

Crime Victims' Rights and Resources Guide

Police Department: _____

Officer's Badge #: _____

Business Phone #: _____

Police Report/Case #: _____

Below are some Crime Victims' Rights (Marsy's Law) taken from the Ohio Constitution and Ohio Revised Code in 9/2023, which grants certain rights to victims of crime. For a complete and up to date list, visit:

- <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-constitution/section-1.10a>
- <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/chapter-2930>

Rights you will automatically receive:

- 1. Fairness and Respect** – To be treated with fairness and respect as it relates to your safety, dignity, and privacy;
- 2. Protection from the Defendant** – To reasonable protection from the accused or anyone acting on behalf of the accused;
- 3. Be Informed** – To receive information about the status of your case by law enforcement and/or court personnel;
- 4. Appearance at Court Proceedings and Expression of Views** – To be present and heard at any public proceeding;
- 5. Prompt Proceedings and Conclusion of the Case** – To object to unreasonable delays of the case;
- 6. Refusal to be Interviewed by the Defense** – To refuse an interview, deposition, or other discovery request made by the accused or any person acting on behalf of the accused. However, please be aware that exceptions do exist;
- 7. Restitution** – When applicable, receive full and timely restitution (when provided to the prosecutor) from the person who committed the criminal offense against you;
- 8. Information About These Rights** – To be informed, in writing, of all rights listed in Article 1, Section 10(a), of the Ohio Constitution which can be found in the links mentioned above;

Rights Upon Request:

- 9. Interpretation Services** – Right to have an interpreter when in contact with criminal justice system officials (police, prosecutor, court, etc.);
- 10. Right to Redact Your Information** – May request redaction of your information (keep select information confidential) when a public request is made for reports or evidence containing your information;
- 11. Object Defense Request for Accessing Private Information** - To receive notice of Defendant's requests of your personal information, and to request the Prosecutor object on your behalf;
- 12. Conference with the Prosecution** – Once the case is assigned, you can speak with the government attorney, also known as a prosecutor;
- 13. Right to Notice of Public Proceeding** – To reasonable and timely notice of all public proceedings;
- 14. Court Appointment of Victim Representative** – Request a representative of your choosing to speak on your behalf, or with you;
- 15. Information about Release and Escape** – To receive reasonable notice of any release or escape of the accused (www.vinelink.com).

Helpful Information

**** THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE DOES NOT DISMISS CHARGES SOLELY UPON YOUR REQUEST****

If a law enforcement officer provided you with this sheet, and asked you questions about whether you wanted specific victim rights, the officer most likely completed a verbal Victim Rights Request Form. Your answers were most likely documented in the officer's case notes.

You can change your mind at any time about which rights you choose to exercise. However, because some rights only apply during certain stages of the case, if you choose not to exercise certain rights, and then request them later, those rights may no longer apply.

If you want to change your rights, you must complete a Victims' Rights Request Form, or make a request in writing, and provide it to the appropriate office (police, prosecutor, court).

If any of your rights are denied, you may ask an advocate or prosecutor for guidance, seek enforcement on your own, hire an attorney, or request free legal assistance from Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center.

Arraignment is a hearing that can happen quickly (24-72 hours) after the defendant is *charged* with a criminal offense. During arraignment, the judge decides whether to send the defendant to jail, release on bond, conditions of bond, or the issuance of a temporary protection order.

To attend arraignment, and/or be heard by the judge, your local Clerk of Courts can confirm the date, time, and location of the defendant's arraignment.

Local Victim Services & Resources

Protection Order Information | Victim Assistance Program
205 S. High Street, Suite 327 | Akron, OH 44308 | 330-849-5324

1. Victim Assistance Program (Summit County) - Victims of all crimes
 - 24/7 Hotline (330) 376-0040 | www.victimassistanceprogram.org
2. Asian Services in Action – Victims of all crimes
 - (330) 535-3263 | www.asiaohio.org
3. Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center – Victims of all crimes
 - (614) 848-8500 | www.ocvjc.org
4. Hope & Healing – Interpersonal Violence & Human Trafficking
 - Battered Women's Shelter - 24/7 Hotline (330) 374-1111
 - Rape Crisis Center - 24/7 Hotline (330) 434-7273
 - www.hopeandhealingresources.org
5. RAHAB Ministries – Victims of Human Trafficking
 - (330) 819-3326 | www.rahab-ministries.org
6. City of Akron Prosecutor's Office – (330) 375-2730
7. Summit County Prosecutor's Office – (330) 643-2800 (felony/juvenile)
 - <https://prosecutor.summitoh.net/division/Victim-Services.html>

For a list of in-depth services available for victims of crime, scan the QR code below or visit:

www.victimassistanceprogram.org/resources

