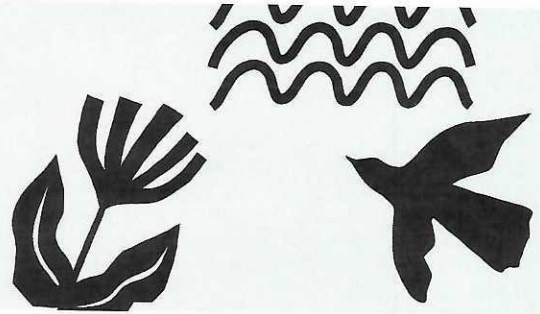


# Victims & Witnesses Have Rights!



As a victim of crime, you may experience:

- Shock
- Disbelief
- Fear
- Vulnerability
- Anger
- Frustration

The complexity and limitations of the agencies in the criminal justice system can become additional sources of frustration for you as a victim or witness. Knowing and understanding your rights may assist you in this process.

**Victim and Witness Bill of Rights: The Utah Legislature has passed a number of provisions to afford specific rights to victims and witnesses. A summary of those rights are as follows:**

- Be treated with fairness, respect and dignity, and to be free from harassment and abuse through the criminal justice process.
- Freedom from threats and intimidation, which includes a safe waiting area during court proceedings.
- Information about important criminal justice proceedings and to have those proceedings explained to you.
- Be present in the courtroom for important criminal justice hearings.
- Speak to the Court regarding the defendant's bail, sentencing, or any plea offers.
- Compensation for your financial losses in the form of reparations and/or restitution.
- The return of any personal property taken as evidence after it is no longer needed for investigation.
- A speedy resolution of the case.

**Additional Rights for Children:**

- Investigation and other proceedings should be done in the least traumatic or intrusive way possible.
- Interviews related to the investigation should be age-appropriate and kept to a minimum.
- Be informed of available community resources and how to gain access to those resources.
- Protection from physical and emotional abuse during their involvement with the criminal justice process.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:  
UTAH OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME: 801-238-2360 [CRIMEVICTIM.UTAH.GOV/VICTIM-RIGHTS/](http://CRIMEVICTIM.UTAH.GOV/VICTIM-RIGHTS/)