## STATE VICTIM RIGHTS COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Office of Victim Rights</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>The office investigates complaints of violations of victim rights, and assists victims in obtaining these rights. It also provides free legal services to victims, such as appointing an attorney to represent them at sentencing and speak for them, if the victim wants such representation.</td>
<td>Taylor Winston, Director State of Alaska Office of Victims’ Rights 1007 West 3rd Ave., Suite 205 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 907-754-3460 844-754-3460 (AK toll free) <a href="mailto:officeofvictimsrights@akleg.gov">officeofvictimsrights@akleg.gov</a> <a href="http://www.ovr.legis.state.ak.us">www.ovr.legis.state.ak.us</a></td>
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<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Victim Rights Act Compliance Program</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>A seven-member subcommittee of the board initially reviews complaints of violations of the Victim Rights Act. The board also reviews grant requests for VOCA and VAWA funding. The Attorney General can become involved with a VRA complaint if an agency in violation has not complied with the recommendations set forth by the VRA Subcommittee.</td>
<td>Kelly Kissell Office for Victims Programs Colorado Division of Criminal Justice Kim Branham Victim Rights Act Specialist 700 Kipling Street, Suite 1000 Denver, Co 80215-5865 303-239-4497 888-282-1080 <a href="mailto:kelly.kissell@state.co.us">kelly.kissell@state.co.us</a> <a href="mailto:kim.branham@state.co.us">kim.branham@state.co.us</a> <a href="http://dcj.state.co.us/ovp/VRA.html">http://dcj.state.co.us/ovp/VRA.html</a></td>
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| Connecticut| The Office of the Victim Advocate                 | 1999         | The OVA is an independent state agency whose mandates include receive and investigate complaints from crime victims or others on behalf of the crime victim, to determine whether the victims’ rights have been violated; enter an appearance in any court for the purpose of protecting the right(s) of crime victims; participate in public education and outreach to enhance the community’s knowledge base regarding crime victims’ rights in CT; recommend policy and legislative initiatives to advance the rights of crime victim or remove barriers to justice; and monitor the delivery of services to the crime victim population, including interactions with crime victims and the State Witness Protection Program and the Office of Chief Medical Examiner. | Natasha Pierre  
Office of Victim Advocate  
505 Hudson St. 5th Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860-550-6632  
888-771-3126  
Natasha.Pierre@ct.gov  
https://portal.ct.gov/OVA |
| Maryland   | Victim Rights Compliance Initiative               |              | The compliance coordinator investigates complaints against state or local criminal justice agencies, and reports findings, conclusions and recommendations to parties involved. The compliance coordinator can conduct audits/evaluations of criminal justice agencies to determine level of compliance and make recommendations for change. | Kimberly Herndon  
Victim Rights Compliance Coordinator  
Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention at UB University of Baltimore, College of Public Affairs, School of Criminal Justice  
10 West Preston Street, Rm. S42  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-5779  
(410) 837-5938  
kimberly.herndon@maryland.gov  
http://goccp.maryland.gov/victims/rights-resources/compliance-initiative/ |
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| Minnesota   | Crime Victim Justice Unit                        | 1986         | The CVJU investigates complaints from victims about statutory rights violations and victim mistreatment. The office develops informational materials for both crime victims and criminal justice professionals, and initiates and assists in legislative proposals related to crime victims. Although Minnesota’s compliance effort no longer carries the title of ombudsman, it operates under the same principles. The CVJU provides both informal assistance to crime victims and conducts formal investigations, the result of which includes determinations on each complaint accompanied by recommendations to ameliorate the harm done to the victim and improve procedures to prevent similar problems in the future. | Suzanne Elwell, Director  
45 Minnesota St. Suite 2300  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
651-201-7312  
800-247-0390  
suzanne.elwell@state.mn.us  
cvju.ojp@state.mn.us  
| Oregon      | Crime Victims' Rights Program                    | 2006         | The Crime Victims' Rights Program works with the Attorney General's Task Force on Victims' Rights Enforcement to develop and update materials that support compliance with the law, train system practitioners, and service providers and increase awareness about crime victims' rights. Statutory changes in 2009 now allow victims to file formal motions with the court when victims’ rights have been violated. Topic focused workgroups and committees address specific gaps in system awareness and compliance. In 2010 legislative action extended crime victims’ rights to post-conviction, appeals, and federal habeas cases, and Oregon DOJ operates a post-conviction victim advocacy program. | Helen O'Brien  
Crime Victims' Rights Program Coordinator  
Oregon Department of Justice  
1162 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-378-5348  
800-503-7983  
helen.obrien@doj.state.or.us  
http://www.oregoncrimevictimsrights.org/ |
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| Pennsylvania | Office of Victim Advocate         |              | Offers email address to voice concerns when victim feels their rights have been violated. The OVS work with many partners in the juvenile and criminal justice systems, to ensure that victims of crime get the help they need to move forward. | Suzanne V. Estrella  
Commonwealth Victim Advocate  
Office of the Victim Advocate  
1101 S. Front Street, Suite 5200  
Harrisburg, PA 17104  
1-800-563-6399  
Ra-ovainfo@pa.gov  
http://www.ova.state.pa.us/ |
| South Carolina | Crime Victims' Ombudsman           | 1996         | Provides referrals, acts as a liaison between victims and justice system elements, and reviews complaints in an attempt to resolve any conflicts | Veronica Swain Kunz  
Crime Victim Ombudsman  
South Carolina Attorney General’s Office  
Crime Victim Services Division  
1205 Pendleton Street, 4th floor  
Columbia, SC 29201  
Telephone: 803-734-0357  
Direct Line: 803-734-5228  
Fax: 803-734-1428  
v kunz@oepp.sc.gov  
http://www.scag.gov/crime-victim-ombudsman |
| Utah       | Victims Rights Committee           |              | A committee for each judicial district that meets semiannually to review victim complaints. This committee is appointed for each judicial district | Hildegard Koenig  
350 East 500 south, Ste. 200  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111  
801-238-2369  
cwatters@utah.gov |
### Wisconsin

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| Wisconsin   | Victim Resource Center             |              | The Victim Resource Center (VRC) assists victims of crime by providing information and referrals and an informal complaint process to help victims assert their rights. Mediators act as a liaison with criminal justice professionals to advocate for victims who are having difficulty exercising their rights. All victims who want to file a formal complaint with the Wisconsin Crime Victims Rights Board must first participate in the informal complaint process through the VRC. The vast majority of rights’ complaints in Wisconsin are resolved through this process. | Anne Kessenich  
Director of Victim Services  
Wisconsin Department of Justice  
17 W. Main Street  
Madison, WI 53707-7951  
608-267-5251  
800-446-6564  
kessenicham@doj.state.wi.us  
[http://www.doj.state.wi.us/cvs/](http://www.doj.state.wi.us/cvs/)                                                                                                                                  |
| Wisconsin   | Crime Victim Rights Board          | 1999         | The board can issue private/public reprimand of officials and agencies that violate victim rights, refer violations by judges to a judicial committee, seek relief to protect victims’ rights, and bring civil actions to assess a forfeiture. Intentional violations are subject to a forfeiture up to $1000. | Julie Braun  
Wisconsin Department of Justice  
819 North 6th Street, Ste. 180  
Milwaukee, WI 53203  
414-227-1865  
800-446-6564  
braunja@doj.state.wi.us  
[https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ocvs/victim-rights/crime-victims-rights-board](https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ocvs/victim-rights/crime-victims-rights-board)       |
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| U.S.  | Office of the Victims' Rights Ombudsman | 2004 | A crime victim may file a complaint against any employee of the Department of Justice who violated or failed to provide the rights established under the Crime Victims' Rights Act of 2004, 18 U.S.C. § 3771. The Department of Justice has established the Office of the Victims' Rights Ombudsman to receive and investigate complaints filed by crime victims against its employees, and has implemented Procedures to Promote Compliance with Crime Victims' Rights Obligations, 28 C.F.R. § 45.10 | Marie A. O'Rourke  
Victims’ Rights Ombudsman  
Executive Office for United States Attorneys  
Department of Justice  
RFK Main Justice Building  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Room 2261  
Washington, DC 20530-0001  
202-252-1010  
877-574-9302 (toll free)  
Fax: 202-252-1011  
http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/vr/ |
| Canada | Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime | 2007 | The Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime is a new, independent resource for victims in Canada. The Office was created in 2007 to ensure the federal government meets its responsibilities to victims of crime. | Sue O'Sullivan  
Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime  
P.O. Box 55037  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 1A1  
866-481-8429  
victimsfirst@ombudsman.gc.ca  
www.victimsfirst.gc.ca |