

North East Montana Victim Services

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Victim Rights

There have been tremendous strides in the creation of legal rights and assistance programs for victims of crime. Today, every state, the District of Columbia, and several territories have an extensive body of basic rights and protections for victims of any crime within its statutory code. Victims' rights statutes have significantly influenced the manner in which victims are treated within the federal, state, and local criminal justice systems.

The core rights for victims of crime include:

- The right to be treated with fairness, dignity, sensitivity, and respect;
- The right to attend and be present at criminal justice proceedings;
- The right to be heard in the criminal justice process, including the right to confer with the prosecutor and submit a victim impact statement at sentencing, parole, and other similar proceedings;
- The right to be informed of proceedings and events in the criminal justice process, including the release or escape of the offender, legal rights and remedies, and available benefits and services, and access to records, referrals, and other information;
- The right to protection from intimidation and harassment;
- The right to restitution from the offender;
- The right to privacy;
- The right to apply for crime victim compensation;
- The right to the expeditious return of personal property seized as evidence whenever possible;
- The right to a speedy trial and other proceedings free from unreasonable delay;
- The right to enforcement of these rights and access to other available remedies.

Refer to Montana Code Annotated Title 46; Chapter 24 part 2 for a breakdown of the Montana victim rights laws.

Resources for crime victims

- Montana Coalition Against Domestic and sexual violence: 1-888-404-7794
Visit <https://mcadsv.com/>
- Montana Legal Services Association MLSA: 1-800-666-6899 or visit www.montanalawhelp.org
- Voices of Hope: 1-406-268-1337 or visit www.voicesofhopemt.org
- NE Montana Victim Services 406-228-8050 or visit <https://www.cityofglasgowmt.com/services3>
- Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) – (800) 456-3076
- Crime Victim Compensation visit www.dojmt.gov/victims/crime-victim-compensation.com
- The Criminal Justice System & You Information Guide for Victims of Crime <https://dojmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/criminaljusticeandyou.pdf> *also available through victim services