

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 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.

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. OCVO officially opens as the first crime victim ombudsman's office in the nation in May.

1988 Right to give a victim impact statement becomes law. Crime victim rights statute amended to include specific provisions related to domestic violence cases.

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

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.

1993 Legislature makes the following changes affecting crime victims: 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; 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 Legislature expands victim notification rights 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 Legislature enhances confidentiality of personal information for crime victims and witnesses, and limits 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 given warrantless arrest authority for misdemeanor violations of domestic abuse no contact orders.

2001 Legislature enacts law requiring prosecutors to notify victims who have so requested to be notified of expungement proceedings and gives 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 alleged offense to law enforcement.

2003 Victims' 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 against employer retaliation for taking time off to attend order for protection or criminal proceedings.

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.

2013 Minnesota Child Victims Act eliminates civil statutes of limitations for sexual abuse of minors.