



## EXPLANATION OF VICTIM RIGHTS & NOTIFICATION PREFERENCES

Under the *Victims' Rights and Restitution Act (VRRRA)*, 42 U.S.C. §10607, victims are entitled:

- To be notified they have been the victim of a federal crime;
- To be informed of the place where they may receive medical and social services;
- To be informed of public and private programs available for counseling, treatment, and other support services;
- To receive reasonable protection from a suspected offender and persons acting in concert with or at the behest of the suspected offender;
- To know the status of the investigation of the crime, to the extent it is appropriate and it will not interfere with the investigation;
- To have personal property being held for evidentiary purposes maintained in good condition and returned as soon as it is no longer needed for evidentiary purposes.

Additionally, under the *Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA)*, 18 U.S.C. §3771, if federal charges are filed involving images or material depicting the victim, victims (or a parent, guardian, or other appropriate alternate contact while victim is a minor) will have the following rights:

- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused;
- The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding, or any parole proceeding, involving the crime or of any release or escape of the accused;
- The right not to be excluded from any such public court proceeding, unless the court, after receiving clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding;
- The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, sentencing, or any parole proceeding;
- The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case;
- The right to full and timely restitution as provided in law;
- The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay;
- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.
- The right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement.
- The right to be informed of the rights under this section and the services described in section 503(c) of the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607(c)) and provided contact information for the Office of the Victims' Rights Ombudsman of the Department of Justice. The Victims' Rights Ombudsman may be contacted at [usaao.VictimOmbudsman@usdoj.gov](mailto:usaao.VictimOmbudsman@usdoj.gov) if you believe a Department of Justice employee has failed to provide you rights under the Crime Victims' Rights Act.

It is possible for a victim's images to be possessed and distributed numerous times by many individuals. As a result, those images may be involved in more than one federal investigation or prosecution. Victims may choose to be notified each time their images are involved in a case resulting in frequent notifications. If a victim chooses not to be notified, the Department of Justice (DOJ), including the FBI, will **not** provide notice when their images are involved in a federal investigation or prosecution. Victims may seek the advice of an attorney with respect to these rights. A victim represented by an attorney may elect to have the attorney receive notifications on his or her behalf.

Victims may choose at any time to discontinue notification or restart the notification process. To change notification preference, please contact the FBI Office for Victim Assistance at 1-877-236-8947 or [CPVA@fbi.gov](mailto:CPVA@fbi.gov). The FBI and the DOJ will only provide notice based on a victim's preference. Other parties may continue to provide notification, including state and local criminal justice officials defense attorneys representing offenders, or court officials preparing a report for the judge prior to sentencing an offender.

Once a victim of a federal crime reaches age of majority (18), the FBI will take reasonable steps to contact the victim to provide him or her with notice of these rights and determine his or her notification preference.