

## CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS

Under Title 18, U.S.C., Section 3771(a), a crime victim has the following rights:

1. The right to be reasonably protected from the accused.
2. The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding, or any parole proceeding, involving the crime or of any release or escape of the accused.
3. The right not to be excluded from any such public court proceedings, unless the court, after receiving clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding.
4. The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, (or) sentencing, or any parole proceeding.
5. The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case.
6. The right to full and timely restitution as provided in law.
7. The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.
8. The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victims' dignity and privacy.

You may at any time seek the advice of a private attorney concerning these rights at your own expense and discretion. A crime victim may file a complaint against any employee of the Department of Justice who violated or failed to provide the rights established under the Crime Victims' Rights Act of 2004, 18 U.S.C. Section 3771. The Department of Justice has established the Office of the Victims' Rights Ombudsman to receive and investigate complaints filed by crime victims against its employees, and has implemented Procedures to Promote Compliance with Crime Victims' Rights Obligations, 28 C.F.R. Section 45.10.

Office of the Victims' Rights; Victims' Rights Ombudsman;  
Department of Justice, EOUSA  
RFK Main Justice Building; 950 Pennsylvania, Ave., N.W.,  
Room 2261;  
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001; Fax: 202-305-4937;  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/vr/](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/vr/)

## DEA Field Division Telephone Directory

Atlanta: 404-893-7000  
Caribbean: 787-277-4700  
Chicago: 312-353-7875  
Dallas: 214-366-6900  
Denver: 720-895-4040  
Detroit: 313-234-4000  
El Paso: 915-832-6000  
Houston: 713-693-3000  
Los Angeles: 213-621-6700  
Miami: 305-994-4870  
New England: 617-557-2100  
New Jersey: 973-776-1100  
New Orleans: 504-840-1100  
New York: 212-337-3900  
Philadelphia: 215-861-3474  
Phoenix: 602-664-5600  
San Diego: 858-616-4100  
San Francisco: 415-436-7900  
Seattle: 206-553-5443  
St. Louis: 314-538-4600  
Washington, D.C.: 202-305-8500

For additional information contact the  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
Office of Congressional & Public Affairs  
Victim Witness Assistance Program  
Toll Free: 1-866-254-5970  
E-mail: [VWAP.DEA@usdoj.gov](mailto:VWAP.DEA@usdoj.gov)

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*U.S. Department of Justice*

## *Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)*

### Victim Witness Assistance Program



[www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)  
[www.justthinktwice.com](http://www.justthinktwice.com)  
[www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com](http://www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com)  
[www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov)

## OVERVIEW

The Drug Enforcement Administration, Victim Witness Assistance Program (DEA-VWAP) was implemented as a result of victims' rights laws. These laws provide for fair and just treatment of crime victims, immediate emergency treatment, and referrals to appropriate social service agencies. The *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim Witness Assistance* provides additional guidance for federal law enforcement agencies.

The DEA-VWAP is managed from the Office of Congressional & Public Affairs, Demand Reduction Section, Washington, D.C. DEA Headquarters VWAP staff (1) provides victim witness training and guidance to management personnel, special agents, and investigators in domestic and international offices; (2) works with federal, state and local law enforcement and (3) coordinates with national, state and local victim organizations. Assistance and/or information provided includes, but is not limited to, the following crimes: child abuse and neglect; child victims in drug environments; domestic violence; rape; drug facilitated sexual assault; witness retaliation; and other crimes of violence.

In the DEA field divisions, the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) is the responsible official for ensuring compliance of the VWAP. There is a DEA Victim Witness Coordinator (collateral duty) in each of the 21 field divisions; the Office of Training and Special Operations Division. The Victim Witness Coordinator assists crime victims identified in DEA investigations; works with prosecutors, social service components and/or victim organizations to help meet the needs of crime victims. In addition, there are Victim Witness Coordinators designated in the District, Resident and Post of Duty offices who assist crime victims identified in DEA investigations, coordinate with local prosecutors, social service components and the Field Division Coordinator.

## WHO IS A VICTIM?

The *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim Witness Assistance* defines a crime victim a "person directly and proximately harmed as a result of the commission of a Federal offense or any offense in the District of Columbia (18 U.S.C. § 3771(e)) if the offense is charged in federal district court. If a victim is under 18 years of age, incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased, a family member or legal guardian of the victim, a representative of the victim's estate, or any other person so appointed by the court may exercise the victim's rights, but in no event shall the accused serve as a guardian or representative for this purpose. (18 U.S.C. § 3771(e)) A victim may be a corporation, company association, firm, partnership, society, or joint stock company. (1 U.S.C. § 1)."

## SERVICES

Upon request, a crime victim may receive information specific to the investigation, such as when charges are filed, arrest, upcoming trial date or logistics. A crime victim may request information and/or referral for available services according to a specific need. This referral may include, but not be limited to, counseling, medical assistance, emergency shelter, transportation, relocation, or information about State Crime Compensation.

## STATE CRIME COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

State crime compensation programs exist in every state in the country, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Crime victim compensation programs administered by state governments promote the recovery of more than 100,000 victims every year, paying out close of \$250 million annually.

Victims of most violent or personal crimes, including assault, rape, child abuse, and domestic violence, as well as family members of murder victims, are eligible. Property crime, such as theft

and burglary, are generally not compensable by state compensation programs. Crime victim compensation programs pay for medical care, mental health counseling, lost wages and support, and funerals. For more information, see the National Crime Victim Assistance Board website at [www.ncvab.org](http://www.ncvab.org).

## RESOURCES

The following organizations may provide information and/or referrals regarding victims' rights, services, and criminal justice.

**National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards:** [www.nacvcb.org/progdir.html](http://www.nacvcb.org/progdir.html)

**Office for Victims of Crime:** [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc)  
**Office for Victims of Crime Online Directory of Crime Victim Services:**  
<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/findvictimservices/>

**VictimLaw:** <http://www.victimlaw.info/victimlaw/>

**National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC):**  
1-800-394-2255; [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org)

**Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline:**  
1-800-4-A-CHILD; [www.childhelp.org](http://www.childhelp.org)

**National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:** Toll Free: 1-800-843-5678;  
[www.ncmec.org](http://www.ncmec.org); **AMBER Alert:**  
<http://www.amberalert.gov>

**National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, Inc.:** Toll Free: 888-818-POMC

**National Domestic Violence Hotline:**  
1-800-799-SAFE (7233); [www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org)

**Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN):** 1-800-656-HOPE, [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org).

**Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft Hotline:** Toll Free: 1-877-ID-THEFT