

# BILL OF RIGHTS FOR VICTIMS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS

- To receive basic information about available services;
- To be notified of significant actions in your case, as well as your role in the justice system;
- To be accompanied at all juvenile proceedings by a family member, a victim advocate, or another person;
- To give input on the possible reduction of any charge or plea offer in a delinquency proceeding or diversion of any case;
- To provide a Victim Impact Statement to the Court;
- To request restitution and/ or compensation and to receive assistance in filing for compensation;
- To be notified of a juvenile's escape, recapture, furlough, and/or release from a placement facility or detention center;
- To be notified of the details of the final disposition of the case of a juvenile;
- To be notified of the termination of the Court's jurisdiction.

In order to receive these rights, you must provide the Juvenile Court Victim/ Witness Office with a current address and telephone number.

## BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



# INFORMATION ON RESTITUTION

If there are expenses that you incur due to the result of the crime, you may request repayment from the offender if he/she is convicted. Receipts and other information regarding expenses must be included with the restitution claim.

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| <b>Restitution May Cover</b>   | <b>Restitution Does Not Cover:</b>                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical expenses</li> <li>• Property loss</li> <li>• Insurance deductibles</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain and suffering</li> </ul> |

## CRIME VICTIMS' COMPENSATION

If you or your family member are a victim of a crime, you may be eligible for compensation, provided:

- The crime occurred in Pennsylvania and was reported to the police within 72 hours.
- The victim cooperated with the authorities.
- The claim was filed within two years from the date of discovery.
- The loss requirements were met.
- The victim was not engaged in illegal activity.

### Compensation May Cover:

- Medical expenses
- Counseling
- Loss of earnings or support
- Cash loss of benefits
- Stolen cash benefits
- Funeral expenses in the case of homicide
- Additional expenses may be able to reimbursed.

### Compensation Does Not Cover:

- Pain and suffering
- Property loss (unless property is a medical device).
- Certain vehicle-related injuries or deaths

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- **ADJUDICATION:** the juvenile equivalent of "found guilty" in the adult system.
- **BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE:** the framework under which the Juvenile Court operates. The Court takes into account the needs of the victim, the community, and the offender, while working with juveniles and their families.
- **CONSENT DECREE:** a contract between the juvenile and the Court. The juvenile admits his/ her role in the crime and agrees to be placed under supervision without an adjudication being entered. The court then orders specific conditions to be completed within a six-month time frame.
- **DISPOSITION:** the equivalent to sentencing in the adult system. Using suggestions from the Juvenile Probation Officer, the Court decides what type of treatment is best for the juvenile (counseling, community service, placement, electronic monitoring, etc.)
- **FINDING OF FACT:** an admission of guilt that is entered in Court. The juvenile gives up his/her right to have the Commonwealth prove their case against them in order to be placed on a Consent Decree.
- **FORMAL HEARING:** held when a juvenile denies involvement in the offense. Witnesses are called to testify and the Court determines, beyond a reasonable doubt, if the juvenile is found to have committed the crime.
- **INFORMAL PROBATION:** a short-term probationary period in which the juvenile agrees to be placed under supervision. Usually for young offenders or first-time minor offenses.
- **JUVENILE DELINQUENT:** a juvenile who is found, by the Court, to be in need of rehabilitation or treatment.
- **PETITION:** an official numbered document which describes the alleged offense committed by the juvenile. A petition must be filed for all cases that go to court, however, cases handled informally do not require a petition to be filed.
- **PLACEMENT:** a treatment facility into which a juvenile may be ordered if determined that they cannot stay in the community. The juvenile receives schooling and counseling. Length of stay is determined by the juvenile's adjustment.
- **PRETRIAL HEARING:** a meeting between the Assistant District Attorney and Defense Attorney to discuss the charges and try to come to an agreement on a plea or agree to schedule a formal hearing.
- **PROBATION:** a supervised period of time in which the juvenile remains in the community after an adjudication. Specific conditions to be completed while on probation are ordered by the Court with the recommendation of the Probation Officer.
- **REFERRAL:** a juvenile's police report which is forwarded to the Juvenile Probation Office. All referrals are given an intake number and assigned to a Probation Officer.

If, as an individual utilizing the services at the CVC, you feel a grievance for services you have received, please (1) Inform your counselor or advocate about your grievance and (2) Attempt to resolve the grievance with your counselor or advocate. If you are not satisfied after the first two steps, ask to speak with a CVC Supervisor or request a meeting with the agency's CEO. If after those steps you feel that your grievance has not been resolved, please contact the Office of Victim Advocate at 1-800-563-6399 or www.ovva.pa.gov. Please note that if you are uncomfortable with steps one and two, you may go directly to step three. CVC will inform you of your options and assist you if you decide to go through the grievance process.