



Crime Victim Services Division Statewide Victim Assistance Program: An Overview of Services

Through three main initiatives, the Statewide Victim Assistance Program provides assistance to victims, witnesses, prosecutors, and service providers across Illinois.

Direct Victim Assistance

The Office of the Attorney General provides direct services to crime victims and witnesses who are involved in cases in the Criminal Division, Sexually Violent Persons Bureau, and the Crime Victim Compensation Bureau. Direct Victim Assistance includes:

- **Victim and Witness Notification**
Notifies crime victims, their families, and witnesses to crime of court dates and relays case information during various stages of the criminal court process.
- **Prosecution Assistance**
Liaisons between assistant attorneys general and crime victims, their families, and witnesses to crime throughout the duration of the case. Also provides support for crime victims, their families, and witnesses to crime requesting assistance in attending court dates.
- **Crime Victim Compensation**
Provides information on crime victim compensation and assistance in filing applications.
- **Victim Rights**
Advises crime victims, their families, and witnesses to crime of their rights according to the Illinois Constitution and the Illinois Crime Victim's Bill of Rights.
- **Referrals**
Supplies referral information for counseling and other relevant social services based on a comprehensive statewide network of local resources.

Crime Victims Assistance Line

The Attorney General's office offers a toll-free number to provide victims with referrals for service, crime victim compensation claim information, and assistance in completion of compensation applications. By calling 1-800-228-3368 (voice/TTY), victims can receive assistance in English and Spanish.

Outreach and Education Activities

Crime Victim Services staff conduct outreach and educational workshops to help service providers to better assist crime victims in obtaining financial assistance through the Crime Victim Compensation Program. Crime Victim Services staff also coordinate educational opportunities to help build the capacity of victim service providers and criminal justice system professionals.

Illinois Crime Victims Bill of Rights

The Illinois Constitution provides that crime victims shall have the following rights:*

- The right to be treated with fairness and respect throughout the criminal justice process.
- The right to notification of court proceedings.
- The right to communicate with the prosecution.
- The right to make a statement to the court at sentencing.
- The right to information about the conviction, sentence, imprisonment, and release of the accused.
- The right to timely disposition of the case following the arrest of the accused.
- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice proceedings.
- The right to be present at the trial and all other court proceedings, unless the victim is expected to testify and the court determines that the victim's testimony will be affected if the victim hears other testimony at the trial.
- The right to have present at all court proceedings, subject to the rules of evidence, an advocate or other support person of the victim's choice.
- The right to restitution.

**Under Illinois law, "A statement and explanation of the rights of crime victims...shall be given to a crime victim at the initial contact with the criminal justice system by the appropriate authorities and shall be conspicuously posted in all court facilities." (725 ILCS 120/4(b)).*

The law requires that some of these rights must be requested by the crime victim in writing.

If you would like more information on the Statewide Victim Assistance Program, please contact:

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Or call the Crime Victims Assistance Line at 1-800-228-3368 (voice/TTY).

Please visit our Web site at www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov.



Chicago
1-800-386-5438
TTY: 1-800-964-3013

Springfield
1-800-243-0618
TTY: 1-877-844-5461

Carbondale
1-800-243-0607
TTY: 1-877-675-9339