



LANDMARKS IN MINNESOTA VICTIM RIGHTS AND SERVICES

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

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

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

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

1984 Governor-appointed task force holds public hearings in seven cities across the state to air public concerns and determine needs of crime victims. Testimony taken from victims and victim service providers results in a clear mandate for a voice in the criminal justice system.

1985 The Office of Crime Victims Ombudsman (OCVO), the first victim rights compliance office in the nation, is established.

1986 Chapter 611A is expanded to include 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.

1988 Right to give a victim impact statement becomes law. Prosecutors must give notice to victims of domestic abuse in cases where charges declined or dismissed.

1990 Legal protections for victims of harassment, including the right to keep their identities confidential in certain government records, are enhanced.

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

1993 Law enforcement agencies are required to make reasonable efforts to notify victims of motor vehicle thefts when vehicles are recovered and how to retrieve them; procedures for giving crime victims written notification of their rights are streamlined; and minor prosecution witnesses are allowed to have a supportive person in the courtroom during their testimony in any criminal case involving a violent crime.

1996 Victim notification rights expanded to require notice of bail hearings to victims of domestic violence and harassment.

1997 Minnesota's sex offender registration law is enhanced to provide community notification of sex offenders convicted of an offense requiring registration and released from prison after January 1, 1997.

1999 Confidentiality of personal information for crime victims and witnesses is enhanced and limits are placed on an offender's right to challenge a restitution order.

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 these orders.

2001 In expungement proceedings, prosecutors are required to notify victims who have requested to be notified, and victims the right to be present and submit a statement at the expungement hearing.

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 offense to law enforcement.

2003 Victim's right to give oral or written objections is extended to plea hearings. OCVO is renamed the Crime Victim Justice Unit and incorporated into the Office of Justice Programs as part of a statewide reorganization.

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.

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

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

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.

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

2014 Hospitals must provide a notice to sexual assault victims containing information about their crime victim rights, payment obligation for the forensic sexual assault exam, civil protective order options, and important supportive resources.

2014 Right to terminate rental lease without penalty or liability extended to victims of criminal sexual conduct and stalking.

2018 Sexual assault victims have the right to get information from law enforcement about the status of their medical forensic examination kits.

2020 All medical forensic examination kits are required to be tested, with the consent of the sexual assault victim, and those kits without the victim's consent to be tested will be stored by the BCA. Legislation requires the BCA to create a statewide tracking system of sexual assault examination kits.

2021 Prosecutors are required to notify victims of the post-conviction rights at the conclusion of a case.