

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) is a free, anonymous, automated service that will provide you with:

- Court case information: dates and times.
- Custody information: release, transfer, and escape.
- Parole and probation status changes.

You may choose to be notified by telephone or email. VINE is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Toll Free 1-866-MD4VINE

VINE Protective Order

- VINE Protective Orders is a free service that allows a petitioner to be notified when a protective order has been served, along with other services.
- Toll Free 1-877-846-3420
Website www.vinelink.com

Sexual Assault Evident Kit (SAEK) Tracking System
If you are a survivor of a sexual assault and had forensic evidence collected at a Maryland Medical Facility, you can track your evidence kit through Track-Kit™ at md.track-kit.us. This program will allow you to follow the progress of your evidence starting at the time of collection.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY CASE IS FINISHED?

If the defendant in your case is found or pleads guilty, you have certain rights that may include the right to:

- receive notification of court hearing related to the defendant’s conviction and sentence, including appeal status and motion to consider reductions in sentence;
- receive information about the defendant’s placement if sentenced to the Division of Correction, Patuxent Institution, or local detention center (including some juvenile offender) placement;
- be notified of defendant’s escape or unauthorized absence from custody;
- be notified of the defendant’s release from custody
- be notified when the defendant is considered for parole, attend and speak at parole hearings and submit a written Victim Impact Statement. and
- be notified of a defendant’s eligibility for administrative release and have the opportunity to request a hearing in advance.

If the defendant in your case is *found not guilty*, your case is over and will not proceed any further.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

You must complete a *Crime Victim Notification Request and Demand for Rights Form* and return it to the State’s Attorney’s Office in order to ensure notification of the above listed events. By completing a *Crime Victim Notification Request and Demand for Rights Form* you will be notified of court hearings both before and after sentencing. The form will automatically follow the defendant to the designated custody facility or the Division of Parole and Probation. **If you change your address or phone number, notify the State’s Attorney’s Office.**

If you are a victim of a controlled dangerous substance, theft, or other related property crime, an offender who is sentenced to one of these crimes *may* be eligible for *administrative release* after serving one-fourth of a sentence. A victim has the right to request an open hearing prior to release and offer written testimony concerning the crime and victim impact. For further information, contact the Maryland Parole Commission at <https://www.dpscs.state.md.us/agencies/mpc.shtml> or 410-585-3200.

There are statewide resources that can help you with specific types of crime victimization. These organizations and services are listed below. For a listing of local State’s Attorney’s offices, please refer to the *Crime Victims and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services*, the brochure received when you reported the crime. If you did not receive the brochure or would like another one, please contact your local police department to request one by mail.

GENERAL VICTIM SERVICES/REFERRALS AND NOTIFICATION

- Maryland Crime Victims’ Resource Center, Inc.** (301) 952-0063
Toll Free 1-877-VICTIM1
e-mail mail@mcrimevictims.org
Website www.mcrimevictims.org
- National Center for Victims of Crime** 1-855-4-VICTIM
Website <http://victimsofcrime.org/>
- Pro Bono Counseling Services** 410-825-1001
Website www.probonocounseling.org
- First Call for Help or 211 MD** 1-800-492-0618
Local (410) 685-0525
TTY (410) 685-2159
- MD Criminal Injuries Compensation Board** (410) 585-3010
Toll Free 1-888-679-9347
TTY/TTD 1-800-735-2258
- Dept. of Juvenile Services** 1-888-639-7499
Website <http://djs.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- Office of the Attorney General** 410-576-6377
Website www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov
- MD Department of Human Services** 1-800-332-6347
Website <http://dhr.maryland.gov/>

STATEWIDE/NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM RESOURCES

Maryland Automated Victim Notification Service (VINE) 1-866-634-8463
Website www.vinelink.com

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

- House of Ruth Legal Clinic** (410) 554-8463
Toll Free 1-888-880-7884
Website <http://www.hruth.org/get-help/legal-help/>
- MD Network Against Domestic Violence** 1-800MDHELPS
Website www.mnadv.org
- National Domestic Violence Hotline** 1-800-799-7233
TTY 1-800-787-3224
Website <http://www.thehotline.org/>

SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES

- Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault** (301) 328-7023
Website www.mcasa.org
- Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) Hotline** 1-800-656-HOPE
Website www.rainn.org
- Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI)** (301) 565-2277
Toll Free 1-877-496-SALI

CHILD ABUSE SERVICES

National Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-4-A-CHILD
Website www.childhelp.org

DRUNK DRIVING SERVICES

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) (410)-964-5757
Toll Free 1-800-446-MADD
National Website www.madd.org/local-offices/md/

LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICES

- Civil Justice** 443-853-1011
Website www.civiljusticeinc.org
- Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.** 1-800-666-8330
Toll Free Website www.mdlab.org
- MD Volunteer Lawyers Service** 410-547-6537
Toll Free Website www.mvlslaw.org
- People’s Law Library** 410-260-1392

NOTIFICATION

- Maryland Division of Correction** (410)-585-3300
Toll Free 1-866-606-7789
- Maryland Division of Parole and Probation** (410)-585-3500
Toll Free 1-877-277-8031
- Maryland Parole Commission** (410)-585-3200
Toll Free 1-877-241-5428
- Maryland Sex Offender Registry**
Website www.socem.info



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Your Rights as a Victim in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Process



Maryland State Board of Victim Services

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS DURING PROSECUTION?

If charges have been filed against the defendant, your case has moved from the police department that conducted the investigation to the State's Attorney's Office in the county or Baltimore City, where the crime occurred. Just as you have rights to receive certain information about the investigation, you also have rights to receive certain information about the prosecution of your case. These rights include:

- the right to be notified of, and to be present at all court hearings;
- the right to be heard at sentencing through the submission of a written Victim Impact Statement and/or by speaking directly to the court to tell of the physical, financial and psychological impact this crime has had on you and/or your family;
- the right to request restitution (payment of certain crime-related costs) from the defendant, if the defendant is found or pleads guilty.
- the right to request reasonable protections for safety, when applicable; and
- the right to request shielding of contact information from public record.

HOW CAN I EXERCISE MY RIGHTS AS A VICTIM?

Please complete the *Crime Victim Notification Request and Demand for Rights Form* that accompanies this pamphlet and return it to the State's Attorney's Office that is prosecuting your case.

An additional notification service, Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) is available. (See back of pamphlet for contact information).

For a complete description of the criminal justice process and your rights as a crime victim, please refer to *Crime Victims and Witnesses Your Rights and Services*, the pamphlet you received from the police, court commissioner, or juvenile intake officer when the crime was reported.

IS THERE SOMEONE IN THE STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WHO CAN ANSWER MY QUESTIONS?

Yes! Most State's Attorneys' Offices have a Victim/Witness Service Provider who may assist you with the following:

- Completing a *Crime Victim Notification Request and Demand for Rights Form*
- Applying for Criminal Injuries Compensation
- Referrals
- Domestic Violence information
- Sexual Assault information
- VINE Registration

Throughout the criminal justice process you may experience physical or emotional distress as a result of your victimization. Supportive help is available. Please contact the State's Attorney's Office and speak with the Victim/Witness Service Provider.

WHAT IF SOMEONE THREATENS ME WHILE MY CASE IS PENDING?

If anyone uses force or threatens to harm you or a member of your family, report the threat immediately to your local police department and then notify the State's Attorney's Office. It is a crime for anyone to threaten, harass or intimidate you to prevent you from testifying at any court proceeding.

WHAT IF I WANT TO DROP CHARGES?

Only the State's Attorney's Office can drop charges against the defendant. However, let the State's Attorney know if you no longer want to proceed with the case. While the State's Attorney will consider your request, the safety of the community and other factors must be taken into account when making a decision to drop charges or to proceed with the case.

WHAT IF THE DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY ASKS ME TO DISCUSS THE CASE?

The defense attorney may contact you and ask questions in order to prepare the case for the defense. There is no law that requires you to speak with the defendant's attorney and/or investigator prior to any court proceeding. The choice is yours. Before speaking with anyone representing the defendant, please contact the State's Attorney assigned to your case.

IS THERE MANDATORY HIV/AIDS TESTING FOR THE DEFENDANT?

If you think that your victimization has put you at risk for HIV/AIDS exposure, contact your State's Attorney, Victim/Witness Service Provider, or local sexual assault counselor for guidance in your individual situation. It is your legal right, upon written request to the State's Attorney, to ask the court to order mandatory testing of the defendant.

CAN I BE REIMBURSED FOR CRIME-RELATED COSTS?

There are two ways that you can receive money to help pay for crime-related costs:

1) Restitution From the Defendant/Juvenile Offender

- Ask the State's Attorney to seek restitution from the court.
- Save receipts or copies of bills you or your insurance company has paid or still owe.
- Include a request for restitution in your Victim Impact Statement.
- Complete the *Crime Victim Notification Request and Demand for Rights Form* and return it to the State's Attorney's Office.

Reminder: If you change your address, notify the State's Attorney's Office.

2) Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

This is a state-funded program that provides financial assistance to innocent crime victims when no other financial resources are available to cover lost wages, medical, mental health or funeral expenses incurred as a direct result of a crime.

To qualify for benefits, crime victims must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- be an actual crime victim;
- a parent or guardian of the crime victim;
- a dependant of a crime victim who died as a result of a crime;
- a person injured while helping to prevent a crime;
- injured while assisting a police officer;
- report the crime within 48 hours to a law enforcement professional;
- fully cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of the case;
- not have contributed to the crime in any way;
- filed a completed application to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board within three years from the date of discovery.

To receive an application form or to receive further information about eligibility requirements and benefits, you should contact:

Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
6776 Reisterstown Road, Suite 206
Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2341
410-585-3010 Toll Free: 1-888-679-9347
Fax 410-764-3815
TTY/TDD 1-800-552-7724
Maryland Relay Service
www.goccp.maryland.gov/victims/cicb/