

CHAPTER 611A

RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF CRIMES

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611A.01 DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of sections 611A.01 to 611A.04 and 611A.06:

(a) "Crime" means conduct that is included within the definition of "crime" in section 609.02, subdivision 1, or would be included within that definition but for the fact that (i) the person engaging in the conduct lacked capacity to commit the crime under the laws of this state, or (ii) the act was alleged or found to have been committed by a juvenile;

(b) "Victim" means a natural person who incurs loss or harm as a result of a crime. If the victim is deceased, "victim" means the deceased's surviving spouse or next of kin; and

(c) "Juvenile" has the same meaning as given to the term "child" in section 260.015, subdivision 2.

History: 1983 c 262 art 1 s 1

611A.02 VICTIM SERVICE NOTIFICATION.

The commissioner of corrections, in cooperation with the executive director of the crime victims reparations board, shall develop a plan to provide victims with information concerning victim services in the geographic area where the crime occurred. This information shall include, but need not be limited to, information about available victim crisis centers, programs for victims of sexual assault, victim witness programs, elderly victims projects, victim assistance hotlines, incest abuse programs, and domestic violence shelters and programs.

The plan shall take into account the fact that some counties currently have informational service systems and victim or witness services or programs.

This plan shall be presented to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature no later than February 1, 1984.

History: 1983 c 262 art 1 s 2

611A.03 PLEA AGREEMENTS; NOTIFICATION.

Subdivision 1. Plea agreements; notification of victim. Prior to the entry of the factual basis for a plea pursuant to a plea agreement recommendation, a prosecuting attorney shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to inform the victim of:

(a) The contents of the plea agreement recommendation; and

(b) His right to be present at the sentencing hearing and to express in writing any objection he has to the agreement or to the proposed disposition. If the victim is not present when the court considers the recommendation, but has communicated his objections to the prosecuting attorney, the prosecuting attorney shall make these objections known to the court.

Subd. 2. Notification duties. A prosecuting attorney satisfies the requirements of subdivision 1 by notifying:

(a) The victim's legal guardian or guardian ad litem; or

(b) The three victims the prosecuting attorney believes to have suffered the most, if there are more than three victims of the offense.

Subd. 3. Applicability. The provisions of this section apply to crimes which are violations of sections 609.185, 609.19, 609.195, 609.20, 609.205, 609.221, 609.222, 609.223, 609.224, 609.24, 609.245, 609.25, 609.255, 609.342, 609.343, 609.344, 609.345, 609.3641, 609.3642, 609.3643, 609.3644, 609.365, 609.498, 609.561, 609.58, clauses (1)(b) and (2), and 609.687.

History: 1983 c 262 art 1 s 3

611A.04 VICTIM'S RIGHT TO REQUEST RESTITUTION.

Subdivision 1. Request; decision. A victim of a crime has the right to request that restitution be considered as part of the disposition of a criminal charge or juvenile delinquency proceeding against the offender. The request for restitution shall be made by the victim in writing in affidavit form, describing the items or elements of loss and itemizing the total dollar amounts of restitution claimed, and the reasons justifying these amounts, if the request is for monetary or property restitution. In order to be considered by the court, the request must be received by the clerk of the appropriate court at least three business days before the sentencing or dispositional hearing. The clerk of court shall provide copies of this request to the prosecutor and the offender at least 24 hours before the sentencing or dispositional hearing.

The court shall grant or deny restitution, and shall state on the record its reasons for its decision on restitution if a request for restitution has been made.

Subd. 2. Procedures. The offender shall make restitution payments to the clerk of the county, municipal, or district court of the county in which the restitution is to be paid.

Subd. 3. Effect of order for restitution. A decision for or against restitution in any criminal or juvenile proceeding is not a bar to any civil action by the victim or by the state pursuant to section 299B.10 against the offender. The offender shall be given credit, in any order for judgment in favor of a victim in a civil action, for any restitution paid to the victim for the same injuries for which the judgment is awarded.

History: 1983 c 262 art 1 s 4

611A.06 RIGHT TO NOTICE OF RELEASE.

The commissioner of corrections or other custodial authority shall make a good faith effort to notify the victim that the offender is to be released from imprisonment or incarceration, other than for work release, prior to the release if the victim has mailed to the commissioner of corrections or to the head of the facility in which the offender is confined a written request for this notice. The commissioner or other custodial authority complies with this section if he mails the notice of impending release to the victim at the address which the victim has most recently provided to him in writing.

History: 1983 c 262 art 1 s 5