



CANADIAN VICTIMS BILL of RIGHTS

An Act for the Recognition of Victims Rights

Whereas crime has a harmful impact on victims and on society;

Whereas victims of crime and their families deserve to be treated with courtesy, compassion and respect, including respect for their dignity;

Whereas it is important that victims' rights be considered throughout the criminal justice system;

Whereas victims of crime have rights that are guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

Whereas consideration of the rights of victims of crime is in the interest of the proper administration of justice;

Whereas the federal, provincial and territorial governments share responsibility for criminal justice;

Whereas, in 1988, the federal, provincial and territorial governments endorsed the Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and, in 2003, the Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime, 2003;

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Every victim has the right, on request, to information about

- (a) the criminal justice system and the role of victims in it;
- (b) the services and programs available to them as a victim, including restorative justice programs; and
- (c) their right to file a complaint for an infringement or denial of any of their rights under this Act.

Every victim has the right, on request, to information about

- (a) the status and outcome of the investigation into the offence; and
- (b) the location of proceedings in relation to the offence, when they will take place and their progress and outcome.

Every victim has the right, on request, to information about

- (a) reviews under the Corrections and Conditional Release Act relating to the offender's conditional release and the timing and conditions of that release; and
- (b) hearings held for the purpose of making dispositions, as defined in subsection 672.1(1) of the Criminal Code, in relation to the accused, if the accused is found not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder or unfit to stand trial, and the dispositions made at those hearings.

RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION

Every victim has the right to convey their views about decisions to be made by appropriate authorities in the criminal justice system that affect the victim's rights under this Act and to have those views considered.

Every victim has the right to present a victim impact statement to the appropriate authorities in the criminal justice system and to have it considered.

RIGHT TO RESTITUTION

Every victim has the right to have the court consider making a restitution order against the offender.

Every victim in whose favour a restitution order is made has the right, if they are not paid, to have the order entered as a civil court judgment that is enforceable against the offender.

RIGHT TO PROTECTION

Every victim has the right to have their security considered by the appropriate authorities in the criminal justice system.


Every victim has the right to have reasonable and necessary measures taken by the appropriate authorities in the criminal justice system to protect the victim from intimidation and retaliation.

Every victim has the right to have their privacy considered by the appropriate authorities in the criminal justice system.

Every victim has the right to request that their identity be protected if they are a complainant to the offence or a witness in proceedings relating to the offence.

Every victim has the right to request testimonial aids when appearing as a witness in proceedings relating to the offence.

*As passed by the House of Commons
on February 23, 2015*


Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada