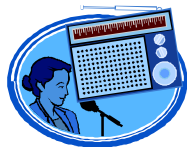


## Crime Victims' Rights<sup>1</sup>



**As heard on the Crime Prevention 101 radio show -- 4/06/11  
hosted by Crime Prevention Specialist Susan Bartelstone**

<http://www.voiceamerica.com/episode/53030/if-youve-been-a-victim-of-crime-know-your-rights-and-electronic-pickpocketing-how-to-protect-against>

**Every State has basic rights and protections for victims of crime. Individual states definitions of victims and specific rights do vary, but core rights for crime victims include:**

- **The right to attend criminal justice proceedings**
- **The right to be heard and participate in criminal justice proceedings**
- **The right to be informed of proceedings and events in the criminal justice process, of legal rights and remedies, and of available services**
- **The right to protection from intimidation and harassment**
- **The right to apply for compensation**
- **The right to restitution from the offender**
- **The right to prompt return of personal property seized as evidence**
- **The right to a speedy trial**
- **The right to enforcement of these rights**

**In addition, nearly 2/3 of the States have adopted amendments to their State Constitutions guaranteeing rights that give crime victims constitutional rights to:**

- **be treated with fairness, dignity and respect**
- **be informed of proceedings and events, such as the release of the defendant**
- **attend the trial and other proceedings**
- **be heard at critical points in the criminal justice system, such as sentencing or parole hearings**
- **be awarded restitution from a convicted offender**

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<sup>1</sup> *Source: VictimLaw, [www.victimlaw.info](http://www.victimlaw.info). VictimLaw was established with a grant for the US Office of Victim Services. The website offers brief overviews of the justice system, victims' rights, legal terms and links to additional resources on related issues.*