
By: **Delegate Vallario (Task Force to Examine Maryland's Crime Victims' Rights Laws) and Delegates Barve, Bobo, Bozman, Brinkley, E. Burns, M. Burns, Cadden, Comeau, Conroy, Conway, Crumlin, Cryor, Curran, DeCarlo, Dewberry, Donoghue, Doory, Dypski, Edwards, Exum, Faulkner, Finifter, Frush, Fulton, Hammen, Harkins, Harrison, Healey, Hecht, Heller, Hixson, Howard, Hubbard, B. Hughes, Hutchins, Jacobs, Kach, Kelly, Klausmeier, Klima, Leopold, Linton, Love, McIntosh, McKee, Menes, Minnick, Mohorovic, Morhaim, O'Donnell, Owings, Palumbo, Perry, Petzold, Pitkin, Preis, Proctor, Rawlings, Redmer, Rudolph, Rzepkowski, Schade, Snodgrass, Stup, Turner, and Workman**

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Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 10, 1998

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Victims' Rights - Plea Agreement Notification**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the notification of certain victims about the terms and
4 conditions of any plea agreement under certain circumstances; ~~defining certain~~
5 ~~terms~~; altering a certain definition; and generally relating to victims'
6 notification procedures.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
9 Section 770
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

2 770.

3 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (2) "Victim" means an individual who suffers direct or threatened
5 physical, emotional, or financial harm as a direct result of a crime or delinquent act,
6 including a family member or guardian of a minor, incompetent, or homicide victim.

7 (3) "Clerk" means the clerk of a circuit court or the clerk of a court sitting
8 as the juvenile court, as the context requires.

9 ~~(4) "DEFENDANT" MEANS:~~

10 ~~(I) A PERSON WHO IS CHARGED WITH A CRIME; OR~~

11 ~~(II) A CHILD WHO IS ALLEGED TO HAVE COMMITTED A~~
12 ~~DELINQUENT ACT.~~

13 ~~(5) "PLEA AGREEMENT" MEANS:~~

14 ~~(I) AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEFENDANT OR THE~~
15 ~~DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY AND THE STATE'S ATTORNEY THAT THE DEFENDANT WILL~~
16 ~~ADMIT OR PLEAD GUILTY, NOT GUILTY ON STIPULATED FACTS, OR NOLO~~
17 ~~CONTENDERE ON ANY PROPER CONDITIONS; OR~~

18 ~~(II) THE COURT AGREEING TO IMPOSE A CERTAIN SENTENCE,~~
19 ~~DISPOSITION, OR OTHER JUDICIAL ACTION AS A CONSEQUENCE OF A PLEA.~~

20 ~~{(4)}~~ ~~(6)~~ "State's Attorney" includes:

21 (i) The State's Attorney's designee; and

22 (ii) [At the appellate level,] WHEN PERFORMING A
23 PROSECUTORIAL FUNCTION AT THE TRIAL LEVEL, the Attorney General or the
24 Attorney General's designee.

25 (b) On first contact with a victim, a law enforcement officer, District Court
26 commissioner, or juvenile intake officer shall give the victim a copy of the pamphlet
27 described in § 841(8)(i) of this article.

28 (c) (1) Within 10 days after the later of the filing or the unsealing of an
29 indictment or information in circuit court, the State's Attorney shall:

30 (i) Mail or otherwise deliver to the victim a copy of the pamphlet
31 described in § 841(8)(ii) of this article;

32 (ii) Mail or otherwise deliver to the victim a copy of the notification
33 request form described in § 841(9) of this article; and

1 (iii) Certify to the clerk that the State's Attorney has complied with
2 the requirements in items (i) and (ii) of this paragraph or is unable to identify the
3 victim.

4 (2) On the filing of a petition alleging delinquency in a case in which the
5 child is alleged to have committed an act that could only be tried in the circuit court
6 if committed by an adult, the State's Attorney shall:

7 (i) Inform the victim of the right to request restitution under § 807
8 of this article;

9 (ii) Mail or otherwise deliver to the victim a copy of the notification
10 request form described in § 841(9) of this article; and

11 (iii) Certify to the clerk that the State's Attorney has complied with
12 the requirements in items (i) and (ii) of this paragraph or is unable to identify the
13 victim.

14 (d) (1) On completion of a notification request form obtained from the
15 State's Attorney under subsection (c) of this section, the victim may file the form with
16 the State's Attorney.

17 (2) On receipt of a completed notification request form by the State's
18 Attorney, the State's Attorney shall send a copy of the form to the clerk.

19 (3) The filing of a notification request form by a victim constitutes
20 compliance with Article 47 of the Declaration of Rights or any other provision of the
21 Code that requires a victim to request notification.

22 (4) A victim who files a notification request form and does not want his
23 or her address to be made public shall designate in a notification request form a
24 person or organization who has consented to receive notice for the victim.

25 (e) (1) If a victim has filed a notification request form under subsection (d)
26 of this section, the State's Attorney shall send to the victim prior notice, if practicable,
27 of all court proceedings in the case, INCLUDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A
28 PLEA AGREEMENT, IF ANY.

29 (2) If the case is in a jurisdiction in which the office of the clerk is
30 equipped with an automated filing system, nothing in this subsection precludes the
31 State's Attorney from requesting the clerk to send the notice required under
32 paragraph (1) of this subsection.

33 (3) After a victim has filed a notification request form under subsection
34 (d) of this section and if prior notice to the victim is not practicable, or if the victim is
35 not present at the proceeding, the State's Attorney shall, as soon after the proceeding
36 as practicable, advise the victim of [all] THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY PLEA
37 AGREEMENT AND ALL OTHER proceedings that affect the victim's interests, including
38 a bail hearing or change in the defendant's pretrial release order, dismissal, nolle
39 prosequi or setting of charges, trial, disposition, or post-sentencing court proceeding.

1 (4) Whether or not the victim has filed a notification request form under
2 subsection (d) of this section, if the victim requests such information, nothing may
3 preclude the State's Attorney from giving the victim information concerning the
4 current status of the case.

5 (f) (1) If a commitment order is issued after a victim has filed a notification
6 request form under subsection (d) of this section, the clerk shall include a copy of the
7 notification request form with the commitment order.

8 (2) If a probation order is issued after a victim has filed a notification
9 request form under subsection (d) of this section, the clerk shall include a copy of the
10 notification request form with the probation order.

11 (g) If an appeal is filed in a case in which a victim has filed a notification
12 request form under subsection (d) of this section, the clerk shall send a copy of the
13 notification request form to the Attorney General and the court to which the case has
14 been appealed.

15 (h) At any time after filing a notification request form under subsection (d) of
16 this section, a victim may elect not to receive any further notices by filing a written
17 request with:

18 (1) If the case is still in the circuit court or the juvenile court, the State's
19 Attorney; or

20 (2) If a commitment order has been issued in the case, the department or
21 facility specified in the commitment order to which the defendant has been
22 committed.

23 (i) This section does not prohibit a victim from filing a notification request
24 form with a department or facility to which a defendant has been committed.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 1998.