

## **Missouri has a Constitutional Amendment that guarantees crime victims have certain rights when requested:**

- To be kept informed of the status of a case, the filing of charges or decision not to file and all court dates and appearances once you have let the Prosecutor's Office know that you wish to be notified, and to timely notification of continuances.
- To be present in court whenever the defendant has a right to be present.
- To talk to the prosecutor about bail hearings, pleas, hearings, sentencing and probation revocation proceedings, and to appear and speak to the Court about bonds, conditions of release and sentencing.
- To reasonable protection from harmful threats from a defendant or people acting on the defendant's behalf, and the right to a secure waiting area for court.
- To be informed of victim services, including compensation, available social services, and the availability of and application process for any witness fees that you are entitled to.
- To receive restitution when possible.
- To have stolen property returned quickly.
- To be informed of the final disposition of the case.
- To be present at any hearing where the defendant is present before a probation and parole hearing officer, and to be present and participate in parole and probation revocation hearings, including juvenile probation revocation hearings and hearings for persons found not guilty by reason of insanity. (Victims may provide a written statement or video or audio tape in place of being present.)
- To speedy disposition of cases and speedy appellate review.
- An employer may not fire a victim, witness or member of a victim's immediate family for appearing under subpoena to testify in court, attend a court proceeding or for participation in the preparation of a criminal proceeding. The employer also can not require the victim, witness or family member of the victim's immediate family to use vacation time, personal time or sick leave for honoring such subpoena.
- To have victim's creditors contacted by the prosecutor's office if the victim is temporarily unable to pay bills as a result of the crime.