

The **Ohio Crime Victims' Bill of Rights**, also known as **Marsy's Law**, was passed by voters in November 2017. This law affords victims certain Constitutional rights which must be protected in a manner no less vigorous than the rights afforded to the defendant.

A victim is defined as, "any person against whom a criminal offense or delinquent act is committed or any person who is directly and proximately harmed by the commission of the offense or act." The suspect, defendant, or offender is not a victim, and the term victim does not include "a person whom the court finds would not act in the best interests of a deceased, incompetent, minor or incapacitated victim."

-Marsy's Law affords victims the following rights:

- (1) To be treated with fairness and respect for the victim's safety, dignity and privacy;**
- (2) Upon request, to reasonable and timely notice of all public proceedings involving the criminal offense against the victim, and to be present at all such proceedings;**
- (3) To be heard in any public proceeding involving release, plea, sentencing, disposition, or in any public proceeding in which a right of the victim is implicated;**
- (4) To reasonable protection from the accused or any person acting on behalf of the accused;**
- (5) Upon request, to reasonable notice of any release or escape of the accused;**
- (6) Except as authorized by section 10 of Article I of the Ohio Constitution (the criminal defendant's right to Due Process), to refuse an interview, deposition, or other discovery request made by the accused or any person acting on behalf of the accused;**
- (7) To full and timely restitution from the person who committed the criminal offense against the victim;**
- (8) To proceedings free from unreasonable delay and a prompt conclusion of the case;**
- (9) Upon request, to confer with the attorney for the government (i.e. the prosecutor);**
- (10) To be informed, in writing, of all rights enumerated in this section.**

-More information can be found at the following links:

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Office

<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Publications-Files/Publications-for-Victims/Picking-Up-the-Pieces-A-Guide-to-Helping-Crime-Vic>

www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/victims

Columbus City Attorney's Guide to Protection Orders, the Court and Community Resources

<http://columbuscityattorney.org/prosecution-guidetoprotection.aspx>

Columbus Division of Police

www.columbus.gov/police

Columbus City Attorney Zack Klein's Office

<http://columbuscityattorney.org/victimrights.aspx>

Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien's Office

<https://prosecutor.franklincountyohio.gov/criminal-division/victim-witness-unit>

Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center

<https://www.ocvjc.org/>

-The victim, the attorney for the government (i.e. the prosecutor) upon request of the victim, or the victim's other lawful representative, in any proceeding involving the criminal offense against the victim or in which the victim's rights are implicated, may assert the rights enumerated in this section and any other right afforded to the victim by law. If the relief sought is denied, the victim or the victim's lawful representative may petition the court of appeals for the applicable district, which shall promptly consider and decide the petition.

Marsy's Law does not create any cause of action for damages or compensation against the state, any political subdivision of the state, any officer, employee, or agent of the state or of any political subdivision, or any officer of the court.

-The Investigating Law Enforcement Agency for your incident is: The Columbus Division of Police

www.columbus.gov/police

614-645-4624 (Investigative Duty desk)

614-645-4545 (non-emergency phone number for the radio room)

-Depending on the type of crime (misdemeanor or felony) and where it occurred (County), your case will be handled by one of the following prosecutor's offices:

Franklin County

Misdemeanor Offenses:

Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein's Office

<http://www.columbuscityattorney.org/>

375 South High Street, 7th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Main number: 614-645-7483

Felony Offenses:

Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien's Office

<https://prosecutor.franklincountyohio.gov/>

373 South High Street, 14th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Main number: 614-525-3555

Delaware County

Misdemeanor Offenses:

Delaware City Attorney Darren Shulman's Office

<http://www.delawareohio.net/city-attorney/>

70 North Union Street

Delaware, Ohio 43015

Main Number: 740-203-1175

Felony Offenses:

Delaware County Prosecutor Carol O'Brien's Office

<https://prosecutor.co.delaware.oh.us/>

140 North Sandusky Street, 3rd Floor

Delaware, Ohio 43015

Main Number: 740-833-2690

Fairfield County

Misdemeanor Offenses:

Fairfield County Law Director and City Prosecutor Randall Ullom's Office

<https://www.ci.lancaster.oh.us/196/Law-Director>

136 West Main Street

Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Main Number: 740-687-6616

Felony Offenses

Fairfield County Prosecutor Kyle Witt's Office

<https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/prosecutor/about-Kyle-Witt.htm>

239 West Main Street, Suite 101

Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Main Number: 740-652-7560

-IF YOU ARE NOT NOTIFIED OF THE ARREST OF THE OFFENDER IN YOUR CASE WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME, YOU MAY CONTACT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO LEARN THE STATUS OF YOUR CASE