Crime Victim Rights & Enforcement

Wisconsin Department of Justice, Office of Crime Victim Services, Victim Resource Center

Overview
Victim Rights, Enforcement, Resource & Contact Information

Office of Crime Victim Services
- Grants
- CVC
- VRC
- Safe at Home
- Training & Policy

Victim Resource Center (VCR)
- Informal Victim Rights Complaint Process
- General Victim Assistance
- Victim / Witness Services
- Training & TA for V/W staff
- Victim Appellate Notification Services
- Crisis Response

History of Victim Rights in WI
- 1975 – Milwaukee V/W Program created
- 1980 – WI becomes first state to pass bill of rights
- 1993 – 84% of WI voters ratify amending WI Constitution to include rights for crime victims
- 1996 – Rights & services expanded for victims of juvenile crime
- 1998 – “Enabling” legislation creates CVRB
- 1999 – CVRB receives first complaint

Who is a Victim
- Statutory Definition
  - Can change from LE determination to Prosecution
  - Different than CVC definition
- Victims unable to exercise rights
- Minor victims
- Deceased victims

Exercising Victim Rights does NOT require cooperation with law enforcement or prosecution
Who is Responsible for Providing Rights?

Prosecutor
• Summary of prosecution procedure
• Contact information for participating in process
• Written notification of rights
• Availability of CVC

Law Enforcement
• Procedure for addressing threats/intimidating
• Custodial information
• Contact information (including advocacy)
• Written notification of rights
• Availability of CVC

Enforcement
Information complain process – DOJ Victim Rights Specialist
• Not a finder of fact – does not investigate!
• Victim led
• Gathers information
• Closing letter
• Limits to confidentiality

Formal complaint process – Crime Victims’ Rights Board
• Victims must complete information process first
• Attached to DOJ for admin purposes only
  o Can conduct investigations
  o Can make determinations of violations
  o Determines remedies

Resources & Referrals
Stephanie Mock  
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