

What Do Victims Want?

According to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, victims need and want the following¹:

Safety: Protection from perpetrators and revictimization, crime prevention through collaborative problem solving, a restored sense of individual and community safety.

Access: Ability to participate in the justice system process and obtain information and services, regardless of individual or family circumstances.

Information: Verbal and written information about justice system processes and victim services that is clear, concise, and user friendly.

Support: Services and assistance to enable participation in justice processes, recovery from trauma, and repair of harm caused by crime.

Continuity: Consistency in approaches and methods across agencies, continuity of support through all stages of the justice process and trauma recovery.

Voice: Empowerment to speak out about processing of individual cases, opportunities to influence agency and systemwide policies and practices.

Victims' Rights and Resources

The Victims' Rights Movement of the 1970s and 1980s resulted in local, state, and federal laws that established certain rights for victims, primarily for victims of violent crimes. The scope and strength of these provisions, however, can vary greatly from state to state. Victims' rights often include—

- The right to notification of the stages of and proceedings in the criminal process.
- The right to attend and/or participate in criminal justice proceedings.
- The right to notification of other legal remedies.
- The right to protection from intimidation and harassment.
- The right to notice of the release or escape of the offender.
- The right to privacy, including confidentiality of records.
- The right to speedy trial provisions.
- The right to discuss the case with or confer with the prosecutor.

¹ International Association of Chiefs of Police. *Enhancing Law Enforcement Response to Victims: A 21st Century Strategy*. <http://www.theiacp.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ca2f39ES5GE%3d&tabid=87>.