

Help Us Stay In Contact

In order to best assist you, it is important that the Victim/Witness Program has the correct contact information for you.

Please keep in touch with us about questions or concerns you may have about the case and provide us with any changes in your phone number, address, or email address.

Contact Us

District Attorney's Office, 8th Judicial District
201 LaPorte Ave, Suite 200
Fort Collins, CO 80521
(970) 498-7200

For More Information

For more about the Victim/Witness Program, victims' rights, victim compensation, and other available resources, visit:

larimer.gov/da/vicwit



If you feel your rights have not been honored, you can contact:

Victim/Witness Division Manager
Office of the District Attorney
201 Laporte Ave., Suite 200
Fort Collins, CO 80521
(970) 498-7281

or

Division of Criminal Justice
700 Kipling St., Suite 1000
Lakewood, CO 80215
(303) 239-4497

Be Informed, Present & Heard



A Guide to Understanding Your Rights Under the Victim Rights Act (VRA)

Prepared by the

**District Attorney's
Office 8th Judicial
District**

serving Larimer and
Jackson Counties

A Note from the District Attorney

Being victimized can be very traumatic – not only through the act that caused you injury, but also in the confusion, stress, and even fear that may come with your case being charged and moving through the criminal justice system. We at the District Attorney's Office are dedicated to supporting you by listening to your concerns, helping you navigate an unfamiliar judicial process, connecting you with resources, and seeking accountability and justice for you in the courtroom.

In Colorado, crime victims are guaranteed certain legal rights, including the right to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. It is the job of the District Attorney and the Court to ensure that these rights are being honored. Our goal is to provide the information and resources to empower you during this difficult process.

This brochure provides you an overview of your rights, as well as the District Attorney's role in supporting you. Remember, this information is meant to help you, and District Attorney staff are available to help you to understand the process, provide you with important information regarding a case, listen to your input, and answer any additional questions you may have.

Gordon P. McLaughlin, District
Attorney

Your Rights as a Crime Victim

A summary of your rights guaranteed by the VRA

- To be treated with fairness, respect, and dignity and to have a swift and fair resolution of your case
- To be informed of and present at all critical stages of the criminal justice process
- To be present and heard in court for any bond reduction or modification, the acceptance of a negotiated plea, the subpoena of your personal records, and sentencing event
- To have a safe waiting area near the court
- To confer with the District Attorney's Office before the case is resolved or goes to trial and to be informed of the outcome
- To prepare a *Victim Impact Statement* and to be present at sentencing
- To have the court determine restitution
- To be informed of the right to pursue a civil judgment against anyone who has committed a crime against you
- To be informed of post-conviction release or modification hearings
- To get your property back when it is no longer needed for prosecution
- To apply for Victim Compensation for crime-related losses such as therapy, medical and funeral expenses
- To submit a request to the District Attorney's Office for the protection of your address.

Pursuant to the Colorado Rules of Criminal Procedure, our office may or may not be able to secure an order for the protection of your address.

For a complete listing of your rights and additional information, visit the Office for Victim Programs online: dcj.colorado.gov/dcj-offices/office-for-victims-programs

Going to Court

Criminal cases may take several months to proceed through the criminal justice system. A Victim/Witness Specialist can provide information about how the court system works and what is happening with your case.

Services, information, and resources provided include:

- CVC/Restitution assistance
- Court accompaniment
- Information on the status of your case
- Employer intervention
- Referral to other resources that may be of help
- Interpretation and other accommodations
- Information about the availability of transportation and/or household assistance, if necessary
- Information regarding restorative justice programs.

Please be aware that the defendant can plead guilty at **any** court hearing and the judge may proceed to an immediate sentencing.

If you are unable to attend court hearings in person but would like to attend virtually, please contact your Victim/Witness Specialist assigned to the case as soon as possible.

Safety

If you are required to testify, a separate waiting area can be provided so you do not have to be in contact with the defendant.

If you are worried about security or would like help in creating a safety plan for yourself or your family, please talk to your Victim/Witness Specialist.

ALWAYS call 911 in case of an emergency.

Critical Stages

You have a constitutional right to be informed of and present at all "critical stages" of the criminal justice process, if you choose. Critical stages handled by the District Attorney's Office include:

- Filing of charges or the decision not to file charges
- Preliminary hearing
- Any bond reduction or modification
- Arraignment hearing
- Motions hearing
- Any subpoena for a victim's mental health, medical, education, or Victim Compensation records
- Disposition of the complaint or charges against the person accused
- Trial
- Sentencing hearing
- Appellate review or appellate decision
- Post-conviction DNA testing and court proceedings based on the result
- Sentence modifications
- An attack on judgment or conviction for which a court hearing is set
- Any petition by a sex offender to terminate sex offender registration
- Any hearing concerning a petition for expungement of a juvenile offender's records

Criminal Mandatory Protection Orders (MPOs)

You have the right to be informed of the existence of a criminal protection order in your case. Please call the District Attorney's Office if you are not sure whether one has been issued on your case or if you have questions about how to modify the criminal protection order.

(970) 498-7200

Once issued, keep a copy of the protection order with you and report all violations of the order to local law enforcement. For questions about other protection options that may be available to you, please contact the Victim/Witness Specialist assigned to your case.



Crime Victim Compensation Fund

Crime Victim Compensation (CVC) offers financial assistance to victims and/or their family members who have suffered physical or emotional injury as a result of certain crimes.

CVC may be able to help with these associated costs

- Medical expenses
- Funeral expenses
- Mental health counseling
- Lost wages
- Loss of support
- Doors, locks, or windows

CVC cannot help with these expenses

- Personal property
- Cash
- Pain and suffering

Eligibility requirements for CVC*

- Crime must have been reported to law enforcement authorities within 72 hours
- Victim has cooperated with law enforcement and/or prosecution
- The injury or death of a victim cannot be a result of the victim's own wrongdoing
- The victim applied for CVC within one year of the date of the crime

**This list does not include additional state statutes or local policies that may affect a claim. The CVC Board may waive some of the listed requirements for good cause or in the interest of justice.*

To apply or for more information, visit larimer.gov/da under Victim and Witness Services or covictimcomp.org

Resources & Help

In an emergency, dial 911

• Larimer County Sheriff's Office	970-498-5100
◦ Main Line	970-498-5149
◦ Victim Response	
• Fort Collins Police Services	970-419-3273
◦ Main Line	970-224-6089
◦ Victim Assistance	
• Loveland Police Department	970-667-2151
◦ Main Line	970-962-2217
◦ Victim Services	
• Windsor Police Department	970-674-6400
• Jackson County Sheriff's Office	970-723-4242
• Estes Park Police Department	970-586-4000

Advocacy Programs

• Estes Valley Crisis Advocates	970-577-9781
• Alternatives to Violence	970-669-5150
• Crossroads Safehouse	970-482-3502
◦ 24/7 Hotline	
◦ Fort Collins Office	970-530-2353
• SAVA (Sexual Assault Victim Advocate) Center	970-472-4200
◦ 24/7 Hotline	970-472-4204
◦ Fort Collins Office	970-775-2962
◦ Loveland Office	
• Colorado Legal Services	970-493-2891

For More Resources

Find a more comprehensive list of resources at larimer.gov/victim-rights-and-resources

