts, and to be provided with information as to the level of protection available and how to access protection;
- To be informed of financial assistance and other social services available as a result of being a witness or a crime victim, including information on how to apply for the assistance and services;
- To be informed of procedure to be followed in order to apply for and receive any witness fee to which the victim or witness is entitled;
- To be informed of the procedure to be followed in order to apply for and receive any restitution to which the victim is entitled;
- To be provided, whenever possible, a secure waiting area during court proceedings that does not require close proximity to defendants and families and friends of defendant;
- To have any stolen or other personal property expeditiously returned by law enforcement agencies when no longer needed as evidence. If feasible, all such property, except weapons, currency, contraband, property subject to evidentiary analysis and property the ownership of which is disputed, shall be returned to the person;
- To be provided with appropriate employer intercession services to ensure that employers of victims and witnesses will cooperate with the criminal justice process in order to minimize an employee's loss of pay and other benefits resulting from court proceedings;
- To have the family members of all homicide victims afforded all of the services under this section, whether or not the person is to be a witness in any criminal proceedings;
- To be informed of any plea bargain negotiations;
- To have victim impact statements filed with the judgment and sentences;
- To be informed if a sentence is overturned, remanded for a new trial or otherwise modified by the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals;
- To be informed in writing of statutory rights;
- To be informed that when any family member is required to be a witness by a subpoena from the defense, there must be a showing that the witness can provide relevant testimony as to the guilt or innocence of the defendant before the witness may be excluded from the proceeding by invoking the rule to remove potential witnesses;
- To be informed that the Oklahoma Constitution allows, upon the recommendation of the Pardon and Parole Board and the approval of the Governor, the commutation of any sentence, including a sentence of life without parole;
- To receive written notification of how to access victim rights information from the interviewing officer or investigating detective; and
- To a speedy disposition of the charges free from unwarranted delay caused by or at the behest of the defendant or minor. In determining a date for any criminal trial or other important criminal or juvenile justice hearing, the court shall consider the interests of the victim of a crime to a speedy resolution of the charges under the same standards that govern the right to a speedy trial for a defendant or a minor. In ruling on any motion presented on behalf of a defendant or minor to continue a previously established trial or other important criminal or juvenile justice hearing, the court shall inquire into the circumstances requiring the delay and consider the interests of the victim of a crime to a speedy resolution of the case. If a continuance is granted, the court shall enter into the record the specific reason for the continuance and the procedures that have been taken to avoid further delays.

Contact the District Attorney's office for help or more information on any of the above services.

**IF YOU WISH TO BE NOTIFIED AND/OR TO RECEIVE A VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT TO COMPLETE, WE WILL NEED A WRITTEN REQUEST** from you so that we can flag our file. Your request should contain the following information:

1. Name of defendant
2. Case number and county where charges were filed
3. Your current mailing address and phone number OR the mailing address and phone number of someone who can contact you for us.

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGE IN YOUR ADDRESS.**

MAIL YOUR REQUEST/NOTIFICATION TO:

Carter County District Attorney's Office  
Attention: Victim Services  
Carter County Courthouse  
107 1st Ave. SW, Annex 1  
Ardmore, OK 73401