

## **CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS**

As an organization that works with victims of domestic-related crimes, with the assistance of the Wright and Sherburne County Attorneys' Offices and law enforcement agencies, we strive to uphold the crime victim rights afforded to our clients in Minnesota Statute 611A, including (but not limited to):

- **Right to be notified of:** crime victim rights; the prosecution process and the right to participate in it; contents of any plea agreement; changes in the court proceedings schedule when a victim has been subpoenaed or requested to testify; the final disposition of the case; proposed sentence modifications for the offender, including the date, time, and location of the review and the right to provide input; the release or escape of the offender from prison or custodial institution or transfer to a lower security facility; the offender's petition for expungement; the right to request restitution; the right to apply for reparations; information on the nearest crime victim assistance program or resource; and the ability to petition to civilly commit an offender, outcome of that petition, and notice of the offender's possible discharge/release from civil commitment
- **Right to Protection from Harm** – Crime victims have the right to: a secure waiting area during court proceedings; request that home and employment address, phone numbers, and birth date be withheld in open court, and to request that law enforcement withhold their identity from the public; protection against employer retaliation for victims and witnesses called to testify and for victims of violent crimes and their family members who take reasonable time off to attend court proceedings
- **Right to Participate in Prosecution** – Crime victims have the right to: request a speedy trial; provide input in a pretrial diversion decision; object to a plea agreement at the plea presentation hearing; object to a proposed disposition or sentence; inform the court of the impact of crime at the sentencing hearing; be present at the sentencing and plea presentation hearings; submit a statement regarding the decision to discharge/release the offender from civil commitment
- **Right to Apply for Financial Assistance** – Victims of violent crime may apply for financial assistance (reparations) from the state for various medical expenses, counseling expenses, funeral expenses, lost wages due to disabling physical or psychological injury from the crime, crime scene clean-up, and other out-of-pocket losses suffered as a direct result of the crime; victims may request the court to order the defendant to pay restitution if the defendant is found guilty or pleads guilty; victims may request that a probation violation hearing be scheduled 60 days prior to the expiration of probation if restitution has not been paid
- **Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Harassment Victims** – Victims of these cases have the following additional rights: to be informed of the prosecutor's decision to decline prosecution or dismiss the case along with information about seeking a protective or harassment order; to protection against employer retaliation for victims to take reasonable time off to attend order for protection or harassment restraining order proceedings; domestic abuse victims have the ability to terminate a lease without penalty or payment; sexual assault victims can make confidential requests for HIV testing of the offender; sexual assault victims do not need to pay the cost of a sexual assault examination; sexual assault victims may not be required to undergo a polygraph examination in order for an investigation or prosecution to proceed