



Seek Justice Ensure Victims' Rights Inspire Hope

LAKE COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE Mission Statement

Dedicated to seeking justice with integrity by vigorously and ethically prosecuting criminal acts, with empathy and compassion for the victims of crime and unwavering respect for the rights of the accused; protecting the people of Lake County by working with our criminal justice partners to make our communities safe; and providing exceptional and professional legal representation to Lake County and its elected and appointed officials, thereby promoting responsible and trustworthy government.

“The criminal justice process can be incredibly frustrating for victims. Victims often feel that their voice is not heard and that their input is not welcomed. These rights are fundamental and an important step in making sure that our victims are treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve.”



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LAKE COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Victim/Witness Division
(847)377-3000 or visit us at www.lcsao.org

ILLINOIS VICTIMS Bill of Rights

The Illinois Constitution and Illinois statutes provide that victims of violent crime have the following rights:

- ▶ The right to be treated with fairness and respect for their dignity and privacy and to be free from harassment, intimidation and abuse throughout the criminal justice process.
- ▶ The right to notice and to a hearing before a court ruling on a request for access to any of the victim's records, information or communications which are privileged or confidential by law.
- ▶ The right to timely notification of all court proceedings.
- ▶ The right to communicate with the prosecution.
- ▶ The right to be heard at any post-arraignment court proceeding in which a right of the victim is at issue and any court proceeding involving a post-arraignment release decision, plea or sentencing.
- ▶ The right to be notified of the conviction, sentence, imprisonment and release of the accused.
- ▶ The right to timely disposition of the case following the arrest of the accused.
- ▶ The right to be reasonably protected from the accused through the criminal justice process.
- ▶ The right to have the safety of the victim and the victim's family considered in denying or fixing the amount of bail, determining whether to release the defendant and setting conditions of release after arrest and conviction.
- ▶ The right to be present at the trial and all other court proceedings on the same basis as the accused, unless the victim is to testify and the court determines that the victim's testimony would be materially affected if the victim hears other testimony at the trial.
- ▶ The right to be present at all court proceedings, subject to the rules of evidence, an advocate and other support person of the victim's choice.
- ▶ The right to restitution.

These rights apply in adult criminal proceedings and juvenile delinquency proceedings and are subject to change.

The law requires that these rights must be requested in writing when charges have been filed against an offender. This form is referred to as the "Notice of Victim's Assertion of Rights"/"Declaration of Victims Rights Form" (DVR).

Our goal is to make sure all victims of crime are informed of their Constitutional and Statutory Rights. Please note that victims of violent crimes are afforded additional remedies. Please contact your Victim/Witness Coordinator for more information on the DVR.