

YOUR RIGHTS AS A VICTIM

A “victim” is a person who has suffered physical, emotional, or financial harm as the result of a public offense or a delinquent act, other than a simple misdemeanor, committed in this state. “Victim” also includes the immediate family members of a victim who die or was rendered incompetent as a result of the offense or who was under eighteen years of age at the time of the offense. (per Chapter 915 of the Code of Iowa)

If you are registered as a victim, you will be notified of the following by the County Attorney's office:

1. Dates and times of court appearances which require your attendance.
2. Notice of cancellations or postponements of expected court proceedings that require your attendance.
3. The possibility of assistance through the Crime Victim Compensation Program.
4. The right, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 915, to restitution of pecuniary losses suffered as a result of a crime.
5. Your right to make a written or oral impact statement at the time of sentencing.
6. Notice of any plea agreements related to the crime for which you are a victim.

Also, as a registered victim, the following departments will notify you:

1. Clerk of District Court notifies of the outcome of the case in which the victim was involved. May advise of any orders regarding custody or confinement if applicable.
2. Police or County Sheriff is required to advise a victim of the right to register with the County Attorney and to provide a registration form to each victim. The County Sheriff or other person in charge of a jail or detention facility notifies registered victims of; offender's release from custody on bail and terms and conditions of the release, final release from local custody, escape from custody and transfer from local custody to custody in another facility.
3. Department of Justice notifies registered victims of the filing of an appeal, the expected decision date and the outcome of the case.
4. Department of Corrections and Board of Parole. If the person is in prison, notification of changes in status including escape, expected release date and parole hearings are given.

The Victim Rights Act in chapter 915 of the Iowa Code went into effect January 1, 1999 (formerly 910A)