

## IN THE UNITED STATES

- In 2021, an estimated 4.6 million U.S. Residents age 12 or older experienced violent crime victimizations.
- In 2021, less than half of victims of violent crime are estimated to have been reported to law enforcement.
- In 2019, an estimated 16,425 individuals were murdered across the country.
- Most violent crimes are committed by someone the victim knew.
- The estimated lifetime cost of sexual assault victimization is \$122,461 per victim, or \$3.1 trillion for all victims.
- In 2021, an estimated 356,752 individuals 65 or older were victims of a violent crime.
- 2/3 of children 0-17 are exposed to some type of violence

\*\*Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2022, Federal Bureau of Investigations Uniform Crime Reporting, 2019; U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs

Find a full list of victim service agencies  
Victim Assistance Section funds and more  
information about our programs on our  
website!

[www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/  
for-crime-victims](http://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/for-crime-victims)

## STATEWIDE CRIME VICTIM RESOURCES

### **Victim Assistance Section**

[www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/for-crime-victims](http://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/for-crime-victims)  
[crimevictiminfo@ag.iowa.gov](mailto:crimevictiminfo@ag.iowa.gov)  
515-281-5044 or 1-800-373-5044

### **Iowa Victim Service Call Center (24/7)**

[www.survivorshelpline.org](http://www.survivorshelpline.org)  
1-800-770-1650 or text "iowahelp" to 20121

### **Iowa Child and Dependent Adult Abuse Hotline (24/7)**

1-800-362-2178

### **Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

[www.icadv.org](http://www.icadv.org)  
515-244-8028

### **Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault**

[www.iowacasa.org](http://www.iowacasa.org)  
515-244-7424

### **IowaVINE**

### **(Victim Information & Notification Everyday)**

[www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)  
1-888-742-8463

### **Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance (IOVA)**

[www.iowaiova.com](http://www.iowaiova.com)

### **Safe at Home**

[safeathome.iowa.gov](http://safeathome.iowa.gov)  
[safeathome@iowa.gov](mailto:safeathome@iowa.gov)  
515-725-7233

# CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS IN IOWA



## Iowa Attorney General's Office Victim Assistance Section

Lucas State Office Building  
321 East 12th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

(515) 281-5044  
Toll-Free (800) 373-5044  
(515) 281-8199 (fax)

[www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/  
for-crime-victims](http://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/for-crime-victims)



Iowa Attorney General's Office  
Victim Assistance Section

# RIGHTS FOR CRIME VICTIMS

For statutory crime victim rights, a “victim” is defined as a person who suffered physical, emotional, or financial harm as a result of a criminal offense or delinquent act. A simple misdemeanor is not an included crime for the purposes of statutory victim rights.

For these rights, “Victim” also includes the immediate family members of a homicide victim, a crime victim who is judged to be incompetent, or a crime victim who is under the age of 18.

## THE RIGHT TO A VICTIM ADVOCATE

- Iowa Code section §915.20 establishes a victim’s right to request and have a victim counselor or advocate present at any legal or evidentiary medical proceeding related to the offense.
- A crime victim, law enforcement officer, prosecutor, or medical provider can locate a victim counselor or advocate by contacting a local victim service program, the county attorney’s office, or the Attorney General’s Victim Assistance Section.

## CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION

- The Attorney General’s Crime Victim Compensation Program pays certain out-of-pocket expenses an eligible victim has as a result of injury or death from crime.
- Funds for this program come entirely from fines and penalties paid by offenders.
- For information, or to file an application, call the Crime Victim Compensation Program toll-free at (800) 373-5044 or, in the Des Moines area, at 281-5044.

## THE RIGHT TO NOTIFICATION

- Crime victims have the right to register in writing with the county attorney’s office for written notification about the status of the criminal case.
- Law enforcement is required to tell a crime victim of the right to register with the county attorney’s office and provide the victim with a “request for registration” form.
- A crime victim must complete and submit the “request for registration form” to the county attorney who is prosecuting the case in order to receive criminal justice system statutory notification.
- The county attorney will forward copies of “request for registration” form to other justice system agencies including the sheriff, clerk of court, Attorney General’s Criminal Appeals Division, Department of Corrections, and the Board of Parole.
- Justice system agencies will provide written notification to a registered crime victim regarding the status of the criminal case and a convicted offender.

## AUTOMATED NOTIFICATION

- All crime victims and the public may register with IowaVINE for automated notification about an offender incarcerated in a county jail or the Iowa Department of Corrections. IowaVINE will send notification by text, email, or telephone and has live operators 24/7/365.
- IowaVINE is a program of the Attorney General’s Victim Assistance Section.

## THE RIGHT TO RESTITUTION

- At sentencing, a judge may order the convicted offender to pay the crime victim restitution for crime related expenses.
- The crime victim submits a record of their out-of-pocket expenses related to the crime to the county attorney who will submit the information to the judge. The judge may order restitution paid to the crime victim.
- A judge must order an offender to pay \$150,000 to the estate of a deceased victim when the offender is guilty of causing the death in addition to any restitution ordered for the victims for out-of-pocket expenses.

## THE RIGHT TO MAKE A VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

- A crime victim has the right to submit a Victim Impact Statement (VIS) to the judge for consideration at sentencing.
- The VIS is a victim’s opportunity to tell the judge and the offender about the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial effects of the crime on them and their family.
- A crime victim may seek assistance from a victim counselor or advocate in preparing the VIS.
- The offender must be present for the VIS.
- The VIS may be stated orally or in writing.
- When presenting the VIS, a crime victim or their representative cannot be questioned by the offender or the defense attorney.