



CRIME VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS

RIGHTS OF CRIME VICTIMS AND DESIGNATED FAMILY MEMBERS UNDER LOUISIANA LAW

The State of Louisiana is committed to ensuring that crime victims and their families receive the support, protection, and justice they deserve. The rights below are guaranteed under Louisiana Revised Statutes 46:1844 and 46:1848.

RIGHTS OF CRIME VICTIMS & DESIGNATED FAMILY MEMBERS

1. The right to receive emergency, social, or medical services as soon as possible, and to receive a Victim Notice and Registration Form from law enforcement.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(A)(1)
2. The right to be notified of the defendant's arrest, release on recognizance, posting of bond, release pending the filing of charges (or rejection of charges by the prosecutor), escape, or re-apprehension.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(A)(3) & (Z)
3. The right to receive advance notice of, and to be present for, judicial proceedings or probation hearings.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(B)
4. The right, subject to reasonable efforts by the prosecutor before trial, to be interviewed regarding the facts of the case and requests for restitution.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(C)
5. The right to have such interviews conducted in a private setting, with access to a victim advocate, social worker, or psychologist for support, if requested.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(C)
6. The right to refuse requests for interviews with the defense attorney or the defense attorney's agent or employee.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(C)(3)
7. The right to retain your own legal counsel for discussions with the district attorney and judicial agencies.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(D)(1)
8. The right to request, orally or in writing, a conference with the prosecutor's office to discuss disposition of the case, sentencing alternatives, and restitution.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(D)(2)
9. The right to assistance in informing your employer that participation in the prosecution may require absence from work.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(E)
10. The right to be notified of scheduling changes.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(F)
11. The right to a secure waiting area during court proceedings, away from the defendant or the defendant's family.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(G)
12. The right to review and comment on pre-sentence or post-sentence reports.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(H)
13. The right to protection under all rules and laws governing criminal procedure and the admissibility of evidence.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(I)
14. The right to a speedy disposition and prompt, final conclusion of the case after conviction and sentencing.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(J)
15. The right to be present and heard at all critical stages of the proceedings, including the right to make a written or oral victim impact statement.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(K)(1)
16. The right to request that the victim impact statement be sealed for privacy concerns.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(K)
17. The right to be notified by the court of the minimum and maximum sentence allowed by law, and the opportunity to comment on the proposed sentence.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(K)(3)
18. The right to have your property returned at the proper time.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(L)
19. The right to seek restitution from the defendant, with no court recording fees.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(M)
20. In death penalty cases, the right to notification of execution details and the right to be present.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(N)
21. In death penalty cases, the right not to be contacted by the offender or the offender's supporters or representatives unless.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(Y)
22. The right to be notified of parole hearings and to make written or oral victim impact statements, including proposed contact and proximity restrictions as parole conditions.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(O)
23. The right to confidentiality — to prevent release of the victim's name, address, contact information, or identity — if the victim is a minor or a victim of a sex offense or human trafficking.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(W)
24. For victims of violent crime, the right to request and obtain a copy of the initial police report at no cost.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(X)

RIGHTS OF WITNESSES & DESIGNATED FAMILY MEMBERS

A witness or designated family member, as defined under Louisiana law, is also guaranteed the following rights:

- 1** The right to receive emergency, social, or medical services as soon as possible, and to receive a Victim Notice and Registration Form from law enforcement.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(A)(1)
- 2** The right to be notified of the defendant's release, discharge of sentence, escape, or re-apprehension.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(N)(2) & (3)
- 3** The right to assistance in informing your employer that participation in the prosecution may require absence from work.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(E)
- 4** The right to be notified of scheduling changes.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(F)
- 5** The right to a secure waiting area during court proceedings, away from the defendant or the defendant's family.
Ref: R.S. 46:1844(G)

NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you have questions about these rights or need help accessing victim services, contact the law enforcement agency or district attorney's office handling your case, or the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, which administers the state's comprehensive victims' services system.

Statutory Authority

This document reproduces the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights as set forth in La. R.S. 46:1848(C) and (D), enacted by 2025 La. Acts No. 370 (House Bill 479).

Section 2 of Act No. 370 directs that "the office of the governor shall prepare a printable version of the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights as set forth above for public consumption." This document is published by the Office of the Governor pursuant to that statutory directive and is provided free of charge upon request.