



Dear Fellow Delawarean,

When it comes to protecting our families, safeguarding our wallets, knowing our rights as victims of crime, or understanding how the

law can make our communities better, information is the key. Equipped with knowledge, we can make choices that greatly reduce our risk of becoming a victim of crime or fraud, and we can learn how to get help if we're mistreated.

The mission of the Delaware Department of Justice is to protect Delawareans from harm by enforcing the law and being your advocate. We're here to help you, and also to give you the information you need to help yourself and your family. Inside this brochure, you'll find useful information on what to do if you are victimized, and ways to contact the Department of Justice for further assistance. Together, we can keep Delaware safe and strong.

Beau Biden  
Attorney General

Delaware Department of Justice  
Criminal Division  
820 North French Street, 7th Floor  
Wilmington, DE 19801

# Victim's Bill of Rights

## Protecting Delaware's Communities



### Delaware Department of Justice



**Attorney General**  
**Joseph R. "Beau" Biden, III**

#### Criminal Division

- New Castle County • (302) 577-8500
- Kent County • (302) 739-7641
- Sussex County • (302) 856-5353
- Para asistencia en Espanol • (877) 851-0482

[www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov)  
Email: [AttorneyGeneral@State.De.US](mailto:AttorneyGeneral@State.De.US)

# KNOW

# YOUR

# RIGHTS

## Reporting a crime to police

- When reporting a crime, the police must provide a written explanation of the Bill of Rights, information about social services or victim assistance and a copy of the incident report
- Police must also provide information about the Violent Crimes Compensation Board and a contact at the police agency to check the status of an arrest or to determine if a defendant has been released from custody as well as the procedures to follow if a victim is threatened or intimidated

## The pre-trial stage

- The Department of Justice must notify victims about the scheduling of court proceedings
- When a case is heard in Superior Court, the victims must be informed about their rights to discuss the case with prosecutors, including the victim's views on dismissal or plea negotiations
- A victim designee has the right to be present at any court proceeding, unless the defendant can show good cause to exclude the victim.
- Employers are prohibited from firing or disciplining victims who must attend criminal proceedings to protect their interests or have been asked by a prosecutor to assist in preparation for a court case

### Department of Justice Victim/Witness Program

New Castle County • (302) 577-8500

Kent County • (302) 739-4211

Sussex County • (302) 856-5352

Statewide • (800) 870-1790

### Police Victim Service Contacts

Delaware State Police • (800) VICTIM-1

Dover Police Department • (302) 736-7134

New Castle County Police Department • (302) 395-8135

Wilmington Police Department • (302) 576-3622

Newark Police Department • (302)366-7110 ext. 137

## Going to court

- Courts are required to consider the interest of the victim in a quick prosecution and speed up cases involving a child victim or witness
- Courts must provide safeguards to minimize the victim's contact with the defendant, the defendant's relatives, and defense witnesses during the court proceedings

## After a conviction

- Prior to sentencing, the Pre-sentence Office must make a reasonable effort to work with the victim and inform them of their right to present an impact statement
- The Department of Justice must notify the victim about sentencing information
- The Department of Correction or, if the offender is a juvenile, the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services, must notify a victim about a defendant's release date, release of the offender to a community-based program, Parole Board hearing date, and if any escape from custody occurs
- The Board of Parole or the Board of Pardons must notify the victim in writing about the victim's right to address the Board and about the Board's decision in the case

## Privacy

Victims and witnesses are protected from public disclosure of their personal information. Unless the victim or witness waives that confidentiality in writing, it is against the law for officials to disclose the address, telephone number, or workplace information of a victim or witness.

## Change of address

Agencies that are required to contact victims at various stages in the criminal justice process can only rely on the most recent name, address, and telephone number provided by the victim. For that reason, victims should promptly notify agencies of any change of address or telephone number.

## Property rights

Any agency holding property of the victim must promptly return the property when it is no longer needed as evidence.

## Victims' Rights Fund

Fines collected after sentencing must be deposited into a Victims' Rights Fund in the State Treasurer's Office. Proceeds of the fund are used to develop systems that support victim notification initiatives.

**If you are a victim of a violent crime or a serious crime involving property it is important that you know your rights.**

**Delaware's Victims' Bill of Rights provides many protections to crime victims.**

### Victims' Compensation Assistance Program

Statewide • (302) 255-1770

### Domestic Violence Hotline

New Castle County • (302) 762-6110

Kent & Sussex Counties • (302) 442-8058

Abriendo Puertas • (302) 795-9874

### Rape Crisis Center

New Castle County • (302)761-9100

Kent & Sussex Counties • (800) 262-9800

[www.AttorneyGeneral.delaware.gov](http://www.AttorneyGeneral.delaware.gov)