

## CHAPTER 611A

## CRIME VICTIMS: RIGHTS, PROGRAMS, AGENCIES

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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, and for purposes of sections 611A.04 and 611A.045, also includes a corporation that incurs loss or harm as a result of a crime. If the victim is a natural person and 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:** 1987 c 254 s 10

**611A.031 VICTIM INPUT REGARDING PRETRIAL DIVERSION.**

A prosecutor shall make every reasonable effort to notify and seek input from the victim prior to referring a person into a pretrial diversion program in lieu of prosecution for a violation 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, 609.365, 609.498, 609.561, 609.582, subdivision 1, and 609.687.

**History:** 1987 c 331 s 10

**611A.035 CONFIDENTIALITY OF VICTIM'S ADDRESS.**

No victim or witness providing testimony in court proceedings may be compelled to state a home or employment address on the record in open court unless the court finds that the testimony would be relevant evidence.

**History:** 1986 c 444; 1987 c 331 s 11

**611A.037 PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION; VICTIM IMPACT; NOTICE.**

Subdivision 1. **Victim impact statement.** A presentence investigation report prepared under section 609.115 shall include the following information relating to victims:

(a) a summary of the damages or harm and any other problems generated by the criminal occurrence;

(b) a concise statement of what disposition the victim deems appropriate for the defendant or juvenile court respondent, including reasons given, if any, by the victim in support of the victim's opinion; and

(c) an attachment to the report, consisting of the victim's written objections, if any, to the proposed disposition if the victim provides the officer conducting the presentence investigation with this written material within a reasonable time prior to the disposition.

Subd. 2. **Notice to victim.** The officer conducting a presentence or predispositional

investigation shall make reasonable and good faith efforts to contact the victim of that crime and to provide that victim with the following information: (i) the charge or juvenile court petition to which the defendant has been convicted or pleaded guilty, or the juvenile respondent has admitted in court or has been found to have committed by the juvenile court, and of any plea agreement between the prosecution and the defense counsel; (ii) the victim's right to request restitution pursuant to section 611A.04; (iii) the time and place of the sentencing or juvenile court disposition and the victim's right to be present; and (iv) the victim's right to object in writing to the court, prior to the time of sentencing or juvenile court disposition, to the proposed sentence or juvenile dispositional alternative, or to the terms of the proposed plea agreement. To assist the victim in making a recommendation under clause (iv), the officer shall provide the victim with information about the court's options for sentencing and other dispositions. Failure of the officer to comply with this subdivision does not give any rights or grounds for postconviction or postjuvenile disposition relief to the defendant or juvenile court respondent, nor does it entitle a defendant or a juvenile court respondent to withdraw a plea of guilty.

**History:** 1987 c 331 s 12

#### 611A.04 ORDER OF RESTITUTION.

**Subdivision 1. Request; decision.** (a) 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 court administrator of the appropriate court at least three business days before the sentencing or dispositional hearing. The court administrator shall provide copies of this request to the prosecutor and the offender at least 24 hours before the sentencing or dispositional hearing.

(b) The court may amend or issue an order of restitution after the sentencing or dispositional hearing if:

- (1) the offender is on probation or supervised release;
- (2) a request for restitution is filed by the victim or prosecutor in affidavit form as required under paragraph (a); and
- (3) the true extent of the victim's loss was not known at the time of the sentencing or dispositional hearing.

If the court holds a hearing on the restitution request, the court must notify the offender, the offender's attorney, the victim, and the prosecutor at least five business days before the hearing. The court's restitution decision is governed by this section and section 611A.045.

(c) 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. 1a. Crime board request.** The crime victims reparations board may request restitution on behalf of a victim by filing a copy of a claim for reparations submitted under sections 611A.52 to 611A.67, along with orders of the board, if any, which detail any amounts paid by the board to the victim. The filing of a claim for reparations with the court administrator shall also serve as a request for restitution by the victim. The restitution requested by the board may be considered to be both on its own behalf and on behalf of the victim. If the board has not paid reparations to the victim, restitution may be made directly to the victim. If the board has paid reparations to the victim, the court shall order restitution payments to be made directly to the board.

*[For text of subs 2 and 3, see M.S.1986]*

**History:** 1987 c 244 s 2; 1987 c 254 s 11

**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, including release on extended furlough and for work release, or released from a facility in which the offender was confined due to incompetency, mental illness, or mental deficiency, or commitment under section 253B.18, 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 upon mailing the notice of impending release to the victim at the address which the victim has most recently provided to the commissioner or authority in writing. All identifying information regarding the victim, including the victim's request and the notice provided by the commissioner or custodial authority, is classified as private data on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12, and is accessible only to the victim.

*History: 1987 c 224 s 3*

**611A.52 DEFINITIONS.**

*[For text of subs 1 to 7, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 8. **Economic loss.** "Economic loss" means actual economic detriment incurred as a direct result of injury or death.

(a) In the case of injury the term is limited to:

(1) reasonable expenses incurred for necessary medical, chiropractic, hospital, rehabilitative, and dental products, services, or accommodations, including ambulance services, drugs, appliances and prosthetic devices;

(2) reasonable expenses incurred for psychological or psychiatric products, services or accommodations where the nature of the injury or the circumstances of the crime are such that the treatment is necessary to the rehabilitation of the victim, subject to the following limitations:

(i) if treatment is likely to continue longer than six months after the date the claim is filed and the cost of the additional treatment will exceed \$1,500, or if the total cost of treatment in any case will exceed \$4,000, the provider shall first submit to the board a plan which includes the measurable treatment goals, the estimated cost of the treatment, and the estimated date of completion of the treatment. Claims submitted for treatment that was provided more than 30 days after the estimated date of completion may be paid only after advance approval by the board of an extension of treatment; and

(ii) the board may, in its discretion, elect to pay claims under this clause on a quarterly basis;

(3) loss of income greater than \$50 that the victim would have earned had the victim not been injured; and

(4) reasonable expenses incurred for substitute child care or household services to replace those the victim would have performed had the victim not been injured. As used in this clause, "child care services" means services provided by facilities licensed under and in compliance with either Minnesota Rules, parts 9502.0315 to 9502.0445, or 9545.0510 to 9545.0670, or exempted from licensing requirements pursuant to section 245.791. Licensed facilities must be paid at a rate not to exceed their standard rate of payment. Facilities exempted from licensing requirements must be paid at a rate not to exceed \$3 an hour per child for daytime child care or \$4 an hour per child for evening child care.

(b) In the case of death the term is limited to:

(1) reasonable expenses actually incurred for funeral, burial, or cremation, not to exceed \$2,250;

(2) reasonable expenses for medical, chiropractic, hospital, rehabilitative, psycho-

logical and psychiatric services, products or accommodations which were incurred prior to the victim's death and for which the victim's survivors or estate are liable;

(3) loss of support, including contributions of money, products or goods, but excluding services which the victim would have supplied to dependents if the victim had lived; and

(4) reasonable expenses incurred for substitute child care and household services to replace those which the victim would have performed for the benefit of dependents if the victim had lived.

Claims for loss of support for minor children made under clause (3) must be paid for three years or until the child reaches 18 years old, whichever is the shorter period. After three years, if the child is less than 18 years old a claim for loss of support may be resubmitted to the board, and the board shall evaluate the claim giving consideration to the child's financial need and to the availability of funds to the board.

Claims for substitute child care services made under clause (4) must be limited to the actual care that the deceased victim would have provided to enable surviving family members to pursue economic, educational, and other activities other than recreational activities.

*[For text of subs 9 and 10, see M.S.1986]*

**History:** 1987 c 244 s 3

#### 611A.53 ELIGIBILITY FOR REPARATIONS.

*[For text of subs 1 and 1a, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 2. No reparations shall be awarded to a claimant otherwise eligible if:

(a) the crime was not reported to the police within five days of its occurrence or, if it could not reasonably have been reported within that period, within five days of the time when a report could reasonably have been made. A victim of criminal sexual conduct in the first, second, third, or fourth degree who does not report the crime within five days of its occurrence is deemed to have been unable to have reported it within that period;

(b) the victim or claimant failed or refused to cooperate fully with the police and other law enforcement officials;

(c) the claimant was the offender or an accomplice of the offender or an award to the claimant would unjustly benefit the offender or an accomplice;

(d) the claimant was in the act of committing a crime at the time the injury occurred;

(e) no claim was filed with the board within one year of victim's injury or death; except that (1) if the claimant was unable to file a claim within that period, then the claim can be made within one year of the time when a claim could have been filed; and (2) if the victim's injury or death was not reasonably discoverable within one year of the injury or death, then the claim can be made within one year of the time when the injury or death is reasonably discoverable. The following circumstances do not render a claimant unable to file a claim for the purposes of this clause: (1) lack of knowledge of the existence of the Minnesota crime victims reparations act, (2) the failure of a law enforcement agency to provide information or assistance to a potential claimant under section 611A.66, (3) the incompetency of the claimant if the claimant's affairs were being managed during that period by a guardian, guardian ad litem, conservator, authorized agent, or parent, or (4) the fact that the claimant is not of the age of majority; or

(f) the claim is less than \$100.

The limitations contained in clauses (a) and (e) do not apply to victims of domestic child abuse as defined in section 260.015, subdivision 24. In those cases the one year limitation period commences running with the report of the crime to the police;

provided that no claim as a result of loss due to domestic child abuse may be paid when the claimant is 19 years of age or older at the time the claim is filed.

**History:** 1987 c 244 s 4

#### **611A.57 DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS.**

Subdivision 1. A claim, when accepted for filing, shall be assigned by the chair to a member of the board.

Subd. 2. The board member to whom the claim is assigned shall examine the papers filed in support of the claim and cause an investigation to be conducted into the validity of the claim to the extent that an investigation is necessary.

Subd. 3. The board member to whom a claim is assigned may decide the claim in favor of a claimant in the amount claimed on the basis of the papers filed in support of it and the report of the investigation of such claim. If unable to decide the claim upon the basis of the papers and any report of investigation, the board member shall discuss the matter with other members of the board present at a board meeting. After discussion the board shall vote on whether to grant or deny the claim or whether further investigation is necessary. A decision granting or denying the claim shall then be issued by the executive director or the board member to whom the claim was assigned.

Subd. 4. The written decision granting or denying a claim shall be filed with the board, and a copy shall be provided to the claimant.

Subd. 5. The claimant may, within 30 days after receiving the decision of the board, apply for reconsideration before the entire board. Upon request for reconsideration, the board shall reexamine all information filed by the claimant, including any new information the claimant provides, and all information obtained by investigation. The board may also conduct additional examination into the validity of the claim. Upon reconsideration, the board may affirm, modify, or reverse its prior ruling. A claimant denied reparations upon reconsideration is entitled to a contested case hearing within the meaning of chapter 14.

Subd. 6. Claims for reparations and supporting documents and reports are investigative data and subject to the provisions of section 13.39 until the claim is paid, denied, withdrawn, or abandoned. Following the payment, denial, withdrawal, or abandonment of a claim, the claim and supporting documents and reports are private data on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12.

**History:** 1987 c 244 s 5

**611A.59** [Repealed, 1987 c 244 s 8]

#### **611A.61 SUBROGATION.**

*[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 3. **Deposit of revenue to fund.** The first \$18,000 collected under this section in each year of the biennium must be deposited into the general fund. Amounts in excess of \$18,000 must be deposited into the crime victim and witness account in the state treasury for the purposes established in section 609.101.

**History:** 1987 c 358 s 127

#### **611A.66 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES; DUTY TO INFORM VICTIMS OF RIGHT TO FILE CLAIM.**

All law enforcement agencies investigating crimes shall provide forms to each person who may be eligible to file a claim pursuant to sections 611A.51 to 611A.67 and to inform them of their rights hereunder. All law enforcement agencies shall obtain from the board and maintain a supply of all forms necessary for the preparation and presentation of claims.

Law enforcement agencies shall assist the board in performing its duties under

sections 611A.51 to 611A.67. Law enforcement agencies within ten days after receiving a request from the board shall supply the board with requested reports, notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in chapter 13, and including reports otherwise maintained as confidential or not open to inspection under section 260.161. All data released to the board retains the data classification that it had in the possession of the law enforcement agency.

**History:** 1987 c 244 s 6

#### **611A.74 CRIME VICTIM OMBUDSMAN; CREATION.**

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 2. **Duties.** The crime victim ombudsman may investigate complaints concerning possible violation of the rights of crime victims or witnesses provided under this chapter, the delivery of victim services by victim assistance programs, the administration of the crime victims reparations act, and other complaints of mistreatment by elements of the criminal justice system or victim assistance programs. The ombudsman shall act as a liaison, when the ombudsman deems necessary, between agencies, either in the criminal justice system or in victim assistance programs, and victims and witnesses. The ombudsman must be made available through the use of a toll free telephone number and shall answer questions concerning the criminal justice system and victim services put to the ombudsman by victims and witnesses in accordance with the ombudsman's knowledge of the facts or law, unless the information is otherwise restricted. The ombudsman shall establish a procedure for referral to the crime victim crisis centers, the crime victims reparations board, and other victim assistance programs when services are requested by crime victims or deemed necessary by the ombudsman.

The ombudsman's files are confidential data as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 3, during the course of an investigation or while the files are active. Upon completion of the investigation or when the files are placed on inactive status, they are private data on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12.

*[For text of subds 3 to 5, see M.S.1986]*

**History:** 1987 c 244 s 7