

The Rights of Crime Victims

Thornton/Northglenn Victims Services Unit



OFFICER NAME

AGENCY

CASE NUMBER

General Line: 720-977-5172

Thornton Police Department
9551 Civic Center Dr.,
Thornton 80229
Non-Emergency - 720-977-5150

Northglenn Police Department
11701 Community Center Dr.,
Northglenn 80233
Non-Emergency - 303-288-1535

Pursuant to the State of Colorado, you should be informed of your rights as a victim of a crime under the Victims Rights Act.

V.I.N.E

VICTIM INFORMATION NOTIFICATION EVERY DAY

V.I.N.E is a toll-free, 24-hours a day, 365 days a year automated telephone service that provides victims of crime information and notification concerning the custody status of offenders. This registering is easy and anonymous and will provide you with a notice of when an offender is released or transferred from jail or prison.

How to Register

- If you have been a victim of crime covered by the Victim Rights Act, you will automatically be registered on this system by an officer only if the suspect has been arrested
- To manually register, go to www.vinelink.com.

Information you will need to register online are:

- The offenders name
- The phone number or email address where you want to receive the notification
- A four-digit PIN

When V.I.N.E Calls

- Listen to the entire message
- Enter the PIN number (1234) and press the pound key (#) when asked to do so.
(Please note, if you registered online, use the PIN number you created instead.)

If there is no answer or the line is busy, V.I.N.E will continue to call every half hour up to 48 hours. V.I.N.E will leave a message on an voice mail, but will still continue to call every two hours up to 48 hours, or until a PIN is entered.

If you have any questions, you may speak to a live V.I.N.E operator 24/7 by calling 1-888-263-8463. You may get more information from the V.I.N.E website at www.vinelink.com.

Who We Are

The Thornton/Northglenn Victim Services Unit is staffed by dedicated and highly-trained advocates who are on-call 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week, to respond immediately at the request of a police officer. The Victims Services Unit provides victims and their families with advocacy support and guidance, practical help and crisis interventions at a time when its most needed. The initial shock following a crime, sudden death or other trauma is harsh and painful for those involved.

Victim Advocates not only support victims through the immediate trauma, but also provide follow-up with case updates and referral information to further aid victims and their families through the healing process.

Types of Support

Crisis Intervention

As experienced active listeners, advocates will assist victims in sorting through the confusing feelings they may be experiencing. Advocates will provide guidance and support to get some stability after the traumatic event to help manage one part of the problem at a time, and will answer any questions they may have. Initial information of the investigation of the case and next steps will also be provided.

Immediate Emergency Needs

Advocates are able to address immediate safety concerns and/or needs victims or their families may have. This will include developing a safety plan, request extra patrolling and in some instances assist with relocation. Other supports provided include giving 9-1-1 phones and other emergency items.

Advocacy and Practical Help

There are many resources available to you within the community. Our advocates will provide you with appropriate referrals related to crime victim compensation, counseling and safe shelter. Your advocate can give you procedural and factual information concerning the crime or accident and act as a liaison with law enforcement and other community agencies.

Victim Rights Act (VRA)

The legislation known as the Victim Rights Act (VRA) became effective in January 1993. The VRA provides victims of crime an active role in the criminal justice process and ensures certain supports are provided. Law Enforcement Departments are one of three entities with responsibilities to ensure victims receive their rights.

Core Victim Rights:

- To be treated with fairness, dignity and respect.
- To be informed, present and heard.

The Law Enforcement Responsibilities Under the VRA Are:

- Receive the case #, name of law enforcement agency, name officer/detective assigned to the case and contact information
- Availability of services/resources
- Notice of filing of charges
- A copy of the VRA Rights
- Availability to receive a copy of the police report (Free if it's a VRA Crime)
- Name and contact information of the prosecution office
- Availability of compensation benefits
- Availability of protection including protection orders
- Information of mandatory criminal protection orders and procedure to modify
- Decision not to file misdemeanor cases
- Make all responsible efforts to exclude or redact a victim's social security number from a criminal justice form.
- Notification of the offender's release, escape, death or transfer while in custody
- Receive property when it is no longer needed for evidence purposes within five working days upon the request of the victim
- Right to:
 - Pursue civil judgment
 - Access to secure waiting area
 - Employer intercession services
 - Swift and fair resolution of a case
- Cold Case
 - Receive notification of the status of any changes to the case until the statute of limitations has expired

THE VRA GUARANTEES CERTAIN RIGHTS TO VICTIMS OF THE FOLLOWING CRIMINAL ACTS

Assault:

- Assault 1-degree
Assault 2-degree
Assault 3-degree
- Vehicular Assault

Crimes Against Children

- Child abuse
- Child prostitution
- Inducement of child prostitution
- Patronizing a prostituted child
- Pimping of a child
- Procurement of a child for sexual exploitation
- Sexual assault of a child—position of trust
- Sexual exploitation of children
- Soliciting for child prostitution

Court-Related

- Retaliation against a witness/victim
- Intimidating a witness/victim
- Aggravated intimidation of a witness/victim
- Tampering with a witness/victim
- Retaliation against a judge
- Retaliation against a prosecutor
- Retaliation against a juror
- Violation of protection orders issued under 18-1-1001 against a person charged with committing sexual assault, sexual assault on a child, sexual assault on a child by position of trust, sexual assault on a client by a psychotherapist

Domestic Violence

- Any crime identified by law enforcement prior to the filing of charges as domestic violence.
- An act identified by a district attorney in a formal criminal charge as domestic violence.
- Any crime with underlying factual basis of which has been found by the court on the record to include an act of domestic violence.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

THE VRA GUARANTEES CERTAIN RIGHTS TO VICTIMS OF THE FOLLOWING CRIMINAL ACTS

Murder/Manslaughter/Homicide/Death Related Offenses

- Careless driving resulting in death of another
- Failure to stop at the scene of an accident where the accident results in the death of another
- Murder 1-degree
Murder 2-degree
- Manslaughter
- Criminally negligent homicide
- Vehicular homicide

Other

- A bias-motivated crime
- Aggravated incest
- Crimes against at risk adults/juveniles
- Incest
- Kidnapping 1-degree
Kidnapping 2-degree
- Menacing
- Stalking

Robbery

- Robbery
- Aggravated robbery
- Aggravated robbery of controlled substances
- Burglary 1-degree

Sex Assaults

- Sexual assault
Sexual assault 1-degree
Sexual assault 2-degree
Sexual assault 3-degree
- Unlawful sexual contact
- Sexual assault on a client by a psychotherapist
- Invasion of privacy for sexual gratification
- Indecent exposure

Trafficking

- Human Trafficking

***Any crime attempt as described in section 18-2-101, any conspiracy 18-2-201, any criminal solicitation 18-2-301, and any accessory to a crime 18-8-105.**

- To be treated with fairness, respect and dignity.
- To be informed of all “critical stages” of the criminal justice process (victims must request notification, in writing, for post-sentencing critical stages.)
- To be present at specified critical stages in the criminal justice process.
- To be free from intimidation, harassment or abuse.
- To be informed about what steps can be taken if there is any intimidation or harassment by a person accused or convicted of a crime or any acting on that person’s behalf.
- To be present and heard regarding bond reduction or modification, acceptance of a plea agreement, sentencing or modification of a sentence.
- To consult with the district attorney prior to any disposition of the case or before the case goes to trial and to be informed of the final disposition of the case.
- To be informed of the status of the case and any scheduling changes or cancellations, if known in advance.
- To prepare a victim impact statement and to be present and/or heard at the sentencing hearing.
- To have the court determine restitution and to be informed of the right to pursue a civil judgment against the person convicted of the crime.
- To prevent any party at any court proceeding from compelling testimony regarding a victim’s address, telephone number, place of employment, or other locating information.
- To receive a prompt return of property when it is no longer needed as evidence.
- To be informed of the availability of financial assistance and community services.
- To be provided with appropriate employer intercession services regarding court appearances and meetings with criminal justice officials.
- To be informed about the possibility of restorative justice practices.
- To be assured that in any criminal proceeding the court, the prosecutor, and other law enforcement officials will take appropriate action to achieve a swift and fair resolution of the proceedings.

RIGHTS UNDER THE VICTIM RIGHTS ACT

- Whenever practicable, to provide a safe, secure waiting area during court proceedings.
- To be notified of the referral of an offender to community corrections and to provide a written victim impact statement to the community corrections board and, if permitted by the board, to provide an oral victim impact statement.
- Upon written request, to be informed when a person accused or convicted of a crime is released from custody other than the county jail, is paroled, escapes or absconds from probation or parole.
- To be informed of the filing of a petition to cease sex offender registration.
- Upon request, to be informed when a person who is accused or convicted of a crime is released from the custody of the county jail.
- Upon written request, to be informed of and heard regarding any reconsideration of a sentence, parole, or commutation of sentence hearing.
- Upon written request, to be informed when a person convicted of a crime against the victim is placed in or transferred to a less secure correctional facility or program or is permanently or conditionally transferred or released from any state hospital.
- The right, at the discretion of the district attorney, to view all or a portion of the pre-sentence report of the probation department.
- To be informed of the results of any court-ordered HIV testing.
- To be informed of any rights which the victim has pursuant to the Constitution of the United States or the State of Colorado.
- To be informed of the process for enforcing compliance with the Victim Rights Act.
- Disclosure by agent of defense-initiated victim outreach required. (1) When any person attempting defense-initiated victim outreach contacts any victim of any crime, the person shall immediately provide full and unambiguous disclosure of: a.) The person's legal name; and b.) The fact that the person is acting as an agent for the person accused of the crime or for the defense team.

REMINDER

It is your responsibility to keep the appropriate criminal justice agencies informed of your current address and telephone number.

Ensuring Your Victim Rights

Colorado state law provides that victims of crime may enforce compliance with the provisions of the Constitutional Amendment by contacting the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board.

What to do if you feel your rights have not been provided

If possible, first attempt to seek compliance at the local level. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Contacting the person whom you feel has not provided you with your rights and explaining specifically what has not been done;
 - Seeking assistance from your victim advocate, or other supportive persons such as a counselor; and
 - Seeking assistance from the elected official or the head of the agency you feel is not providing you with your rights.
- Contacts may be verbal or in writing. Accurate records of your efforts to seek compliance at the local level will be helpful to you and to the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board should you decide to file a formal request for compliance with the Victim Rights Act.

If you feel you are unable to address your concerns at the local level or your efforts to resolve your concerns have been unsuccessful, you may request assistance from the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board by contacting the Victim Rights Act Specialist at:

**Colorado Department of Public Safety Division
of Criminal Justice
700 Kipling St., Ste. 1000
Denver, CO 80215-5865
303-239-5719**

1-888-282-1080 Toll Free (outside the Denver Metro area)

Important Phone Numbers & Resources

17th Judicial District Attorney's Office
1100 Judicial Center Dr., Ste. 100

- Brighton – Main Office
303-659-7720
- Victim Witness
303-659-7735
- Crime Victim Compensation
303-835-5659

Adams County Social Services
Main Office -

7190 Colorado Blvd., Commerce City

- Community Support Services Division: Child Support Enforcement, Adult Protection, TANF, Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, Food Assistance, LEAP
303-227-2700
- Child Protection Hotline
303-412-5212

Asian Pacific Center
303-393-0304

Colorado Legal Services
303-837-1313

Community Reach Center
(Mental health services)
303-853-3500

Denver University Student Law Office
303-871-6140

Project Safeguard (Protection orders)
303-637-7761

Reaching Hope
(Services for victims of sex assault)
720-347-8769

Servicios de La Raza
303-458-5851

The Blue Bench
(Services for victims of sex assault)
303-322-7273

United Way Resources (2-1-1)
1-866-760-6489 Toll-Free



City of Thornton

www.cityofthornton.net/police



www.northglenn.org