

## In the United States..\*

- ❖ In 2010, U.S. Residents age 12 or older experienced and estimated 18.7 million violent and property crime victimizations.
- ❖ In 2010, about 50% of all violent victimizations and nearly 40% of property crimes were reported to law enforcement.
- ❖ In 2010, an estimated 14,748 persons were murdered nationwide.
- ❖ In 2010, where the victim-offender relationship was known, 33.4% of all homicide victims were killed by an intimate partner or family member.
- ❖ In 2010, victims age 12 or older experienced a total of 188,380 rapes or sexual assaults.
- ❖ In 2010, 92,865 persons over the age of 65 were victims of violent crime.
- ❖ During a one-year period, 60.6% of children and youth, from birth to 17, experienced, or witnessed, at least one victimization.
- ❖ During a one-year period, 3.4 million people ages 18 or older were stalked.

## Worldwide..\*

- ❖ There “are as many as 27 million men, women and children” in forced labor, bonded labor, and forced prostitution (U.S. Department of State, 2011)

\* Statistics: Office for Victims of Crime 2012 National Crime Victim Rights Week Resource Guide

## Statewide Crime Victim Resources

**IowaVINE**  
(Victim Information & Notification Everyday)  
1-888-742-8463 or [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)

**Iowa Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence (ICADV)**  
(515) 244-8028 or [www.icadv.org](http://www.icadv.org)

**Iowa Coalition Against  
Sexual Assault (IowaCASA)**  
(515) 244-7424 or [www.iowacasa.org](http://www.iowacasa.org)

**Iowa Domestic Abuse Hotline**  
(800) 942-0333

**Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline**  
(800) 284-7821

**Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance (IOVA)**  
[www.iowaiova.com](http://www.iowaiova.com)

**Iowa Department of  
Human Services**  
Child Abuse & Dependant Adult Abuse  
24-Hour Hotline  
(800) 362-2178

**IPONDA**  
(Iowa Protective Order Notification for  
Domestic Abuse)  
1-888-742-8463 or [www.registervpo.com](http://www.registervpo.com)

# CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS IN IOWA



## Iowa Attorney General's Office Crime Victim Assistance Division

Lucas State Office Building  
321 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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

[www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov)  
Click on “Assisting Crime Victims”

## **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 purpose 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 Crime Victim Assistance Division.

## **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, other than a victim of a simple misdemeanor, 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 their 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.
- ❑ Petitioners on Protective or No Contact Orders may register with **IPONDA** to receive notification when the order is served and before it expires.
- ❑ IowaVINE and IPONDA are programs of the Attorney General’s Crime Victim Assistance Division.

## **THE RIGHT TO RESTITUTION:**

- ❑ At sentencing, a judge will 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 will order restitution paid to the crime victim.
- ❑ A Judge must order an offender to pay \$150,000 to the estate of a victim who dies as a result of a crime in addition to the restitution ordered for the victims for out-of-pocket expenses.

**Justice will only be achieved when those not injured by crime feel as indignant as those who are**  
King Solomon (1009 B.C. – 946 B.C.)

## **THE RIGHT TO MAKE A VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT**

- ❑ A crime victim has the right to submit a Victim Impact Statement (VIS) to the Judge at the sentencing of the convicted offender.
- ❑ 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 given to the Judge and the offender by the crime victim or by the victim’s chosen representative.
- ❑ 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.