## Arizona Attorney General Office of Victim Services

Serving Arizona's Crime Victims

## **Investigation-Based Victim Advocate Program**

## The Office of Victim Services

The mission of the Office of Victim Services (OVS) is to promote justice and healing for people affected by crime in the State of Arizona.

## About the Investigation Based Victim Advocate Program (IVAP)

The IVAP is a unit of the Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services that works with victims in cases being investigated by the agents in the Attorney General's Office. IVAP advocates provide notification and assistance to victims, as well as act as liaisons between the agents and the victims, from the time a Special Agent begins to investigate a crime until that investigation is complete. This could be when the case is submitted for charging, declined for prosecution, or closed by the agent for lack of evidence.

### Victim Assistance

Victim Assistance is provided to victims in the cases being investigated by agents from the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

#### Direct assistance may include:

- Provision of victims' rights;
- Information on the criminal justice process and the investigation process;
- Notification of investigation case status;
- Accompaniment to court proceedings and interviews or meetings with agents;
- Information about, and assistance with, victim compensation and/or restitution claims;
- Referrals to community resources to address victims' needs in the aftermath of crime.

Be sure to keep your address and phone number up-to-date with the Office of Victim Services to ensure continued notification.

For more information about the Office of Victim Services or to find state and national resources for crime victims, visit www.azag.gov.

Toll Free: 866-742-4911

# Arizona Constitution, Article 2, Section 2.1 Victims' Bill of Rights

- A. To preserve and protect victims' rights to justice and due process, a victim of crime has a right:
  - 1. To be treated with fairness, respect, and dignity, and to be free from intimidation, harassment, or abuse, throughout the criminal justice process.
  - 2. To be informed, upon request, when the accused or convicted person is released from custody or has escaped.
  - 3. To be present at and, upon request, to be informed of all criminal proceedings where the defendant has the right to be present.
  - 4. To be heard at any proceeding involving a post arrest release decision, a negotiated plea, and sentencing.
  - 5. To refuse an interview, deposition, or other discovery request by the defendant, the defendant's attorney or other person acting on behalf of the defendant.
  - 6. To confer with the prosecution, after the crime against the victim has been charged, before trial or before any disposition of the case and to be informed of the disposition.
  - 7. To read pre-sentence reports relating to the crime against the victim when they are available to the defendant.
  - 8. To receive prompt restitution from the person or persons convicted of the criminal conduct that caused the victim's loss or injury.
  - 9. To be heard at any proceeding when any post-conviction release from confinement is being considered.
  - 10. To a speedy trial or disposition and prompt and final conclusion of the case after the conviction and sentence.
  - 11. To have all rules governing criminal procedure and the admissibility of evidence in all criminal proceeding protect victims' rights and to have these rules be subject to amendment or repeal by the legislature to ensure the protection of these rights.
  - 12. To be informed of victims' constitutional rights.
- B. A victim's exercise of any right granted by this section shall not be grounds for dismissing any criminal proceeding or setting aside any conviction or sentence.
- C. "Victim" means a person against whom the criminal offense has been committed or, if the person is killed or incapacitated, the person's spouse, parent, child or other lawful representative, except if the person is in custody for an offense or is the accused.
- D. The legislature, or the people by initiative or referendum, has the authority to enact substantive and procedural laws to define, implement, preserve and protect the rights guaranteed to victims by this section, including the authority to extend any of these rights to juvenile proceedings.
- E. The enumeration in the constitution of certain rights for victims shall not be construed to deny or disparage others granted by the legislature or retained by victims.