

## **THE RIGHTS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS ACT OF 2004**

The Crime Victims' Rights Act of 2004, 18 U.S. C. Section 3771 provides that officers and employees of the Department of Justice shall make their best efforts to see that crime victims are notified of, and accorded, the following rights:

- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused;
- The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding, or any parole proceeding, involving the crime or of any release or escape of the accused;
- The right not to be excluded from any such public court proceeding, unless the court, after receiving clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding;
- The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, sentencing, or any parole proceeding;
- The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case;
- The right to full and timely restitution as provided in law;
- The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay;
- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.

### **Administrative Complaints**

If you think that your rights under the Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA) have been violated or that you have not received all the rights under the CVRA, you have the right to file an administrative claim. Claims should be made in writing on the official complaint form. From the time you learn of a potential violation under CVRA, you have 60 days or one year from the actual violation to file a complaint.

After a complaint is filed, it will be investigated. If a violation is found to have occurred, every attempt will be made to correct the violation. You will be notified of the findings and corrective action. Additionally, all violations are reported to the Victims' Rights Ombudsman (VRO) for any additional action the VRO deems appropriate.

To get a copy of the Complaint Form and additional information on how to file a claim refer to the Victims' Rights Point of Contact, United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of Georgia, Procedures for Victims' Complaints Brought Under the Crime Victims' Rights Act available on this website.