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South Carolina crime victims' constitutional rights

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***Office of the Attorney General
Department of Crime Victim Compensation
(DCVC)***

South Carolina Crime Victims' Constitutional Rights:

“To preserve and protect victims’ rights to justice and due process regardless of race, sex, age, religion, or economic status, victims of crime have the right to:”

- be treated with fairness, respect and dignity;
- be free from intimidation or harm throughout the criminal and juvenile justice process;
- be informed about victim’s rights;
- be reasonably informed about criminal proceedings;
- be informed if the accused is arrested, released, or escapes;
- confer with the prosecution before the case is heard in court;
- be present at criminal proceedings where the accused has the right to be present;
- be heard at proceedings affecting bond, bail, release, pleas or sentencing;
- have reasonable access to documents relating to the crime before trial;
- receive restitution from the adult or juvenile offenders;
- a reasonable, prompt and final conclusion of the case;

The penalty for violating the *Victims’ Bill of Rights* is:

- Writ of mandamus*, issued by Supreme Court or circuit court to require compliance**
- A willful failure to comply with a *writ of mandamus* is punishable as contempt**

--Excerpted from the Constitution of South Carolina, Article 1, Section 24
(This is a condensed reference and is not intended to substitute for the actual law.)

If you or someone you know is a victim of crime, please contact DCVC below.