

## Additional Rights for Crime Victims

The National Park Service often investigates crimes in coordination with other state, tribal, federal, or local law enforcement agencies. These crimes may be charged in state or federal court or both. If a case is prosecuted, you may be contacted by a local, state, tribal, or federal prosecutor's office. Most prosecutors' offices have victim assistance personnel to address victims' concerns during the pretrial and court phases.

## Victims of Offenses Charged in Federal Court

Victims are entitled to court-enforceable rights under 18 U.S.C. § 3771, the Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA). These rights, accorded to victims primarily by the United States Attorneys' Offices, are summarized below:

- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused
- The right to notice of any public court proceeding, or any parole proceeding involving the crime or any release or escape of the accused
- The right not to be excluded from any public court or parole proceeding unless the court determines it is necessary
- The right to be reasonably heard at any public court proceeding involving release, plea, sentencing, or parole proceedings
- The right to confer with the attorney for the government in the case
- The right to full and timely restitution
- The right to proceedings free of unreasonable delay
- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for dignity and privacy

## Victims of Offenses Charged in State Courts

If a case is investigated or prosecuted outside federal or tribal jurisdiction, victims may be entitled to additional rights under state law. DOI personnel will advise you who to contact for more information. You also may find victims' rights information on the websites of the state's Governor or Attorney General.

## Confidentiality Considerations

Please note that discussions you have with NPS personnel may not be considered completely confidential. There may be times when the NPS needs to share your information with others involved in the case. This is especially pertinent when the information relates to your safety, medical issues, child abuse, or when it could impact the case.

## Law Enforcement Contact Information

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Case #:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Important Local Contact Information

(list victim support services here or provide a list of local area providers)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(FY2016)



## Providing Services for Victims of Crimes

**National Park Service**  
Victim Assistance Program  
1201 Eye Street NW,  
10th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Victim Assistance  
Program Coordinator  
Pam McMillan  
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## Support for Crime Victims

The National Park Service (NPS) law enforcement officers involved in detecting and investigating crimes are committed to ensuring that crime victims receive rights, services and support to which they are entitled. We recognize that in the aftermath of a crime, victims may experience anger, grief, frustration, and fear. Moreover, the investigation and prosecution process can be complex and lengthy, resulting in additional confusion and frustration for victims. Although the days and months ahead may be difficult for you and your family, your assistance is crucial to ensuring that justice is served.

## The Investigation

As soon as possible after the crime is detected, the National Park Service officer will provide you with contact information for the principal law enforcement officer (LEO) and victim service provider handling the case. The LEO will ask you for identifying information, including your name, address, phone number, email, and alternate contact information to ensure that you receive important rights and services.

## If You Have Concerns About Your Safety

If you are threatened, intimidated, or harassed because you are a crime victim, please contact your LEO as soon as possible to discuss available protective measures. If you believe you are in immediate danger, please call 911.

## If Your Property Was Stolen:

The NPS hopes to recover stolen property, and if so, we will make every effort to return it to you as quickly as possible. Should the offender be convicted, the court may order him or her to pay restitution for stolen property.

## Information and Services for Crime Victims

Victims of crime who suffer direct physical, emotional, or pecuniary harm are entitled to information and services, as set forth in 42 United States Code § 10607, the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act (VRRRA). Pursuant to the VRRRA, the LEO involved in the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime will ensure that victims receive the following:

1. Information about and referrals to:
  - The criminal justice system in which the case will be prosecuted
  - Emergency medical, counseling, and other social services
  - Crime Victims Compensation programs available in the State in which the crime occurred
2. Reasonable protection from a suspected offender and persons acting in concert with or at the behest of the suspected offender.
3. Notice of:
  - Rights and services victims are entitled to receive and from whom (including contact information)
  - Status of the investigation unless providing such information will interfere with the investigation
  - Arrest of suspected offender(s)
  - Filing of federal criminal charges

**Any property being held for evidentiary purposes must be maintained in good condition and returned as soon as it is no longer needed.**

## Financial Support Resources

*State Crime Victim Compensation (CVC):* Every state has a CVC program that may be able to reimburse victims for certain crime-related expenses. Although each state has its own guidelines and requirements, many programs cover medical or counseling costs, funeral and burial expenses, lost wages and support not covered by insurance or other benefits, and in some cases, other crime-related costs such as crime scene clean-up. The LEO assigned to your case will advise you how to access these programs. You may also obtain additional information from the website of the National Association of CVC Boards at: <http://www.nacvcb.org/>.

## Restitution:

Upon conviction, and depending on where the case is prosecuted, a court may order an offender to pay restitution for expenses incurred by a victim as a result of the crime. We encourage you to talk to the LEO as early as possible about the type of documentation you should provide to support a claim for restitution.