

Maryland State Board of Victim Services

2025 Annual Report

Criminal Procedure Article, §§ 11-914(1) and 11-915(b)(5)

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

December 10, 2025

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Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor



DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

December 10, 2025

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Governor of Maryland
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The Honorable Anthony Brown
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Secretary
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The Honorable Steven J. Kelly, Esq.
Chair
State Board of Victim Services
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

RE: Criminal Procedure Article §§ 11-914(1) (MSAR #15688) and 11-915(b)(5) (MSAR #12143)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to §§ 11-914(1) and 11-915(b)(5) of the Criminal Procedure Article, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy respectfully submits this *Maryland State Board of Victim Services 2025 Annual Report*. This report includes information on the Board's accomplishments, the distribution of money under the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund and the Legal Services for Crime Victims Fund, and recommendations to continue comprehensive and compassionate statewide services for every crime victim as allowed by law.

Should you have any questions relating to the information provided in this report, please feel free to contact me at 410-697-9338.

As required, five color copies will be sent to the DLS Legislative Library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorothy J. Lennig".

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.
Executive Director

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)

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Acknowledgements

This *Maryland State Board of Victim Services 2025 Annual Report* is the result of hard work, valuable input, and dedication from numerous stakeholders. Their participation in the Maryland State Board of Victim Services, as well as their feedback, suggestions, and recommendations, were invaluable for the final report. The completion, timeliness, and comprehensiveness of this report would not have been possible without their efforts.

Roster of Members

Pursuant to § 11-912 of the Criminal Procedure Article, the Maryland State Board of Victim Services is composed of various members, including a Chair, appointed by Governor Moore.

Steven Kelly, Esq., Chair
Governor's Designee

Lisa Spicknall, Vice-Chair
Public Member

Anne Bean
Service Provider, Cecil County Department
of Community Services

Attorney General Anthony Brown, Esq.
Maryland Attorney General

Gina Cirincion
State's Attorney, Washington County State's
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**Laura Clary, MSN, RN, FNE-A/P,
SANE-A, SANE-P**
Service Provider, Greater Baltimore Medical
Center

Dawn Collins
Public Member, Survivor

Lou Gieszl
Maryland Judiciary, Administrative Office
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Gary Hofmann
Maryland Sheriffs' Association, Queen
Anne's County Sheriff's Office

Jonah Hornum
Public Member, Survivor

Scott Kurlander, Esq.
Chair, Maryland Criminal Injuries
Compensation Board

Laura Lanham
Maryland Police Chiefs Association, City of
Hyattsville Police Department

Anne Colt Leites
State's Attorney, Anne Arundel County
State's Attorney's Office

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.
Executive Director, Governor's Office of
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Rafael Lopez
Secretary, Department of Human Services

Mildred Muhammad
Public Member, Survivor

Jill Ritter
Public Member, Washington County State's
Attorney's Office

Alonzo Robertson
Public Member, Maryland Crime Victims'
Resource Center

Shardal Rose
Service Provider, Baltimore Police
Department

Carolyn Scruggs
Secretary, Department of Public Safety and
Correctional Services

Betsy Fox Tolentino
Acting Secretary, Department of Juvenile
Services

P. Wilson
Service Provider, Montgomery County
Trauma Services

Ex-Officio Representatives

Heather Amador

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and
Policy

Tiffany Bright

Office of the Attorney General

Jessica Dickerson

Department of Juvenile Services

Laurie Kimbles

Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office

Tara Newcomer

Department of Human Services

Patricia Stevens

Department of Public Safety and
Correctional Services

Executive Summary

In accordance with §§ 11-914 and 11-915 of the Criminal Procedure Article, the Maryland State Board of Victim Services (Board) and the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy's (Office's) Victim Services Coordinator must submit a report to the Governor, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, and the Board each year, as it relates to its activities, distribution of grant funding, and recommendations to improve victim assistance programs in Maryland.

Under the leadership of Chair Steven Kelly, Esq., Grant & Eisenhofer, and Vice-Chair Lisa Spicknall, this *Maryland State Board of Victim Services 2025 Annual Report* includes information on the activities of the Board, the administration of funds to victims of crime, and specific recommendations to improve the treatment and services for Maryland's victims of crime. It also identifies the Board's continued partnership with victim service providers, local communities, various branches of State government, and the federal government to better serve Maryland's victims of crime; and continued efforts to improve the treatment for victims of crime by collaborating with criminal justice agencies and private non-profit organizations, creating and expanding innovative initiatives, and welcoming feedback and suggestions from individuals and communities across the State.

Background

Recognizing the distinctive needs of crime victims, the General Assembly created the Board in 1987 to monitor, assess, coordinate, and recommend improvements to statewide victim services. The Board continues to work with service providers, local communities, State agencies, and federal partners to ensure that all crime victims in Maryland are treated with dignity, respect, and compassion during all phases of the criminal justice process.

In 1991, under the authority of the Office, the Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) fund to provide funding support for victim services. In 2007, the Maryland General Assembly created the Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV) fund to allow Maryland crime victims to have legal representation in the criminal court system. The Board makes funding recommendations to the Office, which administers and manages the MVOC and the LSCV grant projects.

Pursuant to § 11-914 of the Criminal Procedure Article, and under the authority of the Executive Director of the Office, the Board shall:

- (1) Submit to the Governor an annual written report of its activities, including its administration of the MVOC fund;
- (2) Monitor the service needs of victims;

- (3) Advise the Governor on the needs of victims;
- (4) Recommend the appointment of the Victim Services Coordinator to the Executive Director;
- (5) Review and approve the Victim Services Coordinator's plans and annual reports, and the Victim Services Coordinator's implementation, operation, and revision of programs;
- (6) Approve or disapprove each grant application submitted by the Office;
- (7) Advise the State's Attorneys' Coordination Council on the adoption of regulations governing the administration of the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program established under § 11-902 of this subtitle;
- (8) Advise the State's Attorneys' Coordinator on the administration of the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program;
- (9) (i) Develop pamphlets to notify victims and victim's representatives of the rights, services, and procedures provided under Article 47 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights or State law, how to request information regarding an unsolved case, how to file a complaint to the Department of Juvenile Services alleging that a child is in need of supervision, and how to request that an offender be placed on electronic monitoring or electronic monitoring with victim stay-away alert technology, including:
 - (a) One pamphlet relating to the Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) system protocol registration process and the time before and after the filing of a charging document other than an indictment or information in circuit court; and
 - (b) A second pamphlet relating to the time after the filing of an indictment or information in circuit court; and
 (ii) Develop a poster to notify victims of the right to request a private room in a law enforcement agency or unit to report crimes under Title 3 of the Criminal Law Article ("Other Crimes against the Person"); and
- (10) Develop a notification request form and an MDEC system protocol in consultation with the Administrative Office of the Courts, through which a victim or victim's representative may request to be notified under § 11-104 of this title.

Furthermore, and subject to the authority of the Executive Director, the Victim Services Coordinator is charged with the following duties, as required by § 11-915(b) of the Criminal Procedure Article:

- (1) Provide staff support to the Board on victim services matters;
- (2) Monitor, assess, and make recommendations on State and local victim compensation programs and procedures;
- (3) Provide technical assistance to local public and private programs that provide victim assistance;
- (4) Research and gather data on victims and victim assistance programs, and disseminate the data to the public;

- (5) Submit to the Governor, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, and the Board an annual report that includes recommendations on how to improve victim assistance programs;
- (6) Ensure that the rights of victims are observed;
- (7) Help victims to get the information to which they have a right; and
- (8) Monitor compliance with the guidelines for treatment of and assistance to victims and witnesses under §§ 11-1002 and 11-1003 of this title.

Accomplishments

Annual Statewide Memorial Services

In partnership with the Victim and Witness Divisions of the State's Attorneys' Offices, the Office and the Board sponsor four regional memorial services each year during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The memorial services feature inspirational speakers, musical performances, and quiet reflection, which honor over 5,000 crime victims of homicide, vehicular manslaughter, and missing crime victims and their families. These memorial services provide a safe, supportive, and trustworthy space for families of crime victims to congregate and share their stories. Many advocates who strive to serve victims of crime help to coordinate the memorial services because they understand the importance of a positive outlet for families to cope with their grief and honor their loved ones. The regional memorial services are geographically divided throughout the State (*as illustrated below*).

Eastern Region	Western Region	Southern Region	Northern Region
Caroline	Allegany	Calvert	Anne Arundel
Dorchester	Carroll	Charles	Baltimore City
Kent	Frederick	Prince George's	Baltimore
Queen Anne's	Garrett	St. Mary's	Cecil
Somerset	Montgomery		Harford
Talbot	Washington		Howard
Wicomico			
Worcester			

The *35th Statewide Memorial Services for Crime Victims and Their Families* occurred on Sunday, April 6, 2025, which marked the start of Maryland's observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The four regional memorial services were hosted by the Charles County, Frederick County, Howard County, and Talbot County State's Attorney's Offices, and provided a positive outlet for over 600 families and stakeholders in attendance.

Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference

The *2025 Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference* was held April 9, 2025, at Martin's West in Baltimore, Maryland. The in-person conference garnered over 450 attendees and allowed crime victim service professionals to listen, learn, and network with speakers and peers regarding emerging victim issues and innovative approaches to empower victims. Workshops presented during the conference focused on collaboration to prevent domestic violence, examining human trafficking through data, legal rights for immigrant victims, parole hearing and diminution credits, legislative updates, partnering with fire and EMS providers, supporting survivors after a case closes, and victim compensation. Attendees received moving keynote presentations by James and Nichole Schmidt from the [Gabby Petito Foundation](#), and Mildred Muhammad, Survivor and Ex-Wife of the 2002 DC Sniper.

Conference attendees valued the powerful keynote/survivor speakers, practical topics on legislative updates and compensation, and networking opportunities.

Victim Resources

Over the last year, the Board has worked to create the *Maryland Victim Service Provider Directory*, which includes victim services, social services, and community-based programs that are helpful for victims in the aftermath of a crime. The directory is intended to be used by victims, as well as other service providers for referrals. The directory is organized by county and also includes statewide programs. The directory will be housed on the Office's website.

The Board also developed *A Victim's Guide to the Maryland Criminal Justice System*. This guide is intended to provide information to victims and their representatives about their rights and services available to them in the aftermath of a crime, and to provide assistance with navigating the criminal justice system. The guide will be housed on the Office's website.

The Board plans to finalize these resources during the next quarterly Board meeting. The resources will be posted to the Office's website by the end of fiscal year 2027.

Key Initiatives

Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Workgroup

Over the last few years, the Board has collaborated with the Maryland Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Work Group (AAIWG)¹ to develop guidance and best practices for support services for mass casualty incidents, including guidance for establishing family assistance centers, victims' rights, and compensation. Board members assisted with the development of

¹ Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Work Group. *Welcome*. <https://aaiwg.maryland.gov/>

Support Services for Mass Casualty Incidents: Guidance and Best Practices,² which identifies best practices, resources, and operational considerations relevant to response and recovery efforts for a mass casualty incident. The guidance document will be updated in 2026, and the Board will provide recommendations for updates.

The Board will continue to assist with training efforts across the State and examine efforts to provide a statewide opportunity for crisis intervention training.

Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV) Fund

Chapters 125 and 126 of 2007 created the LSCV grant program under § 11-919 of the Criminal Procedure Article to allow victims of crime to have legal representation in the criminal court system. This grant program receives funds from unclaimed restitution to protect victims' rights as provided by law. The Division of Parole and Probation and the Department of Juvenile Services collect court-ordered restitution from adult defendants and juvenile respondents for subsequent distribution to crime victims.

The purpose of the LSCV grant program is to ensure that the money obtained from unclaimed restitution is used for annual grants to provide legal counsel to victims of crime and delinquent acts to protect victims' rights as provided by law. In 2025, the Office released the *FY 2026 Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)*, which requires programs to offer statewide legal services to victims of crime and delinquent acts.³ In response to the NOFA, which identified the availability of \$40,000 for the program, the Office received five applications that totaled \$200,000 in requests. Based on the Board's and Office's review of the applications and funding recommendations, the Office awarded \$40,000 to one subrecipient.⁴

Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) Fund

Chapter 561 of 1991 created the MVOC fund as a source of revenue to allow the Board to ensure implementation of the Declaration of Crime Victims' Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution, as well as the Guidelines for Treatment of and Assistance to Crime Victims and Witnesses, and other laws adopted to benefit victims and witnesses of crime. The fund provides advocacy and support services to victims of crime by creating new ideas and enhancing existing programs that serve victims in Maryland. In 2025, the Office released the *FY 2026 Maryland*

² Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Work Group. (2022). *Support Services for Mass Casualty Incidents: Guidance & Best Practices*.

<https://aaiwg.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/35/2023/02/Support-Services-for-MCIs-Final-12.2022.pdf>

³ Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. *Legal Services for Crime Victims Fund (LSCV)*.

<https://gocpp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/lscv/>

⁴ The Office offers an interactive map of all of the organizations in Maryland that are active grant subrecipients. To view the interactive map, visit <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/grants/interactive-grant-map/>.

Victims of Crime (MVOC) Fund Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), which identified the following priorities:⁵

- Direct services for victims of crime;
- Victim service providers in law enforcement;
- Victim/witness service providers in state's attorney's offices;
- Enhance services and support for child advocacy centers; and
- Enhance services to crime victims that aid and promote the distribution of mandated brochures and educate them on their rights according to Maryland law.

In response to the NOFA, which identified the availability of \$450,000 for the program, the Office received 33 applications that totaled \$1,319,474 in requests. Based on the Board's and Office's review of the applications and funding recommendations, the Office awarded \$450,000 to 12 subrecipients.⁶

Restitution Workgroup

As required by Chapter 515(12) of 2016, the Office is charged to:

- (1) Study the restitution process in the State and make recommendations concerning the restitution process, including: (i) recommending a process and State unit for collecting data and developing evidence-based practices for restitution collection; and (ii) recommending methods for developing additional enforcement and data collection technology infrastructure;
- (2) Determine which State unit should assume the duties currently undertaken by the Division of Parole and Probation and the Central Collection Unit regarding collection of restitution;
- (3) Determine whether the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and any other victim services programs should be transferred to another entity, including considering whether a transfer would: (i) minimize fragmentation of functions that the State government performs on behalf of victims of crime and delinquent acts, while ensuring that services for special populations, including victims of sexual assault and child sexual abuse, are performed by providers with expertise in the area of need; and (ii) improve the coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness of State assistance to victims of crime and delinquent acts;
- (4) Consider any other ways to improve the collection of restitution;
- (5) Review the classifications for larceny-theft under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program to determine how to distinguish shoplifting offenses from theft by organized retail crime rings; and

⁵ Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. *Maryland Victims of Crime Fund (MVOC)*. <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/grants/programs/mvoc/>

⁶ The Office offers an interactive map of all of the organizations in Maryland that are active grant subrecipients. To view the interactive map, visit <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/grants/interactive-grant-map/>.

- (6) Report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2016, on its findings and recommendations.

Chapter 422 of 2018 established the Victim Services Unit (VSU) within the Office to coordinate State responsibilities concerning services to victims, to include the collection of restitution and reimbursements for sexual assault forensic evidence examinations (SAFE Exams) and other eligible expenses for cases involving rape, sexual offenses, or child sexual abuse. It also transferred functions from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) and the Maryland Department of Health to the VSU.⁷ Chapter 422 of 2018 specifically charged VSU to consist of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, the program for SAFE Exams, a restitution section, and any other program that administers victim services under the Office that the Executive Director determines benefits from inclusion under the VSU. Although DPSCS' Division of Parole and Probation is responsible for the general collection and oversight of restitution, Chapter 422 of 2018 and Chapter 515(12) of 2016 require the Office to collect data, develop best practices, coordinate efforts to improve restitution collection, and implement databases. Pursuant to its charge, the Office continues to utilize the Restitution Workgroup, which serves as a subgroup of the Board, to build upon the efforts made.

The Restitution Workgroup, staffed by the VSU, coordinates with the Judiciary, DPSCS, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Central Collection Unit, State's Attorney's Offices, and local correctional facilities to:

- Collect data;
- Develop best practices, using data and other evidence to the extent available, for restitution collection;
- Coordinate and improve efforts of State and local entities regarding restitution;
- Ensure the interoperability of justice system databases;
- Require that each of the databases has a data field to indicate that there are outstanding restitution orders; and
- Coordinate efforts to improve restitution collection in the State and make recommendations concerning the restitution process, including:
 - recommending a process and State unit for collecting data and developing evidence-based practices for restitution collection; and
 - recommending methods for developing additional enforcement and data collection technology infrastructure.

In 2020, the Office submitted a one-time report that outlined the Restitution Workgroup's efforts, and included recommendations to develop an electronic payment system for restitution, a multi-access restitution management system, and establish a training protocol for all stakeholders

⁷ It is important to note that Chapter 422 of 2018 transferred the Sexual Assault Rembursement Unit and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board from the Maryland Department of Health and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, respectively, to VSU.

involved and responsible for restitution collection.⁸ As of October 2025, DPSCS is in the process of developing an electronic payment system. Once complete, the electronic payment system will need to be replicated for the juvenile population within the Department of Juvenile Services.

In an effort to increase restitution collection, the Office coordinated several meetings with DPSCS and the Department of Juvenile Services regarding unclaimed restitution - unclaimed restitution is used for annual grants to provide legal counsel to victims of crime and delinquent acts to protect victims' rights as provided by law (as referenced in the [Legal Services for Crime Victims Fund](#) section). Based on the interactions, the group discovered that the Department of Juvenile Services has not submitted unclaimed restitution into the fund for several years. Following this discovery, the Department of Juvenile Services implemented a process to ensure unclaimed restitution is deposited into the fund.

The Restitution Workgroup will continue to work with stakeholders to address the statutory mandates, based on the following: collect data, focus on improving access to legal services for victims of crime, explore alternative funding sources, and support the rollout of the electronic payment system for restitution within DPSCS. The Restitution Workgroup will also report its findings and recommendations to the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board.

State Mandated Crime Victim Pamphlets and Forms

Pursuant to § 11-914(9)(i) of the Criminal Procedure Article, the Board developed two pamphlets to ensure that law enforcement personnel, commissioners or juvenile justice intake workers, and state's attorneys uphold a victim's right to be informed of their rights, services, and procedures provided under Article 47 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights or State law; how to request information regarding an unsolved case; how to file a complaint to the Department of Juvenile Services alleging that a child is in need of supervision; and how to request that an offender be placed on electronic monitoring or electronic monitoring with victim stay-away alert technology.

With the enactment of Amber's Law, §§ 11-402 and 11-914 of the Criminal Procedure Article allow individuals filing charges to request reasonable protections for the safety of an alleged victim or the victim's family, including a request for electronic monitoring or electronic monitoring with victim stay-away alert technology. The law also requires such a request to be included in a victim impact statement and requires the Board to educate the public on the process for making that request. The Board developed the *Maryland Crime Victims: Requesting Protections for Safety* brochure to inform victims on how to request that an offender be placed on electronic monitoring or electronic monitoring with victim stay-away alert technology.⁹

⁸ Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. (2020). Report on Restitution. [https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/GOCPYVS/HB247Ch422\(9\)\(2018\)_2019.pdf](https://dlslibrary.state.md.us/publications/Exec/GOCPYVS/HB247Ch422(9)(2018)_2019.pdf)

⁹ Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. (2018). *Maryland Crime Victims: Requesting Protections for Safety*. <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/requesting-protections-for-safety.pdf>

The Board also created a poster, as required by § 11-914(9)(ii) of the Criminal Procedure Article, to notify a victim of the right to request a private room in a law enforcement agency when reporting crimes under Title 3 of the Criminal Law Article (“Other Crimes against the Person”).

To view the poster, please visit:

<https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/private-room-poster.pdf>.

As illustrated below, **235,300** mandated materials were distributed throughout the State between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

Primary Agency Responsible for Distributing Crime Victim Mandated Pamphlets/Forms			
Agency	Pamphlets/Forms	Language	Quantity
Law Enforcement	Crime Victims and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services	English	180,500
	Crime Victims and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services	Spanish	30,700
	Private Room Poster	English	0
	Maryland Crime Victims: Requesting Protections for Safety	English	0
State’s Attorney’s Office	Your Rights as a Victim in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Process	English	17,200
	Your Rights as a Victim in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Process	Spanish	3,000
	Crime Victim Notification and Demand for Rights Form	English	3,400
	Crime Victim Notification and Demand for Rights Form	Spanish	500
TOTAL Quantity Distributed			235,300

All mandated materials are accessible on the Office’s website at:

<https://gocpp.maryland.gov/victim-services/rights-resources/brochures-forms/>. These materials are distributed in English and Spanish, and also available online in Chinese, Korean, and French.

The Board continues to prioritize meetings with stakeholders and agencies that process the *Crime Victim Notification Request and Demand for Rights Form*¹⁰ to update its instructions and discuss how it is processed in each jurisdiction. Those stakeholders include DPSCS (Division of Parole and Probation, Department of Corrections, and Maryland Parole Commission), the Maryland Department of Health, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Office of the Attorney General, Maryland Clerks, the Maryland Judiciary, and local correctional facilities.

The Board plans to update the form instructions by July 1, 2026.

Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program

The Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program protects and relocates victims and witnesses, and securely facilitates their participation in court proceedings. The State’s Attorney Coordinator administers the program, and the Board has the authority to advise the State’s Attorneys’ Coordination Council (Council) on the regulations and administration of the program.

¹⁰ Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy. (2018). *Crime Victim Notification Request and Demand for Rights Form*. <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/crime-victim-notification-request.pdf>

The Board and the Office will continue to assist the Council with training and advocate for use of the program, including pre-arrest cases.

Victims' Rights Compliance Initiative

In April 1999, the Board and the Office established the *Victims' Rights Compliance Initiative* (Initiative) to remedy crime victims' rights violations. The goals of the Initiative are to improve the criminal justice system's response to victims of crime through systematic improvements of services provided to victims and to give victims the option to voice their concerns and seek system response when they believe that their statutory rights have been violated at any point in the criminal justice system.

In support of this Initiative, the Office advises criminal justice agencies on victims' rights. The Office promotes and facilitates voluntary, efficient, and effective compliance with laws; analyzes agency implementation practices, policies, procedures, and tools; and recommends and resolves complicated questions and problems between victims and service providers in a non-adversarial manner. More specifically, the Office responds to calls, letters, and emails from crime victims across the State alleging violations of various crime victims' rights, seeking referrals for direct services, and looking for information and explanations about the criminal justice process. Some of these examples include:

- Frustration with the lack of (or limited) local and state criminal justice agency responses to the crime;
- Confusion about and/or failure to be informed of filing of nolle prosequi by prosecutors;
- Lack of information regarding case status;
- Denial of compensation claims through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board;
- Nonpayment of restitution by offenders granted probationary sentences or parole; and
- Lack of notification of offender's parole, probation violation, and release from incarceration.

In State FY 2025, the Manager of Victim Services Initiatives, who serves as the Victim Services Coordinator, responded to 138 calls, letters, and emails from crime victims in the State regarding complaints or requests for services (*as illustrated below*).

Jurisdiction	Number of Complaints/Request for Services
Allegany	1
Anne Arundel	9
Baltimore	7
Baltimore City	22
Calvert	1
Caroline	1
Carroll	2
Cecil	1
Charles	2

Jurisdiction	Number of Complaints/Request for Services
Dorchester	1
Frederick	4
Harford	2
Kent	1
Montgomery	9
Prince George's	19
St. Mary's	1
Talbot	1
Washington	2
Wicomico	2
Worcester	1
Unknown	47
Out of State	2
TOTAL	138

The Office seeks to refer victims with active cases to appropriate advocacy groups or responsible agencies and examine the outcome of completed cases. As a result of these efforts, the Office received and addressed numerous victim contacts (*as illustrated below*).

	Referrals	Number of Referrals
Closed Matters	Victim Compensation or other financial assistance	68
	Department of Human Services	3
	Department of Juvenile Services	4
	Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services	7
	Law Enforcement Agency	28
	Office of the Attorney General	2
	State's Attorney's Office or other legal assistance	34
	Victim Assistance Organization /Nonprofit	52
	Other Specialized Referrals	15
	TOTAL*	213

*The total number of referrals is greater than the number of complaints/requests for services because several victims received referrals to multiple organizations and agencies.

Recommendations to the Governor

Pursuant to §§ 11-914(1) and 11-915(b)(5) of the Criminal Procedure Article, and under the authority of the Executive Director, the Board and the Victim Services Coordinator identified the following recommendations to improve treatment and services available for victims of crime (*as listed below*).

1. Maryland should continue to support Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) for courts, custody, parole, probation, and sex offender alert line services.

2. The Board will continue to collaborate with the AAIWG to develop guidance and best practices for Family Assistance Centers and victim services when responding to an active assailant incident.
3. Maryland State's Attorneys' Offices should continue to utilize the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program. Program funds are used to relocate victims and witnesses to protect them and facilitate their participation in court proceedings, and can be used before an arrest is made.
4. Maryland should pursue long-term strategies to address the financial needs of crime victims, including increasing the collection of restitution. Provisions should be made to increase the collection of costs imposed on convicted defendants in district and circuit courts that are distributed into the MVOC fund and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. Increased funding would continue to support crime victims through services and compensation, statewide training, federal and State policies, technology, and public awareness and community outreach.
5. The Board supports collaboration and partnerships among direct service providers to sustain continuity of operations.
6. The Board supports training efforts on victims' rights for all stakeholders involved in the criminal justice process, including but not limited to the judiciary, state's attorney's offices, law enforcement, correctional services and facilities, and service providers.

All recommendations support the goal of enhancing victims' awareness of services, increasing victims' safety, and increasing victims' self-sufficiency.

Conclusion

In 2025, the Board and the Office continued to partner with State agencies and victim service providers to ensure all crime victims in Maryland are treated with dignity, respect, and compassion throughout the justice process, while advancing training, events, and funding opportunities that strengthen Maryland's victim services ecosystem.