

Know Your Rights

Crime Victim Rights Information

As a victim of crime, you have constitutionally protected rights. These rights are detailed by the Ohio Attorney General's Office Crime Victim Services at <https://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Victims> or by calling 800-582-2877. **Some rights are automatic. *Some rights require your request.**

This form is required to be given to a victim of a criminal offense or delinquent act by the law enforcement agency investigating the offense pursuant to R.C. 2930.04 and reviewed with the victim by the prosecutor within seven days of the beginning of the prosecution. This form provides important information about your rights. You will be asked to complete and sign this form so that criminal justice officials know which rights you wish to exercise. The criminal justice official will also sign the form. The criminal justice official will provide you a copy of the completed form. You may request additional copies of the completed form at any time.

Requesting & Enforcing Your Rights

- Page two of this form provides a list of rights that must be requested if you wish to exercise them. It is your choice. You can choose to exercise all, some, or none of your rights.
- You can change your mind at any time about which rights you choose to exercise. However, if you choose not to exercise some rights and then request them later, you may give up some rights that only apply during certain stages of the case.
- If you change your mind, you must call, email, or complete a new form and return it to the investigating officer, prosecutor, court, prison, jail, or community-based correctional facility to ensure officials have updated information on the rights you wish to exercise and updated contact information.
- If any of your rights are denied, you may ask the advocate or prosecutor to help, seek enforcement on your own, hire an attorney, or request free legal assistance from Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center at <https://www.ocvjc.org/request-for-assistance> or call 614-848-8500.
- An online resource to help you understand and exercise all of your rights is the [Victims Rights Toolkit](https://www.ocvjc.org/victims-rights-toolkit), <https://www.ocvjc.org/victims-rights-toolkit>.

Appointing a Victim Representative

- You may choose to exercise your rights and/or choose a representative to exercise your rights. A representative can be anyone other than the defendant. You can choose, change, or remove a representative at any time. Any acknowledgment, election of rights, or affirmative statement made by the victim's representative shall be treated as if the victim made the statement. Request for Interpreter: Victim or Victim Representative request only.

Privacy and Safety

- You may be eligible for a protection order. The investigating officer will provide available resources to assist with obtaining a protection order.
- You may be able to keep your address private by obtaining a Safe at Home address. Learn more at: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/secretary-office/office-initiatives/safe-at-home/survivors/> or call 614-995-2255
- If the defendant, defendant's attorney, or anyone else acting on behalf of the defendant contacts you to talk with you, request an interview, or attempt to obtain any information or materials from you, you have the right to refuse. Immediately contact the prosecutor to let them know you have been contacted.
- You can receive texts, calls, or emails to receive notice of a defendant or offender's release or escape from jail or prison. Register at: <https://www.vinelink.com/#state-selection>
- To keep your identifying information private, you or your victim's representative must make a written request for redaction to any law enforcement agency, prosecutor, or court that has your personal information as part of their official duties.

Arraignment

- **Arraignment is a hearing that can happen within a couple days after the defendant is charged with a crime.**
- If you request notification, law enforcement will notify you of the arrest of the defendant and can provide you a phone number for the clerk of the court to get information on the date, time, and location of the arraignment proceeding.
- During the arraignment, the judge decides whether or not to release the defendant on bond, bond conditions, and whether or not to issue a protection order.
- You have the right to attend the arraignment and tell the judge about any safety concerns and your opinion regarding release, bond conditions, and whether or not you would like a protection order.

Compensation and Restitution

- Crime Victim Compensation Fund: You may be eligible to apply for reimbursement for certain financial losses relating to your victimization, even if the suspect has not been arrested or convicted. You may apply at: <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/individuals-and-families/victims/apply-for-victims-compensation> or 800-582-2877.
- Restitution: Upon conviction, the court must order the offender to pay you for certain financial losses relating to your victimization. It is important to keep a record of all expenses incurred as a result of the crime so that the court can use this information to determine what costs are properly included in an order of restitution.

The Victim receives a copy of this form

Know Your Rights

AUTOMATIC RIGHTS

You are automatically entitled to:

- Be informed of your rights;
- Be treated with fairness and respect for your safety, dignity, and privacy;
- Reasonable protection from the accused or any person acting on behalf of the accused;
- Receive information about the status of the case;
- Refuse a defense interview, deposition, or other discovery request unless ordered by the court;
- Object to defense requests for access to your confidential information, including medical, counseling, school, or employment records, access to your personal devices, online accounts, or other personal information;
- Be present at all public proceedings;
- Have a support person with you during proceedings;
- Tell the court your opinion in public proceedings involving release, plea, sentencing, disposition, parole, and any other hearing that involves victims' rights;
- Object to unreasonable delays; and
- Full and timely restitution from the offender.

RIGHTS THAT MUST BE REQUESTED

You must REQUEST the right to:

- Receive notice of the arrest, escape, or release of the offender;
- Reasonable and timely notice of all public court proceedings;
- Confer with the prosecutor assigned to the case;
- Be notified of subpoenas, motions, or other requests to access any of your personal information;
- Appoint a Victim's Representative.

CRIME VICTIM ADVOCATES FOR VICTIMS OF MISDEMEANOR & FELONY CRIMES:

FELONY CRIMINAL CASES-Crime Victim Advocate for Felony Criminal Cases.

Located at: (Ask for Victim Advocate)

Van Wert County Prosecutor's Office
120 W. Main Street, Suite 100,
Van Wert, Ohio 45891.
Phone: 419-238-0466 Fax: 419-771-1038

MISDEMEANOR CRIMINAL CASES-Crime Victim Advocate for Misdemeanor Criminal Cases

Located at:

Van Wert County Victim Services, Inc.
114 E. Main Street, Lower Level
Van Wert, Ohio 45891.
Phone: 419-238-9800 Fax : 419-238-9804
Email: vwcvs@bright.net

LOCAL AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Van Wert County Sheriff's Office	113 N. Market St. Van Wert, Ohio 45891	419-238-3866
Van Wert County Correctional Facility	204 N. Washington St. Van Wert, Ohio 45891	419-238-2464
Van Wert City Police Department	515 E. Main St. Van Wert, Ohio 45891	419-238-2464
Delphos Police Department	125 E. 2 nd St. Delphos, Ohio 45833	419-692-4015
Van Wert City Law Director	515 E. Main St. #211, Van Wert, Ohio 45891	419-771-1280
Van Wert County Prosecutor	120 W. Main St. #100, Van Wert, Ohio 45891	419-238-0466
Van Wert Municipal Court	102 E. Main St. Van Wert, Ohio 45891	419-238-5767
Van Wert County Juvenile Court	108 E. Main St. Van Wert, Ohio 45891	419-238-1118
Van Wert County Common Pleas Court	121 E. Main St. Suite 305, Van Wert, Ohio 45891	419-238-6935

OTHER LOCAL RESOURCE INFORMATION/ SERVICES

Crisis Care/Emergency Domestic Violence Housing	419-238-4357
YWCA of Van Wert County/D.V./Sexual Assault/ Human Trafficking Housing	419-238-6639/ 24/7 Hotline 567-259-9501
Westwood Behavioral	419-238-3434
Mental Health Crisis-Hotline	800-567-4673
Van Wert County Children Services	419-238-5430
Van Wert Health Hospital	419-238-2390