



# The Massachusetts Victim Bill of Rights

## M.G.L. Ch. 258B

The Massachusetts Victim Bill of Rights provides victims and witnesses of crime with **services** and **support** in the criminal justice system. These rights help victims, witnesses and families seek **justice** by also focusing on their **safety** and right to **participate** in the system.

### VICTIMS HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:

#### Pre-Trial and Throughout the Criminal Justice Process:

- To be informed about the criminal justice process and what to expect
- To be notified of court dates, postponements and the final disposition of the case
- To speak with prosecutors during the criminal case
- To be present at court proceedings and to wait in a safe and secure area
- To refuse interviews by the defendant's attorney or investigation team
- To be informed of counseling and other services
- To be informed of financial assistance options including restitution and Victim Compensation
- To have property returned once it is no longer needed as evidence
- To be excused from work for mandatory court participation
- To give an oral and/or written victim impact statement at sentencing

#### Post Conviction:

- To receive information from probation about conditions imposed on a convicted offender, restitution, and related probation hearings
- To offer a victim impact statement in the offender's parole records
- To be informed of and assisted with the CORI application process
- To be certified to receive information on an offender's release, transfer to a less secure facility, or escape from custody

For further explanation of these rights and services, please contact:

For additional resources, you may also contact the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance at 617-727-5200.



Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 258B, Section 3, this posting must be conspicuously posted and made accessible to the general public.