



## **EXPLANATION OF VICTIMS' RIGHTS**

**The *Victims' Rights and Restitution Act (VRRRA)*, 42 U.S.C. §10607, ensures 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, the *Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA)* of 2004, 18 U.S.C. §3771 provides that officers and employees of the Department of Justice shall make their best efforts to see crime victims are notified of, and accorded, 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 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. If you believe a Department of Justice employee has failed to provide your rights under the CVRA, you can contact the Victims' Rights Ombudsman at [usafo.VictimOmbudsman@usdoj.gov](mailto:usafo.VictimOmbudsman@usdoj.gov).

## EXPLANATION OF LOSSES SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE RESTITUTION

Under the law, as part of the criminal sentence imposed on a defendant, or as part of a plea agreement, victims may be entitled to restitution for certain losses suffered as a result of the commission of an offense.

The full amount of a victim's losses may include any costs incurred by the victim as a result of the crime, including:

- *Medical services relating to physical, psychiatric, or psychological care*
- *Physical and occupational therapy or rehabilitation*
- *Necessary transportation, temporary housing, and child care expenses*
- *Lost income*
- *Attorneys' fees, as well as other costs incurred*
- *Any other losses suffered by the victim as a proximate result of the offense.*

To assist in determining eligibility for restitution, it is important to keep a record, with receipts when applicable, of all expenses incurred as a result of the crime. The Victim Assistance Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office will provide assistance regarding the submission of claims for restitution.