

# Georgia Crime Victims Bill of Rights

The Georgia Crime Victims Bill of Rights (O.C.G.A. 17-17-1, et seq.), provides victims of certain crimes specific rights. Effective Jan. 1, 2019, with the passage of Marsy's Law, these rights are constitutionally protected and enforced.

## **Victims have the following rights:**

- Reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any scheduled court proceedings or any changes to such proceedings;
- Reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of the arrest, release, or escape of the accused;
- To not to be excluded from any scheduled court proceedings, except as provided by law;
- To be heard at any scheduled court proceedings involving the release, plea, or sentencing of the accused;
- To file a written objection in any parole proceedings involving the accused;
- To confer with the prosecuting attorney in any criminal prosecution related to the victim;
- Restitution as provided by law;
- Proceedings free from unreasonable delay; and
- To be treated fairly and with dignity by all criminal justice agencies involved in the case.

## **The Crime Victims Bill of Rights specifically applies to victims of:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| - Homicide  | - Homicide by Vehicle                                 |
| - Assault and Battery   | - Feticide by Vehicle                                 |
| - Reckless Conduct  | - Serious Injury by Vehicle                           |
| - Cruelty to Children   | - Elder Abuse   |
| - Feticide  | - Cruelty to a Person 65 or Older                     |
| - All Sexual Offenses   | - Stalking/Aggravated Stalking                        |
| - Burglary  | - Theft   |
| - Robbery   | - Arson, Bombs and Explosives                         |
| - Kidnapping, False Imprisonment & related offenses   | - Sale or Distribution of Harmful Materials to minors |
| - Forgery, Deposit Account Fraud, Illegal Use of Financial Transaction Cards, Other Fraud-related Offenses, Computer Crimes, & Identity Theft |   |

## **In general, after the crime occurs and is reported, and upon initial contact with a victim, law enforcement and court personnel must advise the victim:**

- That it is possible that the accused may be released from custody prior to trial;
- That victims have certain rights during various stages of the criminal justice system;
- That victims have the right to refuse or agree to be interviewed by the accused, the accused's attorney, or anyone who represents or contacts you on behalf of the accused;

- That additional information about the criminal justice process can be obtained by contacting the pertinent state and/or local agency involved, or by contacting the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council at 404-657-1956;
- That victims may be eligible for monetary compensation for certain out-of-pocket losses incurred as a result of their victimization from the Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program administered by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council at 404-657-2222 or 1-800-547-0060;
- That victims may have available to them community-based victim service programs and that more information may be obtained by contacting the Georgia Call Line at 1-800-GEORGIA (1-800-436-7442) to connect to other services.

To contact a victim advocate in Bibb County, call 478-621-6427. To contact a victim advocate in Crawford or Peach counties, call 478-825-8454.

\*\* Source: Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia