



Richard A. Goldinger  
*District Attorney*

## Butler County

Victim/Witness Unit of the District Attorney

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER  
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Police Department

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Telephone Number

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Police Incident Number

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Contact Person/ Agency



This form was created by the Office of Victims' Services in the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to help assist Law Enforcement Officers to provide notice of basic rights and services to victims of crime as required by the Crime Victims Act (18 Pa.C.S. & 11.101 et. Seq.). 10/26

[www.pacrimevictims.state.pa.us](http://www.pacrimevictims.state.pa.us)

**HELP AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS OF CRIME IN PENNSYLVANIA**

# SERVICES

- Being a victim of crime can be very hard and confusing. People may tell you things that you do not understand. You might not be able to remember things. This is all normal. The legal system can be very hard to understand.
  - There are people to help you! “Victim Advocates” will help you for free, make things easier to understand, and answer your questions.
  - You may have heard that the person who committed the crime against you has “rights” under the law. You also have rights that include:
    - Being informed about help available to you
    - Being informed about court hearings and having a victim advocate accompany you to court
    - Being informed of the status of the defendant’s jail time
    - Voicing how the crime has affected you before the Judge
    - Have anything taken from you returned when it is no longer needed for court
    - Being informed what happens at the end of your case

There are more “rights” that you have that appear later in this booklet as they are written in the law. An advocate will be able to assist you in understanding which ones are pertinent to you.

Scan with mobile device to access PA Crime Victim Website



# VICTIMS' RIGHTS

Victim's Rights are found in many different laws. Here is a list of your rights. **You do not have to do anything to get most of these rights. However, you must ask for the ones that are underlined.**

If you are a victim of crime in PA, you have the right:

- To be notified of basic information on available services
- To be notified of certain significant actions within the justice system pertaining to your case, including but not limited to the granting or denial of bail to an adult offender and the detention or release of a juvenile
- To be accompanied at all proceedings by a family member, a victim advocate, or other support person
- To give prior comment on the sentencing decision regarding an adult offender or the disposition of a juvenile offender and receive help in preparing victim impact statements detailing the physical, psychological, and economic effects of the crime
- To collect restitution and receive assistance with preparing, submitting, and following up on a claim for compensation
- To be notified of an adult offender's transfer from state prison to a mental health facility and the discharge, transfer, or escape from that facility
- To receive immediate notice of the release of an adult offender on bail who is incarcerated for a PFA
- To have property returned that was seized as evidence but is no longer needed for prosecution

**Victims of personal injury crimes have the additional right:**

- To receive notice of the arrest of a suspect or the filing or forwarding of a complaint relating to the crime, including notification in 24 hours of a complaint alleging delinquency of a juvenile
- Upon request, to receive notice when an adult offender is released from incarceration at sentencing
- To receive notice of the opportunity to give prior comment on and receive post-sentencing decisions
- To receive notice of the release of an adult offender from a local correctional facility
- Upon request, to receive notice of the filing, hearing, or disposition of appeals
- To receive notice of the commitment to a mental health institution
- To receive notice of the information of the courts' jurisdiction

- A sexual assault victim has the right to a medical forensic examination with assurance that they will not incur out-of-pocket expenses
- Receive information regarding victims' rights to consult with a sexual assault counselor

**Victims of crime committed by a juvenile have the additional right:**

- To receive prior notice of delinquency hearings and notification of hearings about transfer of a juvenile to and from criminal proceedings; and
- To receive notice of the details of the final disposition of a juvenile's case

**Victims of personal injury/burglary crimes have the additional right:**

- To give prior comment on the potential reduction or dropping of charges or any changes of a plea in a criminal or delinquency proceeding, diversion of a case, including an informal adjustment or a consent decree

**Victims of personal injury crime committed by a juvenile have the additional right, upon their request:**

- To receive notice prior to the release of a juvenile from residential placement, a shelter facility, or a detention center:
- To be notified and have the opportunity to submit a written objection prior to the transfer or release from a placement
- To be given immediate notice of a juvenile's escape from placement
- To submit written comment and oral testimony at a disposition review hearing

**For more information or help in understanding these rights, please contact the Victim/Witness Assistance Program listed found on the last page of this booklet. They will help explain your rights, they can also help you with any questions you may have.**

# Victims Compensation Assistance Program(VCAP)

This program may be able to help by paying you back for money you had to pay or lost because of a crime. Compensation may be paid to you or others for medical expenses, counseling, lost work earnings, loss of support, funeral expenses, travel costs, childcare, stolen cash, etc.

TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION, \* YOU MUST:

1. Be a victim of a crime that happened in PA.
2. Report the crime or file for a Protection from Abuse Order (PFA) within 3 days of the incident.
3. Cooperate with the police, courts, and the Victims Compensation Assistance Program.
4. File the claim within 5 years of the crime.
5. Not to be involved in illegal activity that caused the crime to happen.
6. Lose at least \$100 because of the crime (if you are less than 60 years old).

\*There are exceptions to the above requirements, especially if the victim is younger than 18 years old.

REMEMBER, you or a family member may receive compensation even if you do not meet all of the above requirements. To see you are eligible for help in filing a claim, please contact the VCAP at (800) 233-2339 or [www.pacrimevictims.state.pa.us](http://www.pacrimevictims.state.pa.us). There is no cost to file!

Scan with mobile device to apply for compensation

# Protection From Abuse (PFA)

If you are a victim of domestic violence, you have the right to go to court and file a PFA order. The PFA (if granted) will

1. Restrain the abuser from further acts of abuse
2. Keep the abuser from entering your home, school, or work
3. Give you or the other parent/guardian temporary custody of or visitation with your child or children
4. Tell the abuser to pay support to you and minor children if they have a legal duty to do so
5. Tell the abuser to give up any weapons
6. Tell the abuser to stop stalking or harassing you or other people in your family

For additional information on how to apply for a PFA please visit

[www.butlercountypa.gov/337/protective-orders](http://www.butlercountypa.gov/337/protective-orders) or call 724-284-5181.

ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM (ACP)-If you are a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking and your abuser does not know where you live, this program may be able to help you stay safe. To apply or to learn more about the program, please call 1-800-563-6399.

# Agencies that can assist you:

Victim/Witness Assistance Program:

Information on victims' rights and services when the offender is an adult or juvenile in the criminal justice system and community

Agency: Butler County District Attorney's Victim/Witness

Telephone: (724)284-5465

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Services, and Human Trafficking Victims:

Legal support, counseling, shelter, etc.

Counseling, support, and help for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other crimes

Agency: VOICE (Victim Outreach Intervention Center)

Hotline Number: 1-800-400-8551

Telephone: (724) 283-8700

Site: [voicebutlercounty.org](http://voicebutlercounty.org)

## STATEWIDE CONTACTS

Address Confidentiality Program: Pennsylvania Office of the Victim Advocate- 800-563-6399 or [www.ova.pa.gov](http://www.ova.pa.gov)

Offender Release Notification: PA Statewide Victim Notification System (PA-SAVIN)- 866-972-7284 or [www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov](http://www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov)

Childline: Pennsylvania Dept. of Human Services- 800-932-0313 or [www.dhs.pa.gov/contact/Pages/Report-Abuse.aspx](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/contact/Pages/Report-Abuse.aspx)

# Receipt of Information

I received information on the basic rights and services available for victims of crime. My name and telephone number

\_\_\_\_\_ may

\_\_\_\_\_ may not

be provided to the appropriate agency or agencies on pages 7-8 that can provide assistance.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number