

## What Can't OVR Do?

We cannot:

- Collect reimbursements for victims. Victims should consult with the Violent Crimes Compensation Board for compensation, or consult a private attorney for other monetary collection;
- Represent defendants charged with an offense who have a complaint involving that same crime. Defendants should consult their attorney for assistance;
- Bring any criminal action against another person or agency for the victim;
- Reverse decisions already made by a criminal justice agency.

## What Can I Expect?

First you will need to complete a request for help, which is available on our website, in our office, or can be sent to you. After we receive your request, we will call you to talk about your experience and concerns. When the investigation begins, one of our attorneys will contact you. The attorney assigned to your case will continue to represent you throughout the investigation. Before your case is finalized, you will have an opportunity to discuss the results with the OVR attorney.

## How Is OVR Different From Other Victims' Support Agencies?

We provide legal help to crime victims who believe their victim rights may have been violated by a justice agency. We do not provide counseling or grief support, collect money, handle civil matters, or assist reimbursement of victims' costs. We can provide referrals to agencies which may assist in these areas, including agencies such as Standing Together Against Rape, Victims for Justice local shelters, and the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB), which can provide some financial assistant to victims of violent crimes.

## Do I Have To Pay For OVR's Help?

No. There is no cost to crime victims. OVR is a free service provided by the Alaska Legislature.

The Alaska  
Office Of Victims' Rights  
1007 West 3rd Ave. Suite 205  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1936

Main Telephone: 907-754-3460  
Toll Free: 844-754-3460

Fax: 907-754-3469

Website: [ovr.akleg.gov](http://ovr.akleg.gov)

Or E-mail us at:

[officeofvictimsrights@akleg.gov](mailto:officeofvictimsrights@akleg.gov)

OVR is an agency of the Alaska Legislature.

**FREE LEGAL HELP  
FOR  
CRIME VICTIMS**

**THE  
ALASKA  
OFFICE OF  
VICTIMS'  
RIGHTS  
HELPS  
VICTIMS OF  
CRIME  
PROTECT  
THEIR RIGHTS**

**WHAT ARE  
MY RIGHTS?...**

## What Are My Rights?

Crime victims have many rights in Alaska. Listed below are *some* of them. For a complete list of constitutional and statutory rights, please visit our website at [ovr.akleg.gov](http://ovr.akleg.gov).

### *Victims have a right to:*

- Fair, respectful treatment by all;
- Protection from the accused;
- Access to talk to prosecutors;
- Timely disposition of your case;
- Be present at all proceedings where the accused is present, including juvenile proceedings;
- Restitution;
- Be told when the accused is released or escapes from jail before or after conviction or juvenile adjudication;
- Immediate medical assistance;
- Privacy: Personal information about any victim or witness is confidential. Kidnapping and sexual assault victims' names may not be used in public records;
- Be heard at bail hearings regarding the defendant's release, at pre-trial conferences regarding continuances, and at sentencing by providing a victim impact statement. Victims also have a right to be heard at any hearing where a change in the defendant's commitment status is proposed;
- Notification of release or change of custody status of accused;

- Not speak with defense counsel and/or their investigators or, if the victim agrees, the victim can have a prosecuting attorney or another attorney present during the defense interview;
- Be told both by police and the prosecutors about the Office of Victims' Rights and provided contact information;
- Participate at the defendant's initial appearance before a magistrate when bail conditions are set.

### *Sexual Assault/Abuse Victims' Rights:*

- Not to be charged for medical rape exams;
- Testing of the accused upon request of the victim for HIV and STD;
- Past sexual conduct is inadmissible at trial, unless a judge rules it is relevant.

### *Victims' Rights at Trial:*

- Not to be compelled to submit to psychiatric evaluation unless it is an element of the offense;
- Employer cannot penalize or threaten victim for attendance at court proceedings.

### *Victims' Rights After Sentencing:*

- Notice of appeal;
- Complete conviction history provided after sentencing;
- Victims' restitution paid first if profit is made from crime by reenactment.

### *Victims' Post-Sentencing Modification Rights:*

- To address the court;
- Be notified of motions to modify the defendant's sentence;
- Notice of hearings to review discretionary parole.

## Who Does OVR Help?

We help crime victims who feel their rights may be denied or have been denied by justice agencies, including the police, prosecutors or judges. People who are considered victims can be actual victims; parents or guardians of a minor or incapacitated child or incapacitated adult; or family members of deceased victims of the following types of crimes:

- Any felony crime;
- Class A misdemeanors involving domestic violence, and;
- Any crime that is a "crime against a person".

## How Can OVR Help?

We can make inquiries to justice agencies, issue subpoenas, hold private hearings, and review copies of all records the defendant receives. As a result of OVR's work, problems can be identified, your rights can be protected, agencies may change procedures, and other victims will be spared similar experiences.

## Is My Information Confidential?

Yes, OVR is required by law to keep confidential information and the identities of victims and witnesses, unless the victim gives permission to disclose. Confidential records obtained from a court or justice agency cannot be disclosed even to a victim.