



A MESSAGE FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL STEVEN T. MARSHALL

On behalf of the citizens of Alabama, I deeply regret the circumstance which brings you to need the important information contained in this brochure about the criminal justice system in our state. As your Attorney General, I believe the rule of law is the foundation of our system. My duty as Attorney General is to ensure justice is pursued to the fullest extent of the law, and to ensure the rule of law is not broken.

My office is staffed with experienced victims services officers who are ready to support, assist, and guide you through the challenging process that lies ahead. This brochure provides you with information about your rights as a crime victim. I invite you to contact my Office of Victim Assistance to find out how we can serve you.

You remain in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission

800.541.9388
www.acvcc.state.al.us

Alabama Department of Corrections

334.353.3871
www.doc.state.al.us/Victim.aspx

Alabama Department of Human Resources

334.242.9500
www.dhr.state.al.us

Alabama Department of Senior Services

800.243.5463
www.alabamaageline.gov

Alabama's Coalition Against Domestic Violence

334.832.4842 or 800.650.6522
www.acadv.org

Alabama's Coalition Against Rape

334.264.0123
www.acar.org

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (Alabama)

334.277.7722 or 800.635.0722
www.madd.org/local-offices/al

National Center for Victims of Crime

202.467.8700
www.victimsofcrime.org

National Children's Advocacy Center

256.533.KIDS (5437)

National Domestic Violence Hotline

800.799.SAFE (7233)
www.thehotline.org

National Organization for Victim Assistance

800.TRY.NOVA (879.6682)
www.trynova.org

National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline

866.331.9474
www.loveisrespect.org

Victim Connect Resource Center

855-4-VICTIM (855.484.2846)
www.VictimConnect.org

Victims of Crime and Leniency (VOCAL)

800.239.3219
www.vocalonline.org

VICTIMS OF CRIME

HELP AND SUPPORT



Compliments of the
Attorney General's Office of
Victims Assistance (AGOVA)



AGOVA CAN HELP ... SIGN UP FOR NOTIFICATIONS

Community Notification

A victim of a sexual offense has the right to request notification of the release of an inmate, the date of release, and the location of the inmate's residence by the AGOVA.

Pardon and Parole Protest

The Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles notifies the AGOVA and victims when an inmate convicted of a violent crime is scheduled for a pardon or parole hearing. The AGOVA submits written protests against the early release of all violent offenders. In addition, at the request of the victim, the AGOVA Officers attend the hearing to assist you and provide support.

Appellate Notification

The AGOVA Officers provide appellate notification assistance to victims of violent crimes who have registered with the AGOVA. During the appeals process, the AGOVA notifies violent crime victims of appellate court hearings, and accompanies victims to hearings to provide support and assistance during court proceedings.

TO REGISTER FOR NOTIFICATIONS CONTACT AGOVA

334.242.7342

800.626.7676

victims@ago.state.al.us

www.ago.alabama.gov

Post Office Box 300152
501 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0152

REMINDER: Keep the AGOVA updated with your current contact information, so we can contact you throughout the often lengthy judicial process.

WHERE DO I START?

Being the victim of a crime is traumatic. You may feel isolated and confused without knowing where to turn for advice and support. You should know there are many state and community resources available (see Important Resources on the back of this brochure) to help you and explain your rights as a victim under Alabama law. Victims Officers at the **Attorney General's Office of Victim Assistance (AGOVA)** are here to help you understand and exercise your rights. Below you will find some basic information about your rights as a crime victim. (ALA CODE §15-23-60 et seq.)

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

As a victim of crime in Alabama, you have a Constitutional right to be treated with fairness, respect, dignity, and to be informed and present throughout the criminal justice process. All state, county, and municipal justice agencies and courts in Alabama are required to perform certain duties to ensure your rights are upheld. Some of these rights are:

- A list of local emergency and crisis services.
- The name and telephone number of the officer and law enforcement agency handling your report.
- The procedural steps in a criminal prosecution.
- The availability of victim's compensation benefits.
- A listing of your rights as a victim, including a form to help you assert your rights.
- The existence and eligibility requirements of restitution and compensation.
- A recommended procedure in case you are subjected to threats or intimidation as a victim.
- Notification of all criminal proceedings and charges filed against the defendant and the right to be present at all proceedings.
- An explanation of the pre-sentence report and the right to make a written or oral statement to the probation officer.
- Notification of date, time, and location of any sentencing hearing and to present any information at a sentencing proceeding.
- Information regarding the return of any property taken during the course of the investigation.
- Be provided the date of conviction, acquittal, or dismissal of charges against the defendant and the sentence imposed.
- Refuse an interview or other communication with the defendant, their attorney, or anyone acting on their behalf.
- The status and result of any post-conviction appeal.
- Be supplied a waiting area separate from the defendant, his relatives, and defense witnesses (if available and practical).
- Submit a statement to be entered into the offender's records.
- Notification of release from prison, on bond, escape, re-arrest, or death of the defendant.

