

# Victim Rights

## In Arizona, a victim of a crime has a right:

1. To be treated with fairness, respect, and dignity, and to be free from intimidation, harassment, or abuse, throughout the criminal justice process.
2. To be informed, upon request, when the accused or convicted person is released from custody or has escaped.
3. To be present at and, upon request, to be informed of all criminal proceedings where the defendant has the right to be present.
4. To be heard at any proceeding involving a post-arrest release decision, a negotiated plea, and sentencing.
5. To refuse an interview, deposition, or other discovery request by the defendant, the defendant's attorney, or other person acting on behalf of the defendant.
6. To confer with the prosecution, after the crime against the victim has been charged, before trial or before any disposition of the case and to be informed of the disposition.
7. To read pre-sentence reports relating to the crime against the victim when they are available to the defendant.
8. To receive prompt restitution from the person or persons convicted of the criminal conduct that caused the victim's loss or injury.
9. To be heard at any proceeding when any post-conviction release from confinement is being considered.
10. To a speedy trial or disposition and prompt and final conclusion of the case after the conviction and sentence.
11. To have all rules governing criminal procedure and the admissibility of evidence in all criminal proceedings protect victims' rights and to have these rules be subject to amendment or repeal by the legislature to ensure the protection of these rights.
12. To be informed of victims' constitutional rights.

# Resources

**Coconino County Attorney  
Victim Services**  
(928) 679-8215

**Yavapai County Attorney  
Victim Services**  
(928) 771-3485

**Arizona Attorney General**  
Victim Services publications  
[azag.gov/victim-services/resources](http://azag.gov/victim-services/resources)  
(incluyendo español)

**Arizona Child Abuse hotline**  
888-SOS-CHILD  
(888-767-2445)

**National Domestic Violence hotline**  
(800) 799-7233

**Spectrum Healthcare 24/7 crisis line**  
(928) 634-2236

**NAZCARE**  
(888) 404-5530  
*If you just want to talk*  
M-Th 4:30-10:30 p.m.  
Fri-Sun 3-10:30 p.m.

**Verde Valley Sanctuary**  
(928) 634-2511

**Seek then Speak**  
[seekthenspeak.org](http://seekthenspeak.org)  
(800) 656-4673 (24 hrs / 7 days)

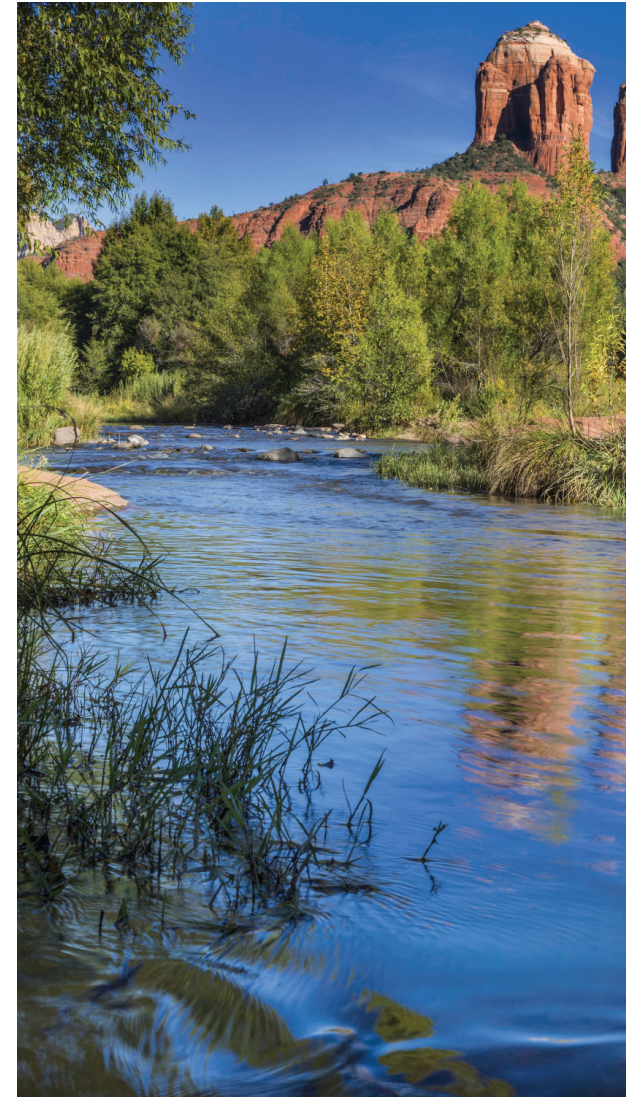


# Victim Assistance

**Sedona Police Department**  
(928) 282-3100



**Sedona City Attorney**  
(928) 204-7200



## Protective orders

If you are the victim of domestic violence, you may request a protective order from any court. There is no fee to apply for one. Law enforcement officers can serve the protective order at no cost. A protective order can prohibit the abuser from contacting the victim, or going to the victim's residence or workplace. Victim Services or the court staff can assist.

## Restitution

If someone is found guilty of a crime against you, the court may order that person to pay certain costs associated with your victimization. This is known as restitution. Victims of crime have a right under the Arizona Constitution to receive prompt restitution.

Restitution is most often ordered at the time of sentencing and may include reimbursement for medical and dental expenses, mental health counseling, funeral costs, expenses to restore personal safety, lost or damaged property, lost wages, and travel expenses. The county Victim Services program can help you with the restitution process.

## Compensation

Victims can apply for victim compensation through the County Attorney's Office. Compensation allows victims to be reimbursed for eligible out-of-pocket expenses that have not already been recovered through other sources.

# Steps in the criminal process

Your case will likely go through the stages of the criminal justice system described below. At every stage of the process there may be postponements, called continuances, for legal or other reasons. Each case is different, so if you have questions about the process ask the prosecutor or victim advocate what to expect in your case.

**Initial appearance.** When a person is taken into custody the initial appearance is held within 24 hours of arrest. The judge may appoint a lawyer for the defendant if he/she cannot afford one, and will decide if the defendant will be released on bond or remain in custody pending trial. Most defendants are released and ordered to have no contact with the victim(s). Any contact by the defendant should be reported immediately to the police, prosecutor or victim advocate. The victim does not have to attend the initial appearance.

**Arraignment.** The appearance before a judge when the defendant is informed of the formal charges and is required to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty. If a not-guilty plea is entered a pre-trial conference will be scheduled.

**Preliminary hearing / Grand jury.** In felony cases, a hearing is held to determine if there is enough evidence to charge a crime. It may occur up to 20 days after the initial appearance, and the victim may or may not need to testify.

**Pre-trial conference.** The conference is where the prosecutor and defendant/defense attorney discuss whether the case can be resolved by a plea agreement. A plea agreement is an agreement between the prosecutor and the

defendant in which the defendant agrees to plead guilty. There may be multiple pre-trial conferences in a case before the matter is resolved through a plea agreement or sent to trial.

**Continuance.** Continuances are legal postponements of scheduled proceedings and may occur without warning. Delays are common at all stages of the criminal justice process.

**Trial.** At trial, testimony is presented to the judge or jury to determine if the defendant is guilty or not guilty.

**Sentencing.** Sentencing may occur on the same day the defendant pleads guilty or is found guilty at trial, or it may occur at a future date. The victim has a right to be heard regarding the sentencing and to submit a victim impact statement at this time.

**Restitution hearing.** At a restitution hearing the victim must be present and provide documentation of loss that is directly related to the charge. The victim may be asked to give testimony regarding restitution.

