

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
 - Can conduct investigations
 - Can make determinations of violations
 - Determines remedies

Resources & Referrals

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