

A Message from Chisago County Attorney

Dear Fellow Citizens:

Our system of justice is based on the belief that it is better to have a guilty individual go free than to convict an innocent person. Because of this belief, the scales of justice have been weighed in favor of the accused and only recently has attention been directed to the victims of crime.

As a victim of a crime, you may be experiencing many things. The crime may have been very traumatic. In addition, most victims are apprehensive about getting involved with the legal system.

It is my hope that this brochure will help you understand your rights as a crime victim. You are very important to our office. If you have any questions about your rights, please call our Victim Witness Assistance Program.

If you feel that your rights have been violated, you may request a written copy of our complaint policy or access it via the county website at www.co.chisago.mn.us and/or you may file a complaint with the State of Minnesota's: Crime Victim Justice Unit at 1-888-622-8799

Sincerely,



Chisago County Attorney

Financial Help for Victims of Crime

If you have suffered a physical or psychological injury as a direct result of crime, AND you have expenses not covered by insurance, you may be eligible for financial help through the Minnesota Crime Victims Reparation Board.

Victims may be able to recover up to \$50,000 for allowable costs associated with:

- ◆ Funeral expenses
- ◆ Medical costs
- ◆ Mental health costs
- ◆ Lost wages
- ◆ Child care, household services or other out-of-pocket costs.

To obtain a
Reparations Application
Or for more
information, call:
(651) 201-7300

BASIC VICTIM RIGHTS

*Your Rights As A
Victim Of A Crime*



Janet Reiter,
Chisago County Attorney
313 North Main Street
Center City, MN 55012
(651) 213-8400

Your RIGHTS as a Victim:

Notifications

- Plea Agreements.
- Changes in court schedules, dates, time and place of sentencing.
- Release of offender from prison or institution. You must request such notification from the Commissioner of Corrections, or the administration of prison or institution.
- Victim Rights.

Your RIGHTS as a Victim:

Protection

- Tampering with a witness is against Minnesota law.
- Witnesses do not have to state their addresses in court.
- Victims have the right to a separate, secure waiting area during court.
- Employers may not discipline or dismiss victims or witnesses who are called to testify in court.

Your RIGHTS as a Victim:

Financial Assistance

- Victims may be eligible for financial assistance from the state if they have suffered economic loss.
- Victims may request restitution (monies which the offender may be ordered to pay as part of his or her penalty).

Participate in Prosecution

- Right to inform court of impact of crime at pre-trial hearing and sentencing.
- Right to have input in pre-trial diversion program.
- Right to object to plea agreement.
- Right to request speedy trial.
- Right to bring supportive person to pre-trial hearing.
- Right to attend sentencing
- Right to give written objections to sentencing.

Other Expectations

- To receive support and accurate information.
- To be free from intimidation.
- To be assisted by your criminal justice agencies.
- To have minimized your time and inconvenience as a victim or witness.
- To be told about available compensation for court appearances.
- To be told about available help from Social Services or volunteer agencies.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Jolleen Chaika
Chisago County
Victim Witness
Coordinator
(651) 213-8402**

**8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday**

**For an after-hours
Domestic-related emergency call
1-800-338-7233**