

**VICTIM RIGHTS IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES**  
**FOR NON-LISTED CRIMES**

As the victim (or family member) in a case referred to the Family Division for juvenile delinquency proceedings, you are entitled to the following rights:

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A victim advocate in the prosecutor's office will be available to assist you. You will be notified that a case has been filed in court. If the court orders conditions of release that relate to you or a member of your family or current household, you will be notified about those conditions, as well as the juvenile's name. If you do not learn the juvenile's name at the start of the case, you will have an opportunity to request the juvenile's name if he or she is found to be delinquent. Juvenile delinquency cases are confidential, which means that it's important not to share any information about the case, including the fact that a case has been filed in court against the juvenile. Sharing information that you learn about the court case with anyone other than a mental health counselor or a lawyer (or the minor victim, if you are a parent or guardian) could result in a fine or other sanction issued by the court. You may be eligible for victims compensation available from the Vermont Victims Compensation Program to cover uninsured expenses for counseling, medical treatment, lost wages, or certain safety-related issues. A victim advocate can assist you in applying. You will have an opportunity to make a claim for restitution - a form of monetary compensation ordered by the court to reimburse you for uninsured property losses that resulted from the juvenile's conduct. You can choose to receive notices about court hearings that might occur while the case is pending, however, because juvenile cases are confidential, the court will not allow you to attend until the Disposition Hearing. You will have an opportunity to file with the court a written or recorded statement explaining the impact of

the juvenile's conduct and any claim you might have for restitution.

You may come to the final hearing in the case - the “disposition hearing” - to give your statement in person. You can also ask your victim advocate to read your statement for you. The judge is required to consider your statement when deciding the final outcome of the case. The rest of the hearing will be closed to you and the general public unless the judge finds that your attendance is necessary.

The prosecutor's office will consult with you about the case as it progresses and let you know when the case resolves. The prosecutor's office will also notify you . about any conditions of release or probation that relate to you or a member of your family or current household, as well as any restitution awarded to you.

#### **VICTIM RIGHTS IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES FOR LISTED CRIMES**

As the victim (or family member) in a case referred to the Family Division for juvenile delinquency proceedings, you are entitled to the following rights:

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A victim advocate in the prosecutor's office will be available to assist you. You will be notified that a case has been filed, along with the name of the juvenile(s) involved, and any conditions of release ordered by the court that relate to you or a member of your family or current household. Juvenile delinquency cases are confidential, which means that it's important not to share any information about the case, including the fact that a case has been filed in court against the juvenile. Sharing information that you learn about the court case with anyone other than a mental health counselor or a lawyer (or the minor victim, if you are a parent or guardian) could result in a fine or other sanction issued by the court. You may be eligible for victims compensation

available from the Vermont Victims Compensation Program to cover uninsured expenses for counseling, medical treatment, lost wages, or certain safety-related issues. A victim advocate can assist you in applying. You will have an opportunity to make a claim for restitution - a form of monetary compensation ordered by the court to reimburse you for uninsured property losses that resulted from the juvenile's conduct. You can choose to receive notices about court hearings that might occur while the case is pending, however, because juvenile cases are confidential, the court will not allow you to attend until the Disposition Hearing. You will have an opportunity to file with the court a written or recorded statement explaining the impact of the juvenile's conduct and any claim you might have for restitution.

You may come to the final hearing in the case - the "disposition hearing"- to give your statement in person. You can also ask your victim advocate to read your statement for you. The judge is required to consider your statement when deciding the final outcome of the case. The rest of the hearing will be closed to you and the general public unless the judge finds that your attendance is necessary. The prosecutor's office will consult with you about the case as it progresses and let you know when the case resolves. The prosecutor's office will also notify you about any conditions of release or probation that relate to you or a member of your family or current household, as well as any restitution awarded to you. If the juvenile is held in a treatment or detention facility in state custody, you are entitled to be notified before the juvenile is released or discharged.

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