

# HOUSE BILL 1320

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By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Procedure – Victim Notification – Request at the Time of Charging**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a law enforcement officer or a District Court commissioner to  
4 inform a victim or a victim’s representative of the ability of the victim or the victim’s  
5 representative to request a certain notification at a certain time; establishing a  
6 process for a victim or a victim’s representative to receive a certain notification; and  
7 generally relating to victim notification.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Criminal Procedure

10 Section 11–104(a)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2025 Replacement Volume)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Criminal Procedure

15 Section 11–104(b), (d), and (e)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2025 Replacement Volume)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

21 11–104.

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

23 (2) “DNA” has the meaning stated in § 2–501 of the Public Safety Article.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) "Statewide DNA database system" has the meaning stated in § 2-501  
2 of the Public Safety Article.

3 (4) "Victim" means a person who suffers actual or threatened physical,  
4 emotional, or financial harm as a direct result of a crime or delinquent act.

5 (5) "Victim's representative" includes a family member or guardian of a  
6 victim who is:

7 (i) a minor;

8 (ii) deceased; or

9 (iii) disabled.

10 (b) (1) On first contact with a victim or victim's representative, a law  
11 enforcement officer, District Court commissioner, or juvenile intake officer shall give the  
12 victim or the victim's representative the pamphlet described in § 11-914(9)(i) of this title.

13 (2) **ON FIRST CONTACT WITH A VICTIM OR VICTIM'S REPRESENTATIVE**  
14 **IN A CRIMINAL CASE, A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR DISTRICT COURT**  
15 **COMMISSIONER SHALL INFORM THE VICTIM OR THE VICTIM'S REPRESENTATIVE OF**  
16 **THE ABILITY OF THE VICTIM OR THE VICTIM'S REPRESENTATIVE TO REQUEST**  
17 **NOTIFICATION THROUGH THE MARYLAND ELECTRONIC COURTS (MDEC) SYSTEM**  
18 **OF A DEFENDANT'S CUSTODY STATUS AND COURT HEARINGS.**

19 (3) **IF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RECEIVES A REQUEST FOR**  
20 **NOTIFICATION FROM A VICTIM OR VICTIM'S REPRESENTATIVE UNDER THIS**  
21 **SUBSECTION, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SHALL PROVIDE THE REQUEST TO**  
22 **THE DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONER AT THE TIME OF CHARGING.**

23 (4) (i) **ON RECEIVING A REQUEST FOR NOTIFICATION FROM A**  
24 **VICTIM, A VICTIM'S REPRESENTATIVE, OR A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER UNDER**  
25 **THIS SUBSECTION, A DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONER SHALL ENTER THE REQUEST**  
26 **INTO THE MDEC SYSTEM.**

27 (ii) **AFTER THE DISTRICT COURT COMMISSIONER ENTERS THE**  
28 **REQUEST INTO THE MDEC SYSTEM, THE STATE'S VICTIM INFORMATION AND**  
29 **NOTIFICATION EVERYDAY VENDOR SHALL NOTIFY THE VICTIM OR THE VICTIM'S**  
30 **REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEFENDANT'S RELEASE BY THE COMMISSIONER, OTHER**  
31 **RELEASE FROM CUSTODY, AND SCHEDULED COURT HEARINGS.**

32 (d) (1) Within 10 days after the filing or the unsealing of an indictment or  
33 information in circuit court, whichever is later, the prosecuting attorney shall:

1 (i) mail or deliver to the victim or victim's representative the  
2 pamphlet described in § 11-914(9)(ii) of this title and the notification request form  
3 described in § 11-914(10) of this title; and

4 (ii) certify to the clerk of the court that the prosecuting attorney has  
5 complied with this paragraph or is unable to identify the victim or victim's representative.

6 (2) If the prosecuting attorney files a petition alleging that a child is  
7 delinquent for committing an act that could only be tried in the circuit court if committed  
8 by an adult, the prosecuting attorney shall:

9 (i) inform the victim or victim's representative of the right to  
10 request restitution under § 11-606 of this title;

11 (ii) mail or deliver to the victim or victim's representative the  
12 notification request form described in § 11-914(10) of this title; and

13 (iii) certify to the clerk of the juvenile court that the prosecuting  
14 attorney has complied with this paragraph or is unable to identify the victim or victim's  
15 representative.

16 (3) For cases described under this subsection, the prosecuting attorney  
17 may provide a State's witness in the case with the guidelines for victims, victims'  
18 representatives, and witnesses available under §§ 11-1001 through 11-1004 of this title.

19 **(4) WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE FILING OF A CRIMINAL INFORMATION**  
20 **IN THE DISTRICT COURT, THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY SHALL INFORM THE VICTIM**  
21 **OR THE VICTIM'S REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ABILITY OF THE VICTIM OR THE VICTIM'S**  
22 **REPRESENTATIVE TO REQUEST NOTIFICATION THROUGH THE MDEC SYSTEM OF A**  
23 **DEFENDANT'S CUSTODY STATUS AND COURT HEARINGS.**

24 (e) (1) A victim or victim's representative may:

25 (i) file a completed notification request form with the prosecuting  
26 attorney; or

27 (ii) follow the MDEC system protocol to request notice.

28 (2) (i) If the jurisdiction has not implemented the MDEC system, the  
29 prosecuting attorney shall send a copy of the completed notification request form to the  
30 clerk of the circuit court or juvenile court.

31 (ii) If the jurisdiction has implemented the MDEC system and the  
32 victim or victim's representative has filed a completed notification request form, the  
33 prosecuting attorney shall electronically file the form with the clerk of the circuit court or  
34 juvenile court in the MDEC system.

1           (3) By filing a completed notification request form or completing the MDEC  
2 system protocol, a victim or victim's representative complies with Article 47 of the  
3 Maryland Declaration of Rights and each provision of the Code that requires a victim or  
4 victim's representative to request notice.

5           (4) To keep the address, **TELEPHONE NUMBER**, and electronic mail  
6 address of a victim or victim's representative confidential, the victim or victim's  
7 representative shall:

8                   (i) designate in the notification request form a person who has  
9 agreed to receive notice for the victim or victim's representative; or

10                   (ii) request as part of the MDEC system protocol, without filing a  
11 motion to seal, that the address, **TELEPHONE NUMBER**, and electronic mail address  
12 remain confidential and available, as necessary to only:

- 13                               1. the court;
- 14                               2. the prosecuting attorney;
- 15                               3. the Department of Public Safety and Correctional  
16 Services;
- 17                               4. the Department of Juvenile Services;
- 18                               5. the attorney of the victim or victim's representative;
- 19                               6. the State's Victim Information and Notification Everyday  
20 vendor; and
- 21                               7. a commitment unit that a court orders to retain custody of  
22 an individual.

23           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
24 October 1, 2026.