

Chapter 151

(Senate Bill 272)

AN ACT concerning

Sentencing Procedures – Statement by Victim or Victim’s Representative (Alex’s Law)

FOR the purpose of requiring a court in a sentencing or disposition hearing to allow a victim or the victim’s representative to address the court under oath before the imposition of sentence or other disposition under certain circumstances; and generally relating to a certain statement by a victim or the victim’s representative in a sentencing or disposition hearing.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Criminal Procedure
Section 11–401 and 11–403(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Criminal Procedure
Section 11–403(b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Criminal Procedure

11–401.

In this subtitle, “victim’s representative” means:

- (1) a member of the victim’s immediate family; or
- (2) another family member, the personal representative, or guardian of the victim if the victim is:
 - (i) deceased;
 - (ii) under a mental, physical, or legal disability; or

(iii) otherwise unable to provide the required information.

11-403.

(a) In this section, “sentencing or disposition hearing” means a hearing at which the imposition of a sentence, disposition in a juvenile court proceeding, or alteration of a sentence or disposition in a juvenile court proceeding is considered.

(b) In the sentencing or disposition hearing the court[:

(1)] , if practicable, shall allow the victim or the victim’s representative to address the court under oath before the imposition of sentence or other disposition:

[i] (1) at the request of the prosecuting attorney; [or]

(2) AT THE REQUEST OF THE VICTIM OR THE VICTIM’S REPRESENTATIVE; OR

[ii] (3) if the victim has filed a notification request form under § 11-104 of this title[; and

(2) may allow the victim or the victim’s representative to address the court under oath before the imposition of sentence or other disposition at the request of the victim or the victim’s representative].

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2014.