

GEORGIA CRIME VICTIM'S BILL OF RIGHTS

O.C.G.A. 17-17-1

VICTIMS HAVE THE RIGHT:

- To be treated fairly and with dignity by all criminal justice agencies involved in the case
- To proceedings free from unreasonable delay
- To be notified of the availability of Victims Compensation, which is available under the Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program at (800) 547-0060 or www.cjcc.ga.gov
- To be notified of the Georgia Crime Victims Bill of Rights
- To be notified of community based victim service programs
- To reasonable, accurate and timely notice of the following:
 - An arrest warrant being issued for the accused
 - The accused's arrest
 - The condition that the accused is prohibited from contacting the victim
 - The accused's release or escape from custody
 - Any court proceeding where the release of the accused will be considered
 - Any scheduled court proceedings or any changes to such proceedings, including restitution hearings
 - The accused's release on an electronic release and/or monitoring program
- To be present at all criminal proceedings in which the accused has the right to be present
- To NOT be excluded from any scheduled court proceedings, except as provided in O.C.G.A. 17-17-1 or otherwise provided by law
- To a waiting area, during judicial proceedings, that is separate from the accused and his or her relatives, friends and witnesses
- To be reasonably heard at any scheduled court proceedings involving the release, plea or sentencing of the accused
- To complete a Victim Impact Statement and have it presented to the court prior to the trial or plea of the accused (O.C.G.A. 17-10-1.1)
- To restitution as provided by law
- To refuse to submit to an interview by the accused, accused's attorney or agent of the accused
- To a requirement by court that defense counsel not disclose victim information to the accused (17-17-10)
- To be notified by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) if the accused is committed to the DBHDD for an evaluation, as mentally incompetent to stand trial or as not guilty by reason of insanity at the time of the crime. Upon the written request of the victim, at least ten days before the release or discharge, the department shall mail notice to the victim of the accused release from such facility.
- To request not to receive any form of written, text, or electronic communication from an inmate who was convicted of a criminal offense against the victim
- To be advised on how to file a complaint with the Judicial Qualification Commission if a judge denies the victim's right to be heard.