

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK, APRIL 21-27, 2013

1976
First prosecutor-based victim assistance program is established in the St. Louis County Attorney's Office in Duluth.

1974
Crime Victims Reparations Board is created to provide financial compensation to victims of violent crimes.

1971
First rape crisis program is established in Minneapolis; first battered women's shelter opens in St. Paul.

1986
Legislature adds a number of rights to chapter 611A, including the rights to increased participation, to obtain a civil judgment to satisfy a restitution order, and to be free from potentially adverse effects of participation. In May, OCVO officially opens as the first crime victim ombudsman's office in the nation.

1985
Legislature enacts Minnesota Statutes sections 611A.72-74 establishing the Office of Crime Victims Ombudsman (OCVO), the first victim rights compliance office in the nation.

1983
Crime Victim Bill of Rights is passed (Minnesota Statutes chapter 611A). It's the first law providing comprehensive crime victim rights, including notification and participation in the criminal justice process.

1996
Legislature expands victim notification rights to require notice of bail hearings to victims of domestic violence and harassment.

1991
Legislature amends chapter 611A to require that prosecutors make reasonable efforts to notify victims of final case dispositions and custodial authorities to notify victims, on request, if an offender escapes from confinement or is transferred to a less secure correctional facility.

1990
Legislature enhances legal protections for victims of harassment, including the right to keep their identities confidential in certain government records.

2000
Changes are enacted to the sex offender registration statute to better track sex offenders (Katie's Law). Domestic abuse no contact orders are established and law enforcement officers are given warrantless arrest authority for misdemeanor violations of domestic abuse no contact orders.

1999
Legislature enhances confidentiality of personal information for crime victims and witnesses and limits an offender's right to challenge a restitution order.

1997
Minnesota's sex offender registration law is enhanced to provide community notification of sex offenders convicted of an offense.

2002
Legislature clarifies that the costs for sexual assault exams are the responsibility of the county in which the alleged offense occurred, and that payment is not dependent on the victim reporting the alleged offense to law enforcement.

2001
Legislature enacts law requiring prosecutors to notify victims who have so requested to be notified of expungement proceedings; gives victims the right to be present and submit a statement at the expungement hearing.

2006
Safe at Home, an address confidentiality program for domestic abuse victims, is established.

2005
Definition of "victim" is expanded to include family members of a minor, incompetent, incapacitated or deceased person. Additional protection is given to victims against employer retaliation for taking time off to attend order for protection or criminal proceedings.

2004
Grounds for extending an order for protection are amended to include situations when the respondent is incarcerated and about to be released, or has recently been released from incarceration.

2008
Process established for domestic abuse victims to get an order for protection extended for up to 50 years.

2007
Domestic abuse victims are accorded the right to terminate their rental lease without penalty or liability.

2007
Sexual assault victims cannot be required to take a polygraph examination in order for a case to be investigated or prosecuted.



1965
The first crime victim compensation program is established in California.

1972
The first three victim assistance programs are established in Missouri, California and Washington, D.C.

1982
The Victim and Witness Protection Act brings "fair treatment standards" to victims and witnesses in the federal criminal justice system.

1984
The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) is passed, creating the Crime Victims Fund to help support victim assistance programs and state compensation programs, and fund research and efforts that promote promising practices for crime victims.

1988
The Drunk Driving Prevention Act is passed: all states raise the minimum drinking age to 21.

1994
The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (VAWA) is enacted, providing significant funding to improve the investigation and prosecution of crimes of violence against women, and support advocacy services for battered women and their children.

1996
The Drug-Induced Rape Prevention Act is enacted to address the emerging issue of drug-facilitated rape and sexual assault.

2004
Victims of federal crimes are given significantly expanded rights in the Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA), including the right to be present in public proceedings involving release, plea, sentencing and parole.