

In the United States, in 2006...*

- ❖ 25 million crimes were committed in the United States: 19 million property crimes and 6 million violent crimes.
- ❖ 49% of violent crimes and 38% of property crimes were reported to law enforcement.
- ❖ Crimes by a spouse or intimate partner accounted for 12% of all crime.
- ❖ Approximately 1 in 5 high school girls reported being abused by a boyfriend.
- ❖ 15,914 people were murdered: 33% of all women killed were murdered by their husband or boyfriend. 3% of all men killed were murdered by their wife or girlfriend.
- ❖ 272,350 persons 12 or older were sexually abused: 89% of victims were female; 65% of victims were assaulted by a relative, friend, or acquaintance; 31% of victims were assaulted by a stranger; and 41% of the crimes were reported to law enforcement.
- ❖ 905,000 children were victims of child abuse or neglect.
- ❖ 1,530 children died as a result of child abuse and neglect.
- ❖ There were 17,602 alcohol-related vehicular crash fatalities, which was 41% of all vehicular crash fatalities.
- ❖ The total economic loss to crime victims was \$1.8 billion for violent crime and \$16.5 billion for property crime.

* Statistics: Office for Victims of Crime 2008 National Crime Victim Rights Week Resource Guide

Statewide Crime Victim Resources

IowaVINE
(Victim Notification & Information Everyday)
1-888-742-8463 or www.vinelink.com

**Iowa Coalition Against
Domestic Violence (ICADV)**
515 28th St., Suite 104
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
(515) 244-8028 or www.icadv.org

**Iowa Coalition Against
Sexual Assault (IowaCASA)**
515 28th St., Suite 107
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
(515) 244-7424 or www.iowacasa.org

Iowa Domestic Abuse Hotline
(800) 942-0333

Iowa Sexual Abuse Hotline
(800) 284-7821

Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance (IOVA)
P.O. Box 6021
East Des Moines Station
Des Moines, IA 50309
www.iowaiova.com

**Iowa Department of
Human Services**
Child Abuse & Dependant Adult Abuse
24-Hour Hotline
(800) 362-2178

CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS IN IOWA



Iowa Attorney General's Office Crime Victim Assistance Division

Lucas State Office Building
321 East 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

(515) 281-5044
(800) 373-5044
(515) 281-8199 (fax)

www.state.ia.us/government/ag/helping_victims

RIGHTS FOR CRIME VICTIMS

For statutory crime victim rights, a "victim" is defined as a person who suffered physical, emotional, or financial harm as a result of a criminal offense or delinquent act. A simple misdemeanor is not an included crime for the purpose of statutory victim rights.

For these rights, "Victim" also includes the immediate family members of a homicide victim, a crime victim who is judged to be incompetent, or a crime victim who is under the age of 18.

THE RIGHT TO A VICTIM ADVOCATE

- ❑ Iowa Code section §915.20 establishes a victim's right to request and have a victim counselor or advocate present at any legal or evidentiary medical proceeding related to the offense.
- ❑ A crime victim, law enforcement officer, prosecutor, or medical provider can locate a victim counselor or advocate by contacting a local victim service program, the County Attorney's Office, or the Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division.

CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION

- ❑ The Attorney General's Crime Victim Compensation Program pays certain out-of-pocket expenses an eligible victim has as a result of injury or death from crime.
- ❑ Funds for this program come entirely from fines and penalties paid by offenders.
- ❑ For information, or to file an application, call the Crime Victim Compensation Program toll-free at (800) 373-5044 or, in the Des Moines area, at 281-5044.

THE RIGHT TO NOTIFICATION

- ❑ Crime victims, other than a victim of a simple misdemeanor, have the right to register in writing with the County Attorney's Office for written notification about the status of the criminal case.
- ❑ Law enforcement is required to tell a crime victim their right to register with the County Attorney's Office and provide the victim with a "request for registration" form.
- ❑ A crime victim must complete and submit the "request for registration form" to the County Attorney who is prosecuting the case in order to receive criminal justice system statutory notification.
- ❑ The county attorney will forward copies of "request for registration" form to other justice system agencies including the Sheriff, Clerk of Court, Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division, Department of Corrections, and the Board of Parole.
- ❑ Justice system agencies will provide written notification to a registered crime victim regarding the status of the criminal case and a convicted offender.

AUTOMATED NOTIFICATION

- ❑ Unlike for statutory notification explained above, all crime victims, including victims of simple misdemeanors, may register with IowaVINE for automated notification about an offender incarcerated in a county jail or the Iowa Department of Corrections.
- ❑ IowaVINE will send notification by email or telephone and has live operators 24/7/365.
- ❑ Call IowaVINE at 1-888-742-8463 or go to www.vinelink.com for information about an incarcerated offender or to register for notification on the offender's status.
- ❑ IowaVINE is a program of the Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division.

THE RIGHT TO RESTITUTION:

- ❑ At sentencing, a judge will order the convicted offender to pay the crime victim restitution for crime related expenses.
- ❑ The crime victim submits a record of their out-of-pocket expenses related to the crime to the County Attorney who will submit the information to the Judge. The Judge will order restitution paid to the crime victim.
- ❑ A Judge must order an offender to pay \$150,000 to the estate of a victim who dies as a result of a crime in addition to the restitution ordered for the victims for out-of-pocket expenses.

Justice will only be achieved when those not injured by crime feel as indignant as those who are
King Solomon (1009 B.C. – 946 B.C.)

THE RIGHT TO MAKE A VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

- ❑ A crime victim has the right to submit a Victim Impact Statement (VIS) to the Judge at the sentencing of the convicted offender.
- ❑ The VIS is a victim's opportunity to tell the Judge and the offender about the physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial effects of the crime on them and their family.
- ❑ A crime victim may seek assistance from a victim counselor or advocate in preparing the VIS.
- ❑ The offender must be present for the VIS.
- ❑ The VIS may be given to the Judge and the offender by the crime victim or by the victim's chosen representative.
- ❑ The VIS may be stated orally or in writing.
- ❑ When presenting the VIS, a crime victim or their representative cannot be questioned by the offender or the defense attorney.