

A message from Attorney General Luther Strange



On behalf of the citizens of Alabama, I deeply regret the circumstance which brings you to this informational booklet about the criminal justice system in our state. As your Attorney General, I believe that the rule of law is the foundation of our criminal justice system. When the rule of law is broken, true justice is denied. My duty as Attorney General is to ensure that justice is pursued to the fullest extent of the law.

My office is staffed with well experienced attorneys and victim advocates who are ready to support, assist and guide you through the challenging process that lies ahead. Please read the important information enclosed in this booklet. Learn your rights as a victim of crime. I invite you to contact my Office of Victim Assistance to find out how we can serve you.

My thoughts and prayers are with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luther Strange".

Alabama Attorney General's Office
501 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-242-7300

Resources for Victims:

AL Crime Victims Compensation Commission
1-800-541-9388

Alabama Department of Corrections
1-334-353-3871

Alabama Department of Human Resources
1-334-242-9500

Office of the Attorney General
Consumer Affairs
1-800-392-5658

Alabama Department of Senior Services
1-800-243-5463

Alabama's Coalition Against Rape
1-334-264-0123

Alabama's Coalition Against
Domestic Violence
1-334-832-4842

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
1-800-438-MADD

National Children's Advocacy Center
1-256-533-KIDS (5437)

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE

National Organization for Victim Assistance
1-800-TRY-NOVA

National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline
1-866-331-9474

National Victim Center
1-800-FYI-CALL

Victims of Crime and Leniency (VOCAL)
1-800-239-3219

*A list of District Attorneys may be found through
the Alabama Office of Prosecution Services at:*

www.alabamaprosecutor.com/DAList.aspx.

*District Attorney offices within each judicial
circuit also provide local victim assistance.*



Attorney General Luther Strange

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Montgomery, AL 36104
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OFFICE OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Victims Help Line

Local: 334-242-7342

Toll Free: 1-800-626-7676

Website: www.ago.alabama.gov



Attorney General Luther Strange Office of Victim Assistance

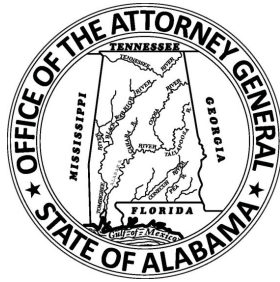
Being the victim of a crime is traumatic. You may feel isolated and confused, and not know where to turn for practical advice or support. You should know there are many state and community resources available to assist you and explain your rights as a victim under Alabama Law. Victim advocates at the Attorney General's Office of Victim Assistance (AGOVA) are here to help you understand your rights and the procedures for exercising them. Below you will find some basic information about your rights as a crime victim as excerpted from ALA CODE § 15-23-60 et seq.

What are your rights as a victim?

As a victim of crime in Alabama, you have a Constitutional right to be treated with fairness, respect, dignity, and to be informed and present throughout the criminal justice process. All state, county and municipal justice agencies and courts in Alabama are required to perform certain duties to ensure that you receive your rights. Some of these rights are:

- *A list of local emergency and crisis services;*
- *The name & phone number of the officer and agency handling your report;*
- *The procedural steps in a criminal prosecution;*
- *The availability of victims compensation benefits;*
- *A listing of your rights as a victim, including a form to insure you receive your rights;*
- *The existence and eligibility requirements of restitution and compensation.*
- *A recommended procedure, if you are subject to threats or intimidation as a victim.*

YOU HAVE OR MAY REQUEST THE RIGHT TO:



- Notification of all criminal proceedings and charges filed against the defendant and the right to be present at all proceedings.
- An explanation of the pre-sentence report and the right to make a written or oral statement to the probation officer.
- Notification of time and place of any sentencing hearing and to present any information at a sentencing proceeding.
- Information regarding the return of any property taken.
- Be provided the date of conviction, acquittal or dismissal of charges against the defendant and the sentence imposed.
- Refuse an interview or other communication with the defendant, his attorney, or anyone acting on his behalf.
- The status and results of any post conviction appeal.
- Be supplied a waiting area separate from the defendant; his relatives and defense witnesses, if available and practical.
- Submit a statement to be entered into the inmates records.
- Notification of release, on bond, from prison, escape, re-arrest or death of the defendant.

1-800-626-7676

HOW THE OFFICE OF VICTIMS ASSISTANCE WILL SERVE YOU...

Community Notification

A victim of a sexual offense has the right to request notification of the release of an inmate, the date of release and the location of the inmate's residence by the AGOVA.

Pardon and Parole Protest

The Alabama Board of Pardons & Paroles notifies AGOVA and victims when an inmate convicted of a violent crime is scheduled for a pardon or parole hearing. AGOVA submits written protests against the early release of all violent offenders. In addition, at the request of the victim, AGOVA officers assist them in protesting at this hearing.

Appellate Notification

AGOVA provides appellate notification assistance to victims of violent crimes who have registered with AGOVA. During the Appeals Process, AGOVA notifies violent crime victims when appellant court hearings are held and accompanies victims to hearings providing support and assistance regarding the court proceedings.

Registration is Easy

You may call us at 1-800-626-7676 or email us at victims@ago.state.al.us. Our mailing address is

**501 Washington Avenue (36104),
P.O. Box 300152,
Montgomery, AL 36130-0152.**

REGISTER TODAY