

SUMMARY OF YOUR RIGHTS

As a victim of crime in Ohio, you have Constitutional rights. All state, county, and municipal justice agencies are required to perform certain duties to ensure that you receive your rights. Please read the overview below for more information on victims' rights in Ohio.

- Who is a victim for the purposes of exercising rights?
 - The Constitution says that a victim is any person against whom a criminal offense or delinquent act is committed or any person who is directly and proximately harmed by the commission of the offense or act. The accused is not a victim.

- Requesting or waiving my rights
 - Some rights are given to victims automatically and some must be requested. The following rights must be requested in Ohio:
 - The right to reasonable and timely notice of all public proceedings involving criminal offense or delinquent act against the victim
 - The right to reasonable notice of the escape or release of the offender
 - The right to confer with the prosecutor
 - The right to appoint a representative to exercise your rights along with you or instead of you
 - Your decision to request or waive your rights DOES NOT mean that you cannot change your mind later. However, if you first waive your rights and then request them at a later time, you may be giving up some rights that only apply at certain stages of the criminal justice process.
 - Arraignment is an important initial hearing during the criminal justice process. Arraignment can happen very quickly and often involves the decision of the court about whether or not to release an offender. If you would like to attend arraignment and be heard by the court, you should call the court, jail, and/or law enforcement to confirm the time and date of the arraignment.
 - There are other important rights and protections that apply to crime victims in Ohio. Many of these are explained in more detail in the Attorney General's Office's Ohio Crime Victim's Rights booklet and can also be found online at www.victimrights toolkit.org.

- Your right to restitution
 - If someone is found guilty of the crime(s) committed against you, the court may order that person to re-pay you for the financial costs of your victimization. This court-ordered payment is known as restitution. Victims of crime have a constitutional right to full and timely restitution. If charges are filed in your case, it is important that you contact the prosecutor's victim services program for more information and assistance with the restitution program. You should save receipts, estimates, invoices, pay stubs for lost wages, medical or other bills, mileage logs, and other written documentation of your losses as this documentation will be required in order to obtain restitution.

COUNTY: _____ CASE NAME: _____ CASE NO.: _____

NOTICE OF VICTIM'S ASSERTION OF RIGHTS

Pursuant to Article I, Section 10a of the Ohio Constitution, I assert the rights checked below. I understand that if I change my mind, I must complete and sign a new Notice of Victim's Assertion of Rights and give the form to the Prosecutor's office.

REQUEST WAIVE

- The right to be informed, in writing, of my constitutional rights.
- The right to be treated with fairness and respect for my safety, dignity, and privacy.
- The right to reasonable protection from the offender and anyone acting on the offender's behalf.
- The right to appoint a representative. Name _____
- The right to reasonable and timely notice of all public proceedings.
- The right to be present at all public proceedings.
- The right to be heard in all public proceedings, including those involving release, plea, sentencing, disposition, parole, and any other hearing that involves victims' rights.
- The right to confer with the prosecutor in your case.
- The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay and a prompt conclusion of your case.
- The right to refuse an interview, deposition, or discovery request from the accused or any person acting on the accused's behalf.
- The right to full and timely restitution from the offender.
- The right to notice of the escape or release of the offender.

You have the right to exercise your rights on your own behalf, through a victims' representative, or through an attorney that you retain.

Printed Name of Victim: _____

Signature of Victim: _____

Date: _____