A VICTIM'S GUIDE TO THE ★ ★ ★ District of Columbia Legal System

cce Volare OVSJG

About the Council for Court Excellence

The Council for Court Excellence (CCE) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that brings people together to conduct research, educate, and advocate to make Washington, D.C.'s unique legal systems more just, equitable, and accountable to the community. We envision a D.C. where individuals, organizations, and government work together to build safe and thriving communities with a trusted legal system that meets the needs of its people, protects their rights, and promotes dignity and justice for all.

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About Volare

Volare was founded in 2012 as Network of Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC). Volare's mission is to create equitable healing and dignified experiences for survivors of crime. We do this by providing free, trauma-informed advocacy, therapeutic, and legal services in conjunction with strategic litigation, policy advocacy, and education to transform existing responses to harm.

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About the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants

The mission of the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) is to develop, fund, and coordinate programs that improve public safety; enhance the administration of justice; and create systems of care for crime victims, youth, returning citizens and their families in the District. In order to accomplish its mission, OVSJG coordinates and funds community-based and District agency services for victims of crime and justice involved individuals.

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Download this report at www.courtexcellence.org/victimsguide.

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Introduction

Purpose of this Guide

A Victim's Guide to the District of Columbia Legal System is a resource designed to help crime victims navigate the complexities of the legal process in Washington, D.C. This Guide can be used by those who have experienced crime within the District or who are seeking to support a family member or a loved one who has been a victim of a crime. The goal of this Guide is to ensure that individuals understand what to expect and how to access support after experiencing a crime.

How to Use This Guide

This Guide provides an overview of victims' rights, the roles of key government agencies, and available services. It can help readers to familiarize themselves with legal procedures, victim assistance programs, and points of contact for advocacy and crisis intervention. Whether seeking information on reporting a crime, obtaining protective measures, or understanding court proceedings, this Guide can serve as a tool for empowerment and informed decision-making. Because some victims may not feel that the legal system aligns with their goals and needs, a section on alternatives is included in this Guide as well.

Victims of crime or those looking to support them may utilize this Guide at any stage of the legal process. While it is written in order of how a typical legal process moves, each case is unique, so the Guide may be referenced at any point during the process. There is also a glossary at the end with definitions of the important terms used in the Guide, flowcharts to describe the typical legal process, and a basic map of Judiciary Square where many of the agencies listed in this Guide are located. Any term that is defined in the glossary will have an asterisk (*) next to it the first time it is used.

Content Note

The content of this Guide may be emotionally challenging. It addresses sensitive topics that include, but are not limited to, **stalking,*** kidnapping, physical, sexual, and **domestic violence.*** The inclusion of this content is not intended to cause distress, but rather to clearly and directly name resources for those who may have experienced these situations.

In general, this Guide will use person-first language. However, terms like **"victim"*** and **"offender"*** are used throughout this Guide because they are legal terms that are necessary within the criminal and/or civil legal systems. We also strive to use non-gendered language, unless there is an important distinction for the reader to be aware of. For example, shelters and jails may be separated by gender. If you are a trans or gender non-conforming person, you may need to contact specific facilities to learn more.

Please read the Glossary for other notes on language use throughout this Guide.

Quick Reference

Information for D.C. Victims with Urgent Needs

I need urgent help or to report a crime

Victims should call 911 to request urgent or emergency assistance. In D.C., people can call 911 to report crimes and to seek police assistance, even if there is not an active emergency. D.C. crime victims can also seek urgent non-police assistance from the D.C. Victim Hotline (available 24/7). For additional non-police options, please speak to an advocate or an **attorney.***

Important Numbers for Victims of Crime – Who to Call First	
911	Call 911 if you are in immediate danger, to receive emergency services, or to report a crime.
D.C. Victim Hotline 1(844) 4HELPDC (844-443-5732) dcvictim.org	This 24-hour non-police hotline provides free and **confidential*** information and support to all D.C. crime victims.
D.C. Behavioral Health Department 988 or 202-673-6495	This 24/7 non-police crisis response service offers free support and information to D.C. adults facing emotional distress, mental health or substance use challenges, or in need of pre-arrest **diversion***.

I need medical help

For emergency medical assistance, victims should call 911. Urgent medical assistance can also be obtained by traveling to a nearby hospital or emergency department. For non-emergency medical assistance, victims should contact their regular health professional or go to a healthcare clinic.

I don't feel safe

Victims who feel they are in immediate danger should call 911. When possible, victims who have already been involved in a legal case should also notify their assigned advocate, law enforcement officer, and/or **prosecutor,*** although those individuals will likely not be immediately available.

Victims who do not believe that the danger is immediate but are worried about unwanted contact can apply for a Civil Protection Order (CPO) or Anti-Stalking Order (ASO), which are **court*** orders instructing one person to avoid contact with another person for up to one year. See the "Staying Safe: Protection Orders and Emergency Help" section of this Guide for more information.

Many other resources are available to D.C. victims to help them regain their sense of safety. For instance, through the Crime Victims Compensation Program victims may be able to receive financial assistance to change their locks, or to move residences altogether. More information is available in the section titled "Help with Costs After a Crime: D.C. Crime Victims Compensation Program." Victims can also call the D.C. Victim Hotline to learn about what assistance is available to them or can review the Resources section of this Guide.

I need legal help

In a criminal **trial,*** a government prosecutor will try the case against the **defendant.*** The prosecutor represents the public, not any specific victim(s). Victims may want their own attorney to represent their interests, maintain confidential and privileged communications, or assist with legal issues separate from the criminal case that may arise - like family law, housing, or civil lawsuits. To learn more about victim support roles (e.g., victim advocates and crime victims' rights attorneys), see the section titled "Key Roles Within the Criminal Legal System." To learn about available resources, victims should contact the Victim Legal Network of DC (202-629-1788), which assists victims of crimes in connecting with attorneys who provide free or low-cost legal assistance.

I need help with costs related to a crime

A victim might need to take immediate action following a crime, such as seeking medical attention or arranging burial services of a loved one. Victims may be eligible for funding from D.C.'s Crime Victims Compensation Program to assist with these expenses. There is a section specifically on this program later in the Guide.

I am an Undocumented Immigrant

An undocumented immigrant who has been a victim of or who has witnessed a crime that happened in the United States may be eligible for special protections, like a U-Visa. However, given that the legal landscape changes frequently, victims who are undocumented should contact a victim service provider that specializes in immigration matters to get information about resources and **safety planning*** for this unique situation, including what to expect if a police report is made. For suggested providers see www.courtexcellence.org/victimsguide. Victims can also contact the Victim Legal Network of D.C. (202-629-1788) to be connected to an attorney for advice and for information about visas available to victims and **witnesses*** of domestic violence or other crimes.

I need to go to the hospital but I have concerns about how I will be treated

Crime victims in D.C. hospitals have important rights. They have the right to emergency medical care—police **investigations*** cannot delay or interfere with treatment. They also have the right to decide what kind of care they want, including saying no to treatment or leaving the hospital. A victim's medical records are private, and only the victim (or someone they specifically allow) can see them unless police have a proper **warrant***. Victims do not have to talk to the police, and if they are not thinking clearly—because of medication, pain, or stress—they can say out loud that they are not ready to talk. At all times, victims have the right to stay silent during interactions with the police and to ask if they are being **arrested*** or just questioned. They can ask where their property is and change their mind at any time, even if they had been talking to police before.

If a victim needs emergency treatment or a **medical forensic exam*** (like a rape kit) for a sexual assault, the police cannot arrest the victim at the hospital unless the police already have a warrant for a serious or violent crime. Even if a victim is being treated like a **suspect***—like being handcuffed or asked to hand over property—they still have the rights of a crime victim. Police usually need a warrant signed by a **judge*** to take someone's belongings, and hospital staff cannot give permission. This includes looking through or searching clothes, pockets, phones and/or any other belongings without a victim's consent. Sexual assault victims have the right to an advocate at any interview conducted by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) or other District agency.

Victims can always ask to speak with a crime victims' rights attorney or a hospital-based violence intervention staff member anytime they are at the hospital. Victims also have the right to have an attorney, an advocate (in certain instances), or violence intervention staff member with them during medical exams or police interviews at the hospital, especially if they have been shot or stabbed on purpose. Additionally, if a victim speaks privately with an attorney or violence intervention representative at the hospital, those conversations are confidential, with only a few exceptions. Speak to an attorney or advocate about what exceptions may apply. As of the summer of 2025, the hospitals with hospital-based violence intervention services are:

- Medstar Washington Hospital Center (MWHC)
- Howard University Hospital (HUH)
- George Washington University Hospital (GWUH)
- Cedar Hill Regional Medical Center
- UMD Prince George's Hospital Center (UMDPGHC)
- Children's National Hospital

Crime Victims' Rights

The criminal legal system is designed to respond to allegations of criminal behavior. While the focus is often on police, courts, and people **accused*** of crimes, it is equally important to recognize the role of crime victims—people who have been harmed and must often deal with the legal system while coping with fear, confusion, and trauma.

Crime victims are not just bystanders in the legal process. They have rights that help ensure they are treated fairly, kept safe, and involved in the case.

Rights of Crime Victims in Washington, D.C.

In Washington, D.C., laws give crime victims specific, enforceable rights. These laws make sure that victims are kept informed about what is happening in the case, consulted during important decisions, and treated with respect throughout the legal process.

These rights include:

- The right to receive updates about the case.
- The right to be consulted before a **plea*** deal is made or a **sentence*** is decided.
- The right to be protected from the accused person.
- The right to keep certain personal details private.

Even though prosecutors are expected to communicate with victims, these rights act as legal guarantees to make sure that happens. They help protect victims from being ignored or left out of the process.

Where These Rights are Listed

Many of these protections are found in the D.C. Crime Victims' Bill of Rights (§ 23–1901). This law outlines key rights that victims have in D.C. criminal cases.

Other laws may apply depending on the situation. For example:

- If the case is handled in **federal*** court, the Crime Victims' Rights Act (18 U.S. Code § 3771) may also apply.
- Survivors of sexual assault may have added protections under the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2019.
- Additional protections are available through the Expanding Victim Supports for Crime Victims Act.

These laws work together to make sure victims are supported, protected, and given a voice in the process.

For help understanding or enforcing crime victims' rights, victims can contact a crime victims' rights attorney; see the section called "Key Roles Within the Criminal Legal System" to learn more about their role.

Please see the section called "Crime Victims' Rights Laws" to read the exact language.

Who Helps Victims with Their Rights?

At the heart of enforcing these protections is the crime victims' rights attorney—a professional whose primary responsibility is to uphold the legal interests of victims within the justice system. Unlike prosecutors, whose primary duty is to the government, a victims' rights attorney advocates solely for the victim's rights and well-being. They ensure victims are aware of their legal protections, support them in asserting those rights, and intervene if those rights are overlooked or violated by government representatives like prosecutors, **defense attorneys***, or judges.

Victims who feel their rights have been disregarded can turn to their attorney for support. They also have the option of filing formal complaints with the relevant government agency. But navigating these systems can be daunting, which is why the guidance of a dedicated victims' rights attorney is often essential. For more about how these attorneys assist and advocate for crime victims, see the section called "Key Roles Within the Criminal Legal System."

Why These Rights Matter

Understanding and enforcing victims' rights isn't just about the law—it's about restoring agency, promoting justice, and ensuring that those harmed by crime are supported, heard, and empowered throughout their legal journey.

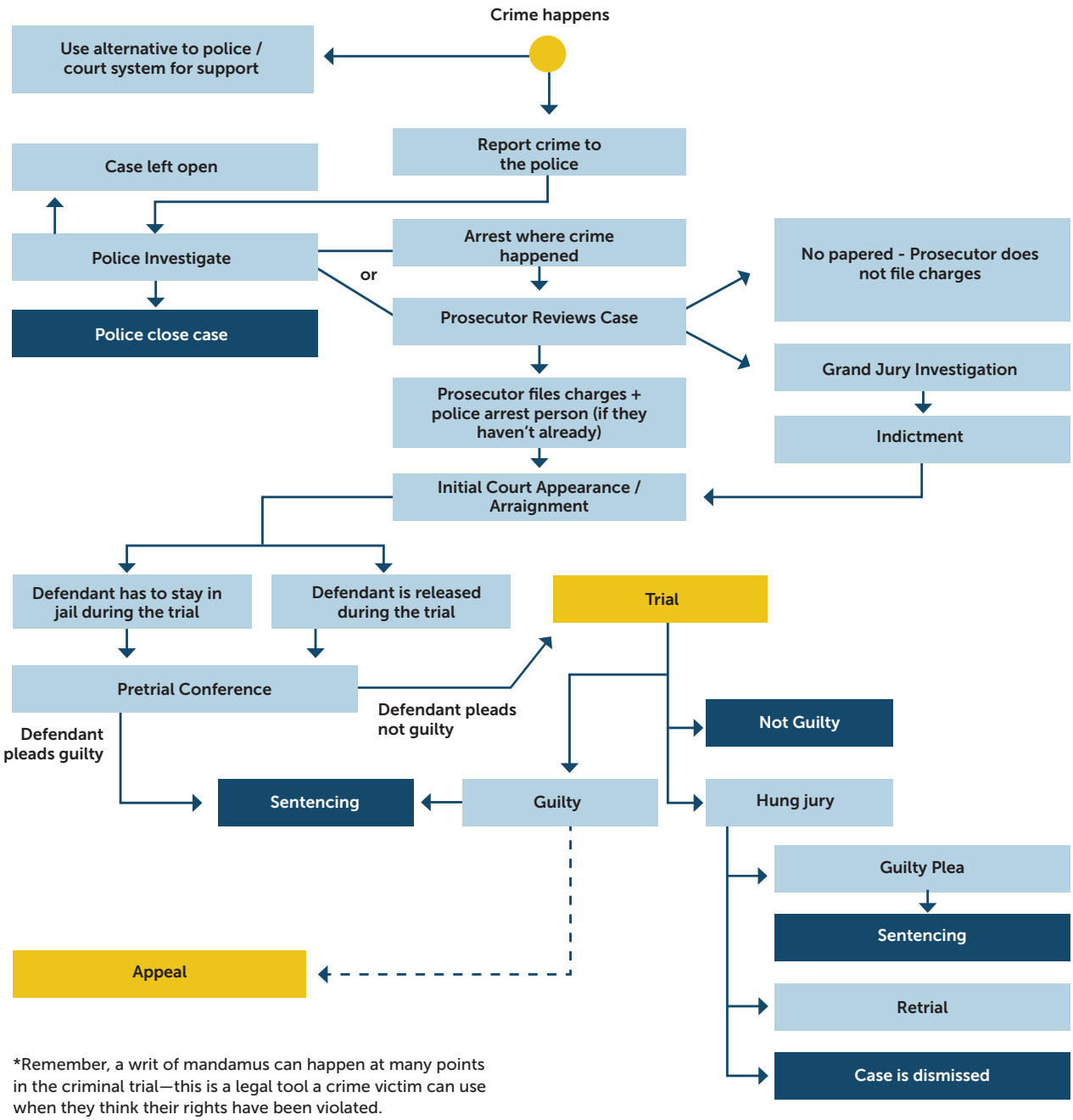
If victims feel their rights have been violated by a government employee, they should communicate their concerns to their advocate. Victims may also wish to file a complaint regarding the violation to the relevant government organization.

How the D.C. Criminal Legal System Works

Since the District of Columbia is not a state, but a special federal district, it has a unique criminal legal system that involves both local and federal agencies. The flow chart below outlines the steps of the D.C. criminal legal process that occur starting after a crime is committed.

Please note that this is a simplified version of the process and may not represent everyone's experience in the system. The steps shown below are described in more detail in this section. If you want to learn about alternatives to the criminal legal system, see the section titled "Alternatives to the Legal System."

D.C. Criminal Legal System



*Remember, a writ of mandamus can happen at many points in the criminal trial—this is a legal tool a crime victim can use when they think their rights have been violated.

Key Roles Within the Criminal Legal System

Below is a chart that lays out the important jobs in the criminal legal system and what each of them do.

ROLE	WHAT THEY DO
Police	Police officers are usually the first people to respond when a crime happens. They collect **evidence,*** talk to people involved, and arrest those who may have broken the law. For example, if someone's house is broken into, the police may dust for fingerprints or ask neighbors what they saw.
Victim Advocates	Victim advocates help people who were harmed by a crime. They explain the legal process, give emotional support, help with resources (like counseling), and go to court with the victim if needed. What an advocate does may depend on where they work. **Government Advocates:** Work for the police or prosecutors. They may have to share what the victim says and usually only help during court cases. **Community Advocates:** Work for non-government groups. What victims say is usually confidential. They can help before, during, or after a case, even if the victim doesn't want to talk to the police. **Hospital Advocates:** Help people hurt by violence. They usually aren't part of the government. In D.C., they must report to the police if: a child may be hurt, or someone wants to harm themselves or others.

Who are the police in D.C.?

This Guide mostly talks about the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), but many other police groups also investigate crimes in D.C. These include the United States (U.S.) Park Police, Metro Transit Police, and U.S. Capitol Police.

ROLE	WHAT THEY DO
Crime Victims' Rights Attorneys	These attorneys support victims to try to make sure they are treated fairly. They explain victims' rights, speak up for them in court, and make sure prosecutors and judges respect those rights. A crime victims' rights attorney works for the victim, so they must keep what the victim says private. They cannot be forced to share personal information with others and can support victims with: • Keeping their information private during criminal cases • Speaking up in court about jail release, plea deals, sentencing, or parole • Applying for D.C. Crime Victim Compensation • Immigration help • Writing a **victim impact statement*** Victims may also need them for other legal issues outside the criminal case, like civil protection orders.
Prosecutor	A prosecutor is a government attorney who tries to prove in court that the person accused of a crime really did it. They use evidence and witness stories (called **testimony***) to explain what happened. A prosecutor is not an attorney for the victim and sometimes may make decisions the victim does not agree with. Prosecutors also must obey special rules that apply to different topics, like what information they must share with a defense attorney, or what information they can only talk about with the judge.
Defense Attorney	A defense attorney helps the person who is accused of doing something wrong. They make sure their client's rights are protected and try to make sure others (like the prosecutor, judge, and police) are being fair.
Judges	Judges are in charge of the courtroom. They try to make sure everyone follows the rules, decide what evidence can be used in the case, and sometimes choose what happens to the person accused of the crime.

Who Are the Prosecutors in D.C.?

In D.C., there are two groups of prosecutors:

1. Office of the Attorney General for D.C. (local cases and crimes by people under 18)– A prosecutor with OAG will usually be called an **Assistant Attorney General*** or AAG.

2. U.S. Attorney's Office for D.C. (some local cases and all federal cases)– A prosecutor in this organization will usually be called an **Assistant U.S. Attorney*** or AUSA.

Who Are the Public Defenders in D.C.?

Public Defender Service (PDS) is the **public defender*** in D.C. This means that they are defense attorneys that provide free services for people who do not have the money to pay for a private attorney.

What Victims Should Know

When meeting someone (like an advocate or an investigator) for the first time after they experience a crime, victims should ask:

- Where do you work?
- Will what I say be private?
- Do you have to report anything I tell you to the police, court or anyone else?

This helps victims know what to expect and feel safer asking for help.

More About Prosecutors in D.C.

In D.C., there are two prosecuting agencies: the local Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, and the federal U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. See the following table for more information about these entities.

It is important to understand that a prosecutor represents the interests of the public and their safety. They do not represent victims, nor do they have to act within a victim's self-interests or make choices that reflect a victim's goals. While they are one of the possible actors in the criminal legal system that may provide victims with support, communications a victim has with a prosecutor are not confidential and the prosecutor may have to share sensitive information with the person who harmed the victim under certain circumstances. More information about how this role differs from a crime victims' attorney can be found later in this section.

CATEGORY	D.C. OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (OAG)	U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR D.C. (USAO-DC)
Who they work with	Mostly kids (minors), some adults accused of crimes	Mostly adults, some serious youth crimes
Type of crimes	• Youth crimes (even "serious" ones) • Reckless or dangerous driving • Carrying illegal weapons • "Quality of life" crimes (like public nudity) • Breaking local rules (like fake license plates) • Some fraud (like cheating on welfare)	• Murder and sexual assault • Domestic violence • Violent attacks and theft • Gun and drug crimes • Big federal crimes (terrorism, large drug cases) • Fraud and corruption • Money laundering
Victim support	• Helps explain cases to victims and families • Keeps in touch throughout the case	• Goes to court with victims • Helps with travel, hotel, counseling, medical care
Special case types	Can help in cases where **Civil Protection Orders** were disobeyed	Handles **federal crimes** that affect many people or cross state lines
What prosecutors are called	AAG = Assistant Attorney General	AUSA = Assistant U.S. Attorney

More About Victim Advocates in D.C.

While the term "advocate" can mean many things, an advocate in this context will refer to "victim advocates" or "survivor advocates," who are trained to support victims of crime. This support can look very different depending on a victim's needs and can include, but is not limited to:

- crisis intervention,
- emotional support,
- referrals to resources,
- help with crime victims' compensation,
- letters of support to employers, landlords, and teachers; and
- accompanying victims to police reports, meetings with prosecutors, or court hearings.

Additionally, the role of an advocate may be different depending on where that specific advocate works. For example, some advocates in D.C. are employed by the government, while others are employed by community-based organizations or hospitals.

GOVERNMENT ADVOCATES

Advocates that are from a law enforcement office or a prosecutor's office have special rules they must follow because they work for the government. Their notes and communications may be subject to certain rules that require them to share information given to them by victims with the court, or with the person accused of harm - even if a victim says it is not okay. These advocates usually only work with victims during the time the criminal case is active.

COMMUNITY ADVOCATES

An advocate from a community organization that is not part of the government does not have the same rules as government workers. This means conversations with them may stay confidential. Community advocates can offer support before and after a court case, and they can also help victims if they decide not to report to the police.

Advocates from a hospital-based violence intervention program that are not affiliated with the government are also not subject to the rules listed above. However, Violence Intervention workers in hospital-based violence intervention programs in D.C. are considered mandated reporters. This means they are legally obligated to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities. Furthermore, if they hear that a victim intends to harm themselves or others, that could be reported.

Victims may want to specifically ask and clarify where an advocate works the first time they meet them. If the advocate does not explain it themselves, a victim may want to ask about the advocate's confidentiality or any reporting requirements.

More About Police & Law Enforcement in D.C.

Washington, D.C. has multiple law enforcement agencies because it is both a city and the seat of the federal government, which means different agencies are responsible for policing different areas and types of crimes.

While the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) handles most local law enforcement duties, federal agencies such as the FBI, U.S. Park Police, U.S. Capitol Police, and Metro Transit Police operate alongside MPD to protect national landmarks, federal buildings, public transportation systems, and enforce federal laws. This overlapping structure exists to address the city's unique combination of local, federal, and national security responsibilities.

More About Defense Attorneys

A defense attorney represents the person accused of a crime and works to protect their legal rights throughout the criminal process. This role is separate from and can be in tension with the interests of a crime victim. While a victim may share important information about what happened, the defense attorney's job is to challenge the government's case, which may include questioning the victim's statements or credibility. Defense attorneys are not required to act in the victim's best interest, and their focus is on defending their client—even when that means confronting or cross-examining the victim in court.

In D.C., people accused of crimes who cannot afford an attorney are often represented by the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS). Others may hire private defense attorneys. Both public defenders and private attorneys may use investigators or experts to help them gather facts, which can include interviewing the victim or people close to them. These investigators work on behalf of the defense and are not neutral parties; they are part of the defense team. Crime victims do not have to speak with defense investigators and may choose to have a prosecutor or victim advocate present if they do.

More About Crime Victims' Rights Attorneys & Legal Help

When it comes to a criminal case being prosecuted against the individual who harmed a victim, victims in D.C. have rights that can be asserted through their own attorney. Crime Victims' Rights Attorneys are specialized attorneys who can represent victims in various stages of a criminal case, from reporting to the police to plea hearings, sentencing, and **post-conviction*** (e.g., **appeals***, parole hearings).

A crime victims' attorney represents the victim, which means they must protect attorney-client privilege, so they cannot be required to share sensitive information with other people. This is different from a prosecutor, who may have an ethical duty to share information with the defendant's attorney or the court.

Crime Victims' Rights Attorneys can help victims with many issues including:

- Protecting their confidentiality during legal proceedings
- Giving input at court proceedings involving release, plea, sentencing or parole
- Obtaining a Civil Protection Order
- Applying for financial assistance from the D.C. Crime Victims Compensation Program
- Addressing immigration issues connected to a crime
- Providing guidance in preparing victim impact statements

Additionally, victims of crimes may want to seek legal advice or hire an attorney for many other types of civil legal matters that may be directly or indirectly related to their status as a crime victim but are not part of the case against the perpetrator. For more information, see the section titled "How the D.C. Civil Legal System Works."

What Happens After a Crime is Committed? The Pretrial Criminal Legal Process

REPORTING A CRIME

A victim who decides to report a crime should contact MPD by calling 911 (used to report crimes even if there is not an emergency). Certain crimes, especially those involving theft or lost property, can be reported online. To see the full list of eligible crimes, and to report a crime online, see https://mpdc.dc.gov/service/file-police-report-online.

Victims should keep the names and phone numbers of the police officers they speak to for their records. When a crime is reported, MPD will connect the victim to its Victim Services Branch, which is staffed by civilian victim specialists who are the primary contacts for victims and their families throughout MPD's criminal investigation.

INVESTIGATION

An MPD detective (usually not the same MPD officer who responds to the crime) will be assigned to investigate the case. Sometimes a specialized unit will investigate the case, such as the Sex Assault Unit, or the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Liaison Unit. MPD attempts to make investigations as efficient as possible, but they do take time. As the investigation proceeds, victims have the right to get updates on their cases. Some victims may feel like their cases are progressing slowly. Unfortunately, criminal investigations do not happen as quickly as they appear to on TV.

When a victim's property has legal significance to an investigation, it may be held by MPD as evidence. MPD understands this process can be inconvenient and strives to complete all necessary tests and investigations as quickly as possible. The investigating officer should tell the victim why the property is being held, how long MPD expects to hold the item, or if the item is eligible for return.

This Guide primarily describes the adult criminal justice system. Some key differences in the D.C. **juvenile*** justice/delinquency system include:

- A focus on rehabilitation of youth over punishment;
- No grand juries to review evidence;
- Court sessions are confidential and closed to the public and only the immediate families of the accused and the victim can attend; and
- Limited information available to the victim about the post release status of the youth.

For more information about the D.C. juvenile justice system, including flowcharts of the various steps in the juvenile justice process, please visit the Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services' (DYRS) website: dyrs.dc.gov/page/dc-juvenile-justice-system. You can also visit www.courtexcellence.org/digital-library for English and Spanish versions of a more plain language Guide to the D.C. Juvenile Justice System.

ARREST

After MPD determines that a crime has been committed, a suspect must be identified and arrested for the case to proceed. Sometimes a suspect is identified and arrested at the scene of the crime. Other times an arrest occurs after an investigation, which can take weeks, months, or years, depending on the case. Sometimes, unfortunately, no suspect is identified and arrested.

PROSECUTOR DECIDES WHETHER TO FILE CRIMINAL CHARGES

Within 24 to 48 hours after a person has been arrested, MPD presents information about the crime to the prosecuting agency, which decides if criminal **charges*** will be filed in court. It is important that the victim respond to phone calls and return any messages from the prosecutor's office. If a victim does not respond to phone calls or return messages, the prosecutor's office may decide to 'no paper'* or not move forward with prosecuting a case.

TIP

If a victim reports a crime to the police, and later sees the accused person, the victim should call 911 for immediate police assistance. The police are authorized to arrest the accused person based on the victim's second sighting. The victim should share the initial police report number with the responding officers.

IF CRIMINAL CHARGES ARE NOT FILED

If the prosecutor does not file charges, the accused must be released. If this happens, MPD or the prosecutor should explain to the victim why charges will not be filed. If no reason is provided, a victim can contact either entity (on their own or with an advocate or an attorney) to receive an explanation. With prosecutors, this is called a declination meeting.

Even if charges are not filed, the victim can still receive assistance from a community service provider, MPD's Victims Services Branch, or the USAO Victim Witness Assistance Unit. A victim can also seek a Civil Protection Order or Anti-Stalking Order against the accused or file a civil lawsuit. For more information about Civil Protection Orders and Anti-Stalking Orders, see the "Saying Space: Protection Orders and Emergency Help" section of this Guide. For more information about civil lawsuits, see the section titled "How the D.C. Civil Legal System Works."

Understanding Different Levels of Proof

It is very important to understand that in a criminal case, different phases of the case will need different levels of "proof" or evidence of the crime. For example, enough proof for an arrest, to file a charge, or to find someone **guilty***.

The level of proof needed is different for different stages. There may be terms like **probable cause*** or **beyond a reasonable doubt*** used in the courtroom. It is important to understand that these are legal requirements to make sure police, prosecutors, and judges have enough evidence to act against the person who is accused. This is because our legal system in the United States assumes that every person is innocent until the court process finds enough evidence to prove they are guilty.

It does not mean that people don't believe the victim. It does not mean that others think what happened to the victim was unimportant. It is not a reflection of a victim's experience, even if it may feel that way. Even if a case doesn't end up with an arrest or someone going to court, it does not mean it is not important.

Trial Process

Initial Appearance

The first time a defendant appears in court is called the misdemeanor **arraignment*** or felony **presentment,*** depending on whether the charge is a **misdemeanor*** or a **felony***. Victims are not required to attend this hearing but may if they wish. At this hearing, the criminal charges are read to the defendant, and the judge determines if there is enough evidence to proceed. The judge also decides whether to initially hold or release the defendant. Defendants charged with a misdemeanor are usually released, if the judge believes they will return to the court for trial. The judge may decide to detain a defendant if they have another criminal case pending or is on **probation*** or parole for another criminal offense. For certain violent felony offenses, the judge must grant the prosecutor's request to initially hold the defendant until the detention hearing.

If the defendant is released pending trial, the judge may impose conditions of release, including electronic monitoring, home confinement, or placement in a halfway house. The prosecutor can request that the judge order a criminal "stay away" order requiring the defendant not to contact the victim at any point while the case is pending. Regardless of whether the judge approves a stay away order, some victims can also seek a Civil Protection Order or Anti-Stalking Order. For more information about protection orders, see the "Staying Safe: Protection Orders and Emergency Help" section of this Guide. A victim has the right to give input to the court at any public hearing involving a defendant's release. Because important court rulings may occur at initial appearances and **preliminary hearings***, including resolution of the case, victims should seek to find an attorney earlier rather than later if they want to be represented by an attorney.

If a case goes to trial, the victim will likely be contacted by the defense attorney or an investigator for the defense seeking to ask questions about the case. The victim can choose whether to speak to the defense attorney or the investigator. If the victim has questions or concerns about an interaction with the defense attorney, the victim should ask their attorney or advocate. They can also ask the prosecutor, if needed. To avoid confusion, if anyone contacts you asking you questions about the case, ask them to identify themselves.

Pretrial Detention Hearing

If the judge ordered the defendant to be initially held in jail, another hearing occurs within three to five days. At this hearing, another judge determines whether pretrial detention should continue or if the defendant can be released with conditions imposed. These conditions are designed to ensure the victim and the community feel safe and to ensure that the defendant will return to court. It is not uncommon for a defendant who is initially held to be released after this second hearing.

Preliminary Hearing – Is there Probable Cause?

In felony cases, a preliminary hearing must occur no later than 20 days after the initial appearance, unless the defendant waives this right. At this hearing, a judge determines if there is enough evidence or "probable cause" to show that the defendant committed the crime. The prosecutor usually calls a police officer to testify about the facts of the case.

At the preliminary hearing, if the judge does not find probable cause, the case will be dismissed. If the case is dismissed, the prosecutor may choose to gather more evidence and re-charge the accused. If the judge finds there is probable cause, the case will proceed to a **grand jury***.

The Diversion Process

The diversion process in the criminal legal system is a way to help people, especially those who commit less serious crimes, avoid going to court or jail. Instead of going through a trial, the person is given a chance to take responsibility by completing certain tasks like attending classes, doing community service, or going to counseling. If they follow the rules and finish the program, their case might be closed or removed from their record. Diversion is often used for young people or first-time offenders and gives them a second chance to make better choices without getting a criminal record.

Grand Jury Decides Whether to Issue an Indictment

In felony cases, even if a judge finds probable cause at the preliminary hearing, the law requires a second finding of probable cause by a grand jury. A grand jury is different from a "petit" or **trial jury***, which determines whether a criminal defendant has been proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Grand jury proceedings are not public, meaning that no member of the public, including the victim, is permitted to attend unless called to testify. Neither the defendant nor the defense attorney is permitted to attend. The grand jury hears evidence against the accused presented by the prosecutor and decides whether there is probable cause to believe that the defendant committed the crime. If the evidence is sufficient, the grand jury issues an **"indictment,"*** which is a written statement of the specific crime(s) charged against the accused. If the evidence is not sufficient, the charges against the accused will be dismissed. To obtain an indictment, the victim is usually required to testify before the grand jury. In this case, the victim will receive a **subpoena*** (an official notice to attend) with the date, time, and place for the grand jury proceeding.

Arraignment

If the grand jury indicts the defendant, a felony arraignment will be scheduled in the D.C. Superior Court. At this hearing, the defendant is informed of the charges, advised of their constitutional rights, and required to enter a plea of guilty or **not guilty.*** The defendant may enter a **"no contest" plea***, meaning the defendant denies responsibility for the charges but agrees to accept punishment. Sometimes a defendant will plead guilty at this hearing, following negotiations between the prosecutor and the defendant. The prosecutor will often make a plea offer, where the prosecutor agrees to drop one or some of the charges against the defendant, to seek lesser charges, or to ask for a lesser **sentence*** if the defendant enters a **guilty plea***.

In certain misdemeanor cases, the prosecutor may offer a deferred sentencing agreement, where the defendant agrees to waive the right to a trial, pleads guilty to the offense, and agrees to complete certain conditions, such as counseling and/or community service. If the defendant completes these conditions, the court will allow the defendant to withdraw the guilty plea, and the govern-

It is important to note that a high percentage of cases (95% or more) resolve in **plea bargains*** rather than actual trials.

ment will dismiss the charges. If the defendant does not complete the conditions, the guilty plea will be permanently included in the defendant's record, and the defendant will be sentenced by the court to jail and/or community supervision.

As a victim you have the right to "confer with the prosecutor" about the plea that they offer to the defendant. This means that although you do not get to decide on the final offer that is made, the prosecutor should consult with you on the terms of the agreement BEFORE they are finalized and offered to the defendant. For example, if they are asking for jail time or probation, length of sentence, types of charges, etc.

Before the judge accepts the guilty plea, the judge will ask the defendant questions to be certain that the defendant is sure of their rights and is not pleading guilty because of pressure or fear. If the judge accepts a no contest or guilty plea, no trial occurs, and the defendant is sentenced at a separate hearing. In a misdemeanor case, sentencing can take place within a few days or weeks. If the case is a felony, sentencing typically happens at least six weeks later.

Status Hearings

If the defendant enters a plea of not guilty, the judge will hold one or more pretrial hearings, called **status hearings***, to obtain updates on the case and to ensure that the attorneys are ready for trial. Motion hearings may also be held to resolve certain legal issues before the trial begins. For example, the defense may file a motion for a pretrial hearing to determine whether certain evidence was unconstitutionally obtained by police and should be excluded from the trial.

You may hear the term **continuance*** get used when the court and others are talking about scheduling hearings. When they ask for a continuance, they're basically asking if something can be rescheduled.

Trial

If the defendant pleads not guilty, a trial takes place. Victims will be notified by the prosecutor's office of the trial's date, time, and place. Victims are not required to attend each day of the trial but must attend if they are required to testify.

Defendants charged with felony offenses have a right to a jury trial, and for most misdemeanor cases the final decision, or **verdict***, is made by a judge. During a trial, the prosecution presents evidence and conducts "direct examinations" where the witnesses are questioned. The defense attorney is also allowed to question the prosecution's witnesses, which is called a "cross-examination." After the prosecutor's case is presented, the defense attorney may present evidence or call witnesses, but is not required to, because the prosecutor has the burden to prove the case. The defendant has a constitutional right to remain silent and not testify. If the defendant chooses to testify, the prosecutor is permitted to cross-examine the defendant. If the defense does present evidence, the prosecutor is permitted to respond by introducing "rebuttal evidence."

Verdict – Guilty or Not Guilty?

TIP

If you are interested in attending the rest of the trial and watching other witnesses' testimony, talk to the prosecutor or your crime victims' rights attorney about the pros and cons of that decision.

At the end of the trial, the judge or jury decides whether the prosecution has proven the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. When the jury is deciding, it is called "deliberations." All the jurors must agree on the verdict. If the jury cannot agree, or even if only one juror does not agree, there is no verdict. This is called a "hung jury" or a "mistrial." If there is a hung jury, the prosecutor's office can retry the defendant, make a new plea offer, or dismiss the case. If the defendant is found guilty, the judge will set a date for the sentencing hearing and will decide if the defendant will be detained in jail until this hearing. The prosecutor will remain in contact with the victim after the trial ends to answer any questions, and victim advocates from the prosecutor's office will remain available to support the victim.

If the defendant is found not guilty, the defendant is **acquitted*** or free to go. Even if this happens, victims have the right to seek a Civil Protection Order, or to bring a case in civil court against the defendant. More information about the D.C. civil justice system can be found in the section of this Guide called "How the D.C. Civil Legal System Works."

Sentencing Hearing

A victim can choose to make a verbal and/or written Victim Impact Statement at sentencing and can choose whether to have someone else (e.g., their attorney or advocate) read it in their place. The Victim Impact Statement is usually included in a pre-sentence report to the judge submitted by the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA). Victim Impact Statements can also be submitted through the prosecutor or directly to the judge, or with the assistance of an attorney or advocate.

Victims can choose to, but are not required to, attend the sentencing hearing. At the sentencing hearing, the prosecution and defense will present information about the circumstances surrounding a convicted person's criminal behavior, such as what led that person to commit the crime. At the conclusion of the hearing, the judge will sentence the defendant.

In deciding a sentence, judges are guided in their decision by formal **sentencing guidelines*** but can consider special circumstances as well. If a judge feels that there are mitigating circumstances, a lighter sentence may be given. If the judge feels that the crime was especially egregious, a harsher sentence may be handed down. For some crimes, there are **mandatory minimum*** sentences which require judges to impose a sentence no shorter than a period of incarceration set by law.

Victim Impact Statement

Victim Impact Statements describe any emotional, psychological, financial, or physical harm done to or loss suffered by the victim. The judge will consider the Victim Impact Statement in determining the appropriate sentencing to be imposed but must consider other factors as well. Victim advocates and attorneys can assist victims in preparing the statements. The Victim Impact Statement should describe:

- How the crime affected the victim and the victim's family.
- The emotional impact of the crime on the victim and the victim's family.
- The financial impact on the victim and the victim's family.
- The victim's recommendations about how the offender should be sentenced.
- Any other information the victim would like to tell the court.

Motions for Restitution

A crime victim has the right to **restitution.*** Restitution tries to capture the damage done to the victim directly or indirectly caused by the crime. Factors that are considered include:

- the number of victims
- the actual damage suffered by each victim
- the defendant's resources and earning capacity
- any obligations the defendant has to support dependents and
- other relevant factors affecting the defendant's ability to pay.

While restitution is like civil damages and crime victims' compensation in the sense that you may get money for the expenses you have endured as a crime victim, there are some important differences about what kind of expenses are eligible, how you can receive them, and when a request must be filed with the court. Because restitution is decided at or around the time of sentencing, you may get an award sooner than in a civil case. Speak to your crime victims' attorney or a prosecutor as soon as possible if you would like to learn more about whether your expenses are eligible for restitution. This often requires the collection of evidence so the sooner it can be collected, the better.

Writs of Mandamus

As this Guide makes clear, crime victims have rights! But they are not always followed. Sometimes, a prosecutor, judge or other folks may forget or ignore these rights. That's when a **writ of mandamus*** can help.

How Does It Work?

- The victim (or their attorney) tells a different court that their rights were not respected (for example - they weren't told about a court hearing or they weren't asked about the plea offer by the prosecutor).
- They ask the court to issue a writ of mandamus.
- If the other court agrees, it tells the original court or person: "You must follow the law and respect this victim's rights."

A writ of mandamus can be asked for at different times throughout the process but should be done as soon as possible. Talk to an attorney to learn more.

If Someone is Found Guilty

Where D.C. Residents Are Incarcerated

There are many different facilities where they may be held, depending on the length of the sentence, and whether they were convicted as an adult or as a juvenile. The following table details the five types of facilities where people arrested or sentenced in D.C. may be held.

Types of Places People Can Be Incarcerated or Held

Name	Who Is Held Here?
Central Detention Facility	This is part of the D.C. Jail. It holds adults (mostly men) who are waiting for their trial or who were sentenced to less than one year.
Correctional Treatment Facility	This is also part of the D.C. Jail. It holds women and people who need special medical care.
Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP)	People from D.C. who are sentenced for one year or more go to federal prisons across the country. This includes people who break federal laws and people who break local D.C. laws. Victims can find out where someone is by using the BOP Inmate Locator: https://www.bop.gov/inmateloc/
D.C. Youth Services Center	Holds kids (under 18) who are waiting for their case to go to court.
New Beginnings Youth Development Center	Holds kids who have already been sentenced. Sometimes, kids may be sent to other places outside of D.C.

The Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) System

Before, during, and after a trial, those accused of a crime may be held at the D.C. Jail, which is managed by the D.C. Department of Corrections (DOC). If you have concerns for your safety, you may sign up for the VINE system, which continuously monitors status changes of jail residents, including release, facility transfer, court hearing, or re-incarceration. Once a status change occurs, an automated call is made to victims at their registered phone numbers notifying them of this status change, and/or a notice is sent to a registered email address. Registered victims can also call 1-866-277-7477 to obtain up-to-date status information on an inmate. To register for VINE, call 1-866-277-7477 or visit www.vinelink.com.

Community Supervision

A judge may sentence an individual to community supervision (commonly known as probation) instead of jail time, meaning that they will be released but will be required to comply with certain conditions. A judge can also order an individual to be incarcerated for a period of time and then enter community supervision. Conditions of community supervision can include (but are not limited to) reporting weekly to the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), GPS monitoring, curfews, drug/alcohol testing and treatment, and a requirement to make no contact with the victim.

Except for juvenile offenders who are supervised by the D.C. Superior Court's Family Court Social Services Division, most people on community supervision in D.C. are supervised by CSOSA. A CSOSA Community Supervision Officer monitors the person to ensure compliance with the court-ordered requirements. CSOSA has a Victim Services Program, which conducts outreach to victims to ensure that they have access to resources, and above all, that they are safe. If the individual is being monitored by CSOSA, the victim may contact CSOSA, which will assess the victim's needs, assist with safety planning, and make referrals to necessary services.

If the Terms of Community Supervision are Violated

If someone violates the terms of community supervision, the supervision officer may notify the judge and request a "show cause hearing." At a "show cause hearing," the offender has the burden to explain to the judge why their community supervision should not be revoked. If the judge decides to revoke the offender's community supervision, the judge will then re-sentence them and may recommend stricter supervision conditions or impose a period of incarceration.

Any No Contact Order that the judge enforced during a case is terminated after sentencing, but the judge may make a No Contact Order a condition of the defendant's probation or parole. If this is the case, if the offender makes contact after their release, it is considered a violation that can result in reincarceration.

Appeals

Generally - Appeals of cases decided by the D.C. Superior Court occur in the D.C. Court of Appeals. Appeals of federal verdicts are heard in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. When deciding an appeal, the appellate court only reviews the written case record, and no new evidence or testimony is introduced during an appeal. Attorneys for the prosecution and the defense submit written briefs that outline their arguments about the appeal. The court may schedule an oral argument where a prosecuting attorney and a defense attorney present their arguments and answer questions from a panel of judges. Victims are allowed to attend this public hearing. After this hearing, it may take several months for the court to decide the appeal. The court will decide the appeal in one of three ways, as detailed in the table below.

Appeals by Defendants - While it is possible for any party to appeal for a variety of issues, it is very common for defendants to appeal their convictions after being found guilty. These appeals are usually related to due process, regarding court procedures and rulings made by the judge, including decisions about evidence and jury instructions.

Appeals by Victims - If you believe there is an issue or issues that the prosecution indicates it will not raise on appeal (e.g., a violation of your rights as a crime victim), but which you, the victim, want to be considered by the appellate court, the best course is to consult your crime victim's attorney, if you have one. Because the issues that are decided by an appellate court are primarily issues of law, it is very difficult for a victim to raise issues without an attorney.

Potential Outcomes of Criminal Appeals	
Affirmed	The appeals court agrees with the original decision, which stays in place.
Reversed	The appeals court disagrees with the original decision and reverses it without further proceedings.
Reversed and remanded	The appeals court disagrees with the original decision and orders the original court to conduct a new trial or to take some further action.

How the D.C. Civil Legal System Works

In addition to the criminal system, victims can pursue remedies in the D.C. civil legal system. The criminal and civil legal systems are separate and parallel court processes. Pursuing a civil case does not impact your ability to participate in a criminal case – civil cases can be filed before, during, or after a criminal trial. Similarly, even if a prosecutor does not pursue criminal charges against the accused, the victim still has a right to file a civil lawsuit against the accused if the time for doing so has not passed.

There are multiple types of civil legal cases that accomplish different goals. Through Civil Protection Orders (see the section on "Staying Safe"), victims can feel safer through court mechanisms that function similarly to restraining orders. Through other civil cases, victims can hold people accountable for their offenses and seek compensation, known as "damages." There are time limits on bringing any type of civil case, so victims considering filing a suit should talk to an attorney as soon as possible. If you are looking for help regarding your civil options, you can contact the Victim Legal Network of DC at (202) 629-1788 or the LawHelp.org/DC.

Issues to Consider When Deciding to Pursue a Civil Case

Filing a civil lawsuit may not always be the best option for all crime victims. A victim should consider the following issues when deciding whether to pursue a civil suit.

- There are very few free legal resources to help people pursue civil cases. The victim will likely need to hire a paid attorney to litigate the civil case, which can be expensive.
- A civil lawsuit may take eight months or more, and the victim will need to spend time working on the case, including meeting with an attorney and attending court proceedings.
- Civil court proceedings are most often public, so victims may lose their confidentiality and privacy during a civil case and may be required to testify during the trial.
- Even if a victim wins a civil case, it still may be difficult to collect a monetary award from the defendant.

Here is a short chart that describes the differences between criminal and civil cases.

Differences between Criminal and Civil Cases	
Criminal Cases	**Civil Cases**
The goal is to hold the person who broke the law responsible to the community.	The goal is to help the victim directly and make the person who caused the harm take responsibility.
A government attorney called a prosecutor is in charge of the case. The victim can share their thoughts, but the prosecutor makes the final decisions.	The victim, called the plaintiff, starts the case and is in charge. They get all the paperwork and help make choices about what happens in the case.
The prosecutor has to prove the person is guilty with strong evidence — so strong that there is almost no doubt.	The plaintiff only has to show it's more likely than not that the other person is responsible
If the person is found guilty, they might go to jail or be put on probation. The victim might not get any money unless the court says the person has to pay back money for things like medical bills. This is called restitution.	If the person is found responsible (this is called liable), they may have to: • Pay the victim for pain, suffering, and any costs from the crime • Pay extra money as punishment • Follow special court orders, like staying away from the victim or doing something to fix the harm

Table adapted from the National Center for Victims of Crime:
https://victimsofcrime.org/criminal-and-civil-justice/

Alternatives to the Legal System

Some victims of crime may not want to engage in the court system to address the harm that has been caused to them. Some alternatives to the court system are below but this is not an exhaustive list. Victims should speak to an advocate to learn about other alternatives, like healing justice, mutual aid groups, and restorative circles.

Restorative Justice

Restorative justice seeks to address accountability and to repair harm, rather than focusing on punishing the person who caused it. Restorative justice models can look very different depending on the program but usually include a trained facilitator who helps the participants prepare for any restorative dialogue.

There are restorative justice programs organized by the Office of the Attorney General (for both youth and adults), and there are some community programs. Resources are listed on CCE's website: www.courtexcellence.org/victimsguide.

Alternatives available for university students

Students who are victims can also contact their school about their options for safety (often called, "accommodations") under Title IX. These accommodations can range from changing class schedules or dorms to no-contact orders, and more. If a student wants, they can also file a Title IX complaint with their school to start an administrative process to determine whether the person who caused harm (another student, staff, or faculty) should be disciplined within the school's Code of Conduct.

Students can contact their campus advocacy office or Title IX office for information about their options. Students can also contact community providers who offer Title IX help if they want additional confidentiality protections and/or to talk to someone not affiliated with their school that can help them throughout the school process.

Other Important Information

Language and Physical Access

Language Access

Under the Language Access Act of 2004, limited-English proficient (LEP) and non-English proficient (NEP) persons have the right to the following language access services from District government programs, departments, and services, free of charge:

- **Translation** – translation of any written material that constituents need to learn about or apply for its services and programs (i.e., applications, notices, consent forms, and letters).
- **Interpretation** – a professional interpreter to LEP/NEP people who speak their language. District employees offer interpretation at the start of an interaction, but LEP/NEP constituents may request an interpreter at any time.
- **Signage** – the display of signs in customer service locations to inform LEP/NEP constituents of their right to interpretation and translated documents.

If you or someone you know is denied language access services, contact the D.C. Office of Human Rights to file a complaint using one of the methods below:

- File a language access complaint online (in English, Amharic, Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish or Vietnamese): https://ohr.dc.gov/page/language-access-public-complaint-form
- Call 202-727-4559
- Mail: District of Columbia Office of Human Rights, Attn: Language Access Program, 441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 570 North, Washington, DC 20001

While the District's Language Access Act does not extend to visual languages such as American Sign Language (ASL), under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), District law enforcement agencies are required to:

- Provide necessary communication aids and services needed for effective communication with people who are deaf or hard of hearing, free of charge.
- Give primary consideration to the aid or service requested by the person with the hearing disability.
- Provide interpreters who can interpret effectively, accurately, and impartially.

Physical Access

The ADA outlines physical access requirements to ensure that individuals with disabilities, including crime victims, can fully participate in and access services. Title II requires that accessibility be viewed in its entirety, aiming to remove physical barriers without necessitating that every facility or part of a facility be accessible. For example, not every restroom needs to be accessible, but clear signage should direct individuals to accessible features and spaces. For program accessibility, public entities are required to:

- Make structural changes to existing facilities to achieve access or, alternatively, relocate services for individuals with disabilities to accessible levels or parts of buildings.
- Choose methods that offer services, programs, and activities in the most appropriate integrated setting.
- Ensure all newly constructed city facilities are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Complaints Related to Physical Access

If you or someone else was discriminated against based on a disability, you may file a federal ADA complaint using one of the methods below:

- Accessing the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division website: https://civilrights.justice.gov/report/?utm_campaign=499a0d26-884a-47aa-9afc-70094d92e6f5
- Completing and mailing the ADA Complaint Form or a letter containing the same information, to:

  U.S. Department of Justice
  Civil Rights Division
  950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
  Washington, DC 20530

You can find the ADA Complaint Form in regular format:
https://www.justice.gov/crt/media/1394891/dl?inline or in large format:
https://www.justice.gov/crt/media/1394896/dl?inline

The National Deaf Hotline (https://www.thedeafhotline.org/) offers help to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Deaf advocates are available to provide culturally sensitive crisis intervention, education, information, and referrals to local services for Deaf survivors. Contact the hotline via video phone at 855-812-1001, email at hotline@adwas.org, or live chat.

Help with Costs After a Crime: D.C. Crime Victims Compensation Program

The D.C. Crime Victims Compensation Program may provide D.C. victims of crimes with monetary support to ease the financial impacts of these crimes. Compensation may be available for expenses paid by victims or **secondary victims*** that directly stem from the crimes committed against them, excluding expenses covered by personal insurance or other benefits programs. This program does not provide compensation for a victim's pain and suffering or damage to personal property. A victim may be eligible for compensation for the replacement of doors, windows, locks or other items necessary to secure the victim's home or other place of residence.

This section describes general eligibility guidelines for the D.C. Crime Victims Compensation Program; however, each compensation claim is decided on an individual basis, and the victim or the victim's family will be required to submit documentation of all expenses included in the claim.

ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPENSATION

Victims and "secondary victims" may be eligible for compensation if:

- They suffered injury or death due to a violent crime committed in D.C., or they are a D.C. resident who suffered injury or death due to a terrorist act or act of mass violence committed outside of the United States;
- The crime was reported to law enforcement within seven days after it occurred (with some exceptions, described below);
- An application for compensation is filed within one year of the crime, or within one year of learning of the program (if it can be shown that the delay was reasonable);
- They cooperated with law enforcement regarding the criminal investigation; and
- They did not participate in, agree to, or provoke the crime (according to the police).

Some victims are eligible for compensation even if they do not report the crime to law enforcement:

- Sexual assault victims are eligible if they get a Temporary Civil Protection Order or Civil Protection Order from the Court, forensic medical evaluation, or report the offense to a law enforcement office before expiration of the applicable statute of limitations
- Stalking victims are eligible if they get a temporary Anti-Stalking Order
- Domestic violence victims are eligible if they seek a Temporary Civil Protection Order or a Civil Protection Order or forensic medical evaluation
- Victims of **child cruelty*** are eligible if a neglect petition is filed in D.C. Superior Court
- Any victim if their ability to report the crime was impacted by their age, physical condition, psychological state, cultural or linguistic barriers, or any other health or safety concern that jeopardizes the victim's wellbeing.

HOW TO APPLY FOR COMPENSATION

Victims must complete an application, which is available online (https://www.dccourts.gov/services/crime-victims-compensation-matters/procedures) or at the D.C. Superior Court. **Victims should contact their advocate or the prosecutor for assistance with completing this application.** Applications can be submitted by mail or in person at:

D.C. Superior Court Building A
515 5th Street, NW, Room 109
Washington, DC 20001

Claim examiners will verify the information in the application by contacting police, the victim's employer, the hospital where the victim was treated, and/or other related agencies or organizations. The victim will be notified by mail if the application is approved.

To expedite your claim, submit supporting documentation including the police report, Civil Protection Order, and medical bills.

APPEALING A COMPENSATION DECISION

If a compensation application is rejected, or approved in a lower amount than requested, victims should contact their advocate or attorney for assistance, and to determine whether an appeal is possible. If new information related to the case becomes available within 30 days of the claim being rejected, victims can submit a "Request for Reconsideration." Appeals may be filed in the Crime Victims Compensation Program office or submitted to CVCPAppeals@dcsc.gov.

TYPES OF COMPENSATION

Here is a chart that describes the kind of things victims can get compensation for. These numbers are correct as of September 30, 2025. For the latest info, visit: https://www.dccourts.gov/services/crime-victims-compensation-matters/compensable-costs

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Medical expenses	Up to $25,000
Mental health counseling	Maximum of $3,000 for adults; $6,000 for children (also for secondary victims)
Lost wages/pay from working	Cannot be worth more than 52 weeks of pay or $10,000
Money to take care of children	Maximum of $2,500 per child, can't be more than $7,500.
Funeral expenses	Up to $10,000
Crime scene clean-up	Up to $1,000
Replacement of clothing kept as evidence by police	Up to $100; not available if victim has died
Temporary emergency food and housing	$400 for food and $3,000 for housing
Moving expenses	Up to $1,500; only available to victims who need to move because they are in danger
Transportation costs (like buses, taxis, gas for a car)	Up to $100 for local transportation and $500 for out-of-state transportation.
Replacement of doors, windows, and locks	Up to $1,000
Attorney fees	Up to $500 or 10% of the compensation award

Staying Safe: Protection Orders and Emergency Help

Need Help Right Away?

For urgent or emergency police and medical assistance, call 911. If you do not want to call the police but still need immediate assistance, call or text the D.C. Victim Hotline at 1-844-4-HELPDC (1-844-443-5732) or visit dcvictim.org for online chat. Either the police or the hotline can connect you to an advocate who can discuss options that may be available to you, including emergency shelter.

Obtaining a Protection Order

Many victims choose to obtain protection orders as a first step because they can be obtained without a police report or initiating criminal procedures. To obtain a Civil Protection Order, a victim can: **1)** file a petition through the court website at: https://www.probono.net/dccourts/domesticviolence/ **2)** file a petition at a Domestic Violence Intake Center or **3)** fill out forms and email to DVD@dcsc.gov.

The following table includes information about the types of protection orders available in the District of Columbia. Protection orders are different from a criminal "stay away order" issued by judges to a defendant during a criminal trial. See the "Trial Process" section of this Guide for more information about stay away orders. Additional protection mechanisms are available for college students who have been victims of crime. Students can contact their university for more information about these protections.

In all cases listed below, the "Petitioner" is the person seeking the order for protection. The "Respondent" is the person that the petitioner is seeking protection from.

TYPE OF ORDER	WHAT IT DOES	HOW LONG IT LASTS	HOW TO GET IT
Temporary Protection Order (TPO)	This order helps protect victims immediately after they ask for a Civil Protection Order (CPO). Victims get a TPO the same day they file a request.	Until the court hearing for the CPO (usually a few weeks).	File for a Civil Protection Order. The TPO is given automatically.
Civil Protection Order (CPO)	A judge signs this order to tell someone to stop hurting, contacting, or coming near the victim. If the person breaks the rules, they can be charged with a crime.	Up to 1 year, and victims can ask to extend it before it expires.	File through the court. The victim may need to attend a hearing.
Emergency Temporary Protection Order	This order is for when a victim is in immediate danger and the court is closed (like at night or on weekends).	5 days	Call or text the D.C. Victim Hotline: 1-844-4-HELPDC (1-844-443-5732). Police and the D.C. Attorney General's Office will help.
Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO)	A judge can take away someone's guns, bullets, or gun permits if they are a danger to themselves or others.	Decided by the judge based on the case.	File through the court with help from an attorney or the police.
Anti-Stalking Order (ASO)	This order tells someone who is stalking a victim to stop and stay away. The judge can also give other safety rules.	Depends on the case; often used when stalking happened in the last 90 days.	File through the court and explain what happened.

Civil Protection Orders

To obtain a Civil Protection Order, a victim can: **1)** file a petition through the court website at: https://www.probono.net/dccourts/domesticviolence/ **2)** file a petition at a Domestic Violence Intake Center or **3)** fill out forms and email to DVD@dcsc.gov. Victim advocates are available to assist with the petition and discuss options for serving the court papers to the person the victim is seeking protection from (the "respondent").

When requesting a Civil Protection Order, the victim can request that the respondent:

- stop the abuse (including hurting or threatening the victim)
- stay away from the victim and their children (temporary custody of children can be awarded to the victim)
- move out of a shared residence
- stop contacting the victim by any means
- attend counseling for substance abuse or anger management
- surrender firearms
- any other needs specific to the situation

A Civil Protection Order will not be ordered unless the notice about the hearing is properly served to the respondent within 14 days (unless an extension is granted). If the respondent agrees to the proposed order, then the judge will grant it. If the respondent does not consent, the matter will go to a hearing before a judge, who will decide whether to grant the petition. If the judge does not grant the Civil Protection Order, a victim should speak with the court clerk or call 1-844-4HELPDC (1-844-443-5732) for more options.

Difference between CPOs and ASOs

Anti-Stalking Orders are similar in many ways to a CPO and can be filed in the same division for the same period of time. Some differences are listed below.

TOPIC	CIVIL PROTECTION ORDER (CPO)	ANTI-STALKING ORDER (ASO)
Who it's for	People who know each other like: • Family • Dating partners • People living together • People connected by sexual assault or human trafficking	Anyone being stalked — even by a stranger
Where it applies	The person asking for help (petitioner): • Lives, works, or goes to school in D.C. • OR the crime happened in D.C.	The stalking happened in D.C. • Like sending or getting unwanted messages in D.C.
What happened	The other person (respondent) did something like: • Hitting or threatening • Sexual assault or stalking • Kidnapping, hurting pets, child abuse, etc.	The other person stalked the victim • At least one act must have happened in the last 90 days
Age rules	Kids under 16 can usually get a CPO without a parent	Kids under 16 must have a parent involved

Domestic violence victims can receive assistance at the Domestic Violence Intake Center (DVIC), a collaboration among D.C. government agencies and nonprofit organizations that provides comprehensive support to D.C. domestic violence victims, including counseling, safety planning, and assistance with seeking protective orders. Victims can seek help at DVIC's two locations, which are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm:

Domestic Violence Division Clerk's Offices at Moultrie Courthouse

500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 4550
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 879-0157

Domestic Violence Intake Center, SE (Satellite Intake Center)

Anacostia Professional Building
2041 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE, Room 400
Washington, DC 20020
(202) 879-1500

What if a Respondent violates a protection order?

A respondent who continues to stalk, harass, or abuse the petitioner, or violates any other terms of the order, is ignoring an order from the court, which is a criminal offense. If the respondent violates the Civil Protection Order, the petitioner can call the police and/or file a motion for criminal contempt of court. Either the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia or the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia can prosecute the violation. If they choose to prosecute, an attorney from one of these offices will contact the petitioner to discuss the case. Sometimes these cases are resolved by the respondent accepting a plea deal, where the respondent pleads guilty in exchange for a reduced sentence. Other times, cases are criminally prosecuted and decided through a trial. The petitioner may be required to testify at the trial, in which case the prosecutor will meet with the petitioner first to help prepare them to testify. Please refer to the "Trial Process" section of this Guide for more details.

Gun Concerns and Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs)

Under District law, you can ask a court to remove firearms from people who pose a danger to themselves or others. This request, known as an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO), is fast-tracked, and if approved, allows police to temporarily confiscate ammunition and related registration and licenses, as well as guns.

To get an ERPO, you must have a family, romantic, or cohabiting relationship with the individual, or be a police officer or mental health professional. To begin the ERPO process, you can:

1. File electronically through a guided interview (https://www.probono.net/dccourts/domesticviolence/); or
2. Complete a fillable form (https://www.dccourts.gov/services/forms?field_forms_category_value=Domestic%20Violence) and submit by mail or email.
    a. The request must include facts showing that the person (called the respondent) is a serious danger if they have or get any guns or ammunition. A temporary order can be made within one business day. If not, a final hearing

will be held within 14 days. At the hearing, the judge will look at the evidence to decide if the person is a danger. The person filing the request (the petitioner) should bring proof, such as documents, photos, written statements, or witnesses. To learn more about ERPOs and how to file one visit: https://ovsjg.dc.gov/page/extreme-risk-protection-orders.

Safety Issues at the Victim's Residence

Victims of an **intrafamily offense*** can submit a written request to their landlords to change their locks and are also allowed to break their leases if they feel unsafe at their residence after the crime. To break a lease, victims should give their landlords a letter with notification that they are terminating the lease in 14 days due to an intrafamily offense. Attached to this letter should be a letter from a victim advocate, a doctor, or a D.C. Housing Authority representative that attests the tenant is a victim, or a police report, or a copy of a Civil Protection Order if the victim has obtained one. Victims of other crimes should consult with their advocate or the Victim Legal Network (202-629-1788) about options about their residence.

VAWA Transfers - VAWA stands for the Violence Against Women Act, a federal law that protects survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Under VAWA, tenants in federally assisted housing cannot be evicted or denied housing just because they are victims. A VAWA transfer means that a tenant can request to move to another safe and available unit if they are in danger where they currently live. This helps survivors stay housed while also staying safe. Talk to an attorney or an advocate for more information.

Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) - D.C.'s ACP provides survivors of domestic violence, sexual offenses, stalking, and human trafficking with a legal substitute address to use to protect the location where the survivor has relocated to. The ACP helps protect their real home address from being shared in public records by providing the substitute address to use instead. This program is designed for D.C. residents or those who are relocating to D.C., who fear for their safety if their true address was known and want an extra layer of protection as part of their safety plan. More information on the Program and how to apply is available at: https://ovsjg.dc.gov/acp.

If you are a domestic violence victim seeking to leave your abuser, free emergency foster care may be available for your pets. Contact the Humane Rescue Alliance at 202-723-5730, and ask about the Safe Haven Program or visit www.humanerescuealliance.org/domestic-violence-support.

If you have children under 18 and need emergency shelter, please call the Shelter Hotline at (202) 399-7093. The Shelter Hotline is open every day from 8 AM–12 AM. During hypothermia season (November 1–March 31), the Shelter Hotline is open 24 hours a day. Otherwise, you may access emergency housing through the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center (VWFRC), the central intake office for all families in the District of Columbia seeking assistance with their housing needs. VWFRC is located at 64 New York Avenue, NE, and is open Monday—Thursday from 8:30 am–4 pm and Friday, 8:30 am–12:00 pm. More information is on the Department of Human Services website https://dhs.dc.gov/page/how-access-short-term-family-housing.

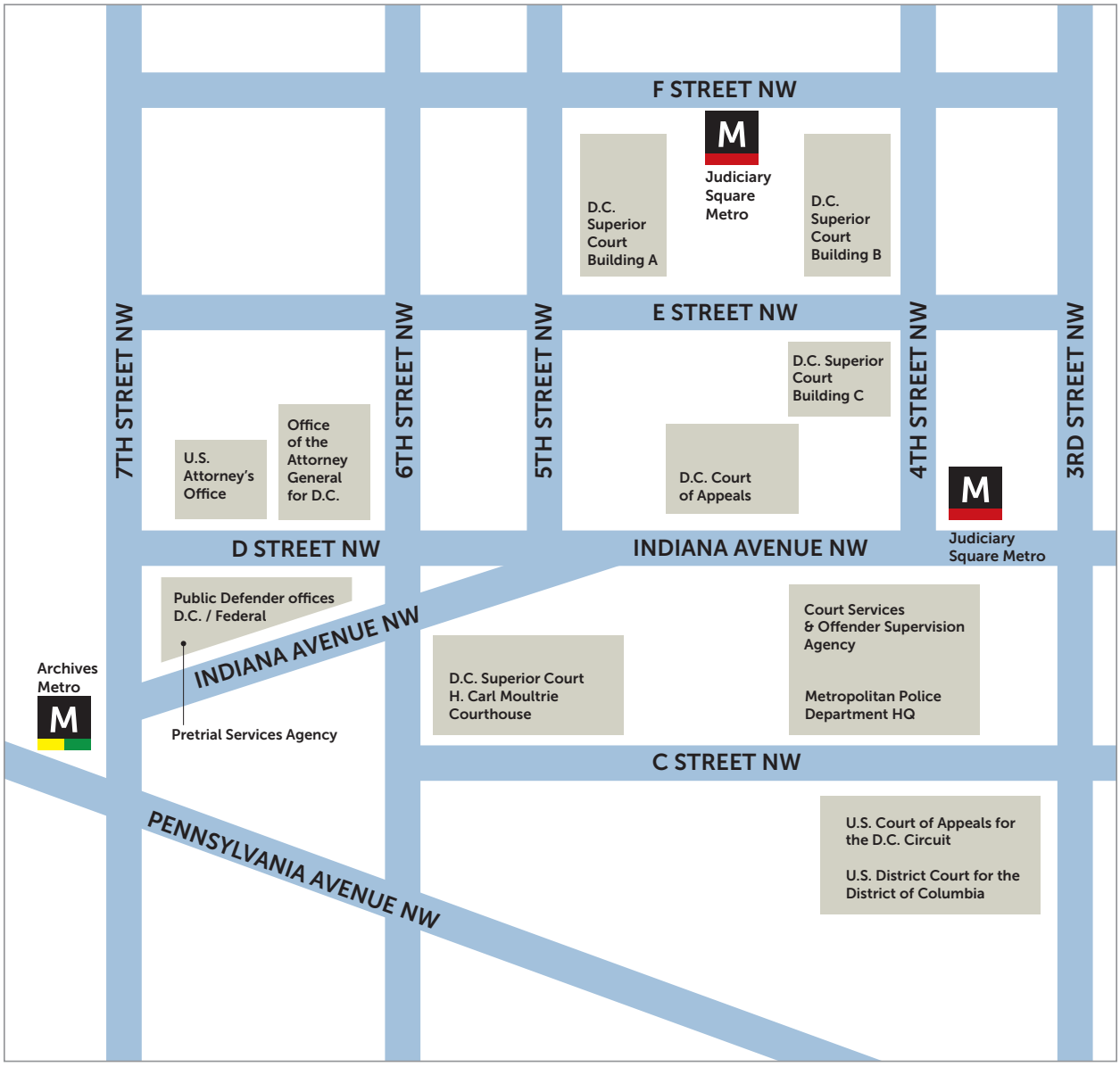
Resources

The information in the Resources section is accurate as of August 2025. As updated information becomes available, the Council for Court Excellence (CCE) will update the digital versions of the *Victim's Guide*.

Visit courtexcellence.org/victimsguide for the online (website) version of this guide.

Map of Judiciary Square

D.C. Courts and many of the other D.C. government offices mentioned in this Guide are located in the Judiciary Square neighborhood, which is easy to get to on Metro or bus. There are two entrances to the D.C. Metro Judiciary Square station, which is on the Red Line. Bus routes that go to this neighborhood include D30, D20, and D2X.



Important Government Offices and Court Information

Here are some of the government offices that help with criminal and civil (non-criminal) cases. For more details, including websites and phone numbers, go to the Council for Court Excellence's website: www.courtexcellence.org/victimsguide.

Call 911 in an Emergency

If someone is in danger or needs help right away, always call 911.

POLICE STATIONS ARE ALWAYS OPEN

All police stations in Washington, D.C. are open every day, 24 hours a day. Victims can go to their local station or call them if it's not an emergency. If no one picks up the phone right away, an officer will call the victim back within a day.

Victims can find more information about all the police offices here: www.mpdc.dc.gov.

ADDITIONAL POLICE UNITS

The D.C. police department (MPD) has special teams that help with different problems. These include:

- Domestic Violence Unit – helps people hurt by family members or partners
- Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit – helps LGBTQ+ community members
- Youth and Family Services Division – helps kids and families
- Sexual Assault Unit – helps survivors of sexual assault

The Victim Services Branch can also help. Victims can call them at 202-724-4339. They may be able to:

- Give updates about a victim's case
- Help victims find someone to talk to, like a grief counselor
- Connect victims with other support services

If a victim needs to pick up something they own that the police have, like evidence from their case, go to:

Evidence Control Branch
17 DC Village Lane SW, Washington, DC 20032

If the police took a victim's car, they can get it back from:

Blue Plains Impoundment Lot
5000 Shepherd Parkway, Washington, DC 20020

OTHER POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Besides the regular D.C. police (MPD), there are other police forces that work in certain parts of the city. For example:

- Metro Transit Police – help keep buses and trains safe
- U.S. Capitol Police – protect the U.S. Capitol
- U.S. Park Police – work in parks and national areas in D.C.

PROSECUTORS

There are two main groups of attorneys in D.C. who work to prove someone broke the law:

- Office of the Attorney General for D.C.
- United States Attorney's Office

Both groups have special units called Victim/Witness Assistance Units. They support victims and witnesses.

ATTORNEYS FOR PEOPLE ACCUSED OF A CRIME, WHO CAN'T AFFORD ONE

Some people accused of a crime can't pay for an attorney. These two offices help them:

- Public Defender Service for D.C. – helps with D.C./local law cases
- Federal Public Defender for D.C. – helps with federal law cases

COURTS FOR TRIALS

If someone breaks the law, their case goes to court. There are two trial courts:

- D.C. Superior Court – handles D.C. laws
- U.S. District Court for D.C. – handles federal laws

COURTS FOR APPEALS

If someone thinks their trial was unfair, they can go to a higher court, called an appeals court. There are two:

- D.C. Court of Appeals – hears appeals from the D.C. Superior Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals (D.C. Circuit) – hears appeals from federal trials

AGENCIES THAT SUPERVISE PEOPLE

Some agencies watch people after they've been in trouble to make sure they follow the rules. These include:

- Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA)
- Family Court Social Services Division (CSSD)
- Pretrial Services Agency (PSA)

Programs and Services for Victims in Washington, D.C.

Here are some of the programs that help victims in D.C. For more details, including websites and phone numbers, go to the Council for Court Excellence's website: www.courtexcellence.org/victimsguide.

MEDICAL HELP

Some hospitals provide specialized medical care to victims of child abuse or sexual assault:

- Child and Adolescent Protection Center at Children's National Medical Center – helps kids and teens who were hurt or abused
- D.C. SANE Program at MedStar Washington Hospital Center – gives free medical exams, forensic evidence collection and documentation to people who were sexually assaulted. Victims can call the D.C. Victim Hotline 24/7 at 844-4-HELP-DC (844-443-5732) to get a free ride to and from the hospital and meet an advocate there.

LEGAL HELP

There are nonprofit legal service organizations that help people with legal problems. Some have free attorneys or help victims find other services. A few examples are:

- Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
- Ayuda
- Carecen
- D.C. Volunteer Lawyers Project
- Legal Aid Society
- Volare (used to be called Network for Victim Recovery of D.C.)
- Victim Legal Network of the District of Columbia
- The Safe Sisters Circle

GRIEF AND COUNSELING HELP

If someone is feeling sad, scared, or needs help after a loss, there are people to talk to:

- D.C. Access Helpline
- Wendt Center for Loss and Healing

OTHER HELP FOR VICTIMS

Some programs help victims with things like housing, attorneys, and safety. For example:

- District Alliance for Safe Housing – helps victims of domestic violence find safe places to live
- Becky's Fund – supports people hurt by domestic violence
- Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project – supports Asian and Pacific Islander survivors
- Deaf Abused Women's Network – helps people in the deaf/hard of hearing community
- D.C. Rape Crisis Center – supports survivors of sexual violence
- My Sister's Place – offers housing and safety for women and families
- Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment – operates a 24/7 emergency shelter for victims of Domestic Violence
- House of Ruth - provides individual and family housing for survivors of domestic violence
- Volare - provides legal, advocacy and therapeutic support to survivors of any type of crime. Includes:
  - Victim Legal Network - a free referral network for survivors with legal needs that connects them to over 25+ legal providers; and
  - Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DV LEAP) – helps survivors with appeals of their cases

Glossary

Accused
A person who is suspected of committing a crime but has not yet been convicted.

Acquitted
A decision made by a judge or jury that the accused was not proven guilty of committing the crime.

Adjudication
The process in juvenile court, like a trial in adult court, where a judge decides whether a young person has committed a crime.

Appeal
When someone asks a higher court to look at their case again to check for mistakes.

Arraignment
The first court meeting where the person accused of a crime hears the charges and says if they are guilty or not. (Pronounced "ah-rain-ment")

Arrest
When the police take someone into custody because they think that person committed a crime.

Assistant Attorney General (AAG)
This is what a prosecutor who works for the Office of the Attorney General is called

Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA)
This is what a prosecutor who works with the U.S. Attorney's Office is called

Attorney
The words lawyer and attorney are often used to mean the same thing, there is a small difference. An attorney is a lawyer who has passed the bar exam — a special test that lets them work in court and give legal advice.

Beyond a reasonable doubt
In court, when a person is on trial (someone is saying they broke the law), the jury has to be sure the person did it before saying they're guilty. If they still have a real, honest question in their mind, then they can't say the person is guilty.

Charge(s)
The rule or law the person is accused of breaking.

Child Cruelty
In D.C., child cruelty is a crime that can include many things like hurting a child, not paying enough attention to them and exposing them to dangerous situations, and more.

Confidential / Confidentiality
Something that meant to be kept secret or private.

Continuance
A delay in the court date to a later time.

Conviction / Convicted
When a judge or jury decides someone is guilty of a crime.

Court
The place where judges and/or juries decide what happens in legal cases.

Crime Victims' Attorney
An attorney who helps the victim of a crime and keeps their information private.

Defendant
A person or company who has been sued or accused in a court of law (See Accused).

Defense Attorney
The attorney who helps the person accused of a crime.

Disposition
The decision in a juvenile case about what happens to a young person if they are found to have committed a crime.

Diversion
A program to help people avoid going to court by learning from their mistakes.

Domestic Violence
Domestic violence is when someone in a family or close relationship hurts or scares another person on purpose. It can happen between people who are married, dating, or who live together.

Evidence
The facts, things, and stories shown in court to prove what happened.

Federal
In the United States, we have several levels of government including local, state, and federal. The federal government is the highest level of government and it has its own laws and legal system. Federal legal systems usually operate around the entire country, but in D.C., several federal agencies only operate in the District.

Felony
A serious crime like robbery or murder that can lead to over a year in prison.

Grand Jury
A group of people who decide if there's enough proof to charge someone with a crime.

Guilty
When a judge or jury says the person did commit the crime.

Guilty Plea
When a person says in court they did the crime.

Incarcerated
Someone is in jail or prison because they are being punished for breaking the law, or they are waiting to go to court.

Indictment
A paper that says the person is officially being charged with a crime. (Pronounced "in-dite-ment")

Intrafamily Offense
A crime against a family member or someone you live with.

Investigation
When police gather proof to figure out who committed a crime.

Judge
The person in charge of the court who decides what the law says should happen.

Juvenile
A young person under 18 who has their own court process.

Mandatory Minimum
A rule that says the judge must give a certain punishment for a crime and the punishment (may be called a "sentence") cannot be lower that what that rule says

Medical Forensic Exam
A medical evaluation performed by a trained nurse after an incident involving physical or sexual contact. The nurse checks the person's health and may collect evidence, such as photographs or samples, if it is needed. The exam is optional, and the patient can choose which parts they want to do.

Misdemeanor
A less serious crime that can lead to up to a year in jail. (Pronounced "miss-dah-meen-or")

No Contest Plea
When someone doesn't say they did the crime but agrees to be punished.

Not Guilty Plea
When someone says in court they didn't do the crime.

Offender
A person who has been found guilty of a crime.

Paper/No Paper
When the prosecutor decides whether to officially charge someone.

Plea
When someone tells the court if they did the crime or not.

Plea Bargain
A deal where someone agrees to say they are guilty to get a less harsh punishment.

Preliminary Hearing
A meeting to see if there is enough proof to keep the case going.

Presentence Report
A report to help the judge decide punishment, with facts about the person and the crime.

Presentment
The first time someone goes to court to hear what they are accused of.

Probable Cause
A good reason for the police or judge to think a crime happened.

Probation
A punishment where the person stays in the community with rules instead of going to jail.

Prosecutor
The attorney that works for the government who tries to prove someone did the crime.

Public Defender
An attorney who helps people who can't afford one.

Restitution
Money paid to the victim to make up for what happened.

Safety Plan
A victim safety plan is a simple guide that helps someone know what to do, where to go, and who to call if they are in danger.

Secondary Victim
Family or close people hurt by what happened to the main victim.

Sentence
The punishment given after someone is found guilty.

Sentencing Guidelines
Sentencing guidelines are rules that help judges decide how long someone should be punished if they break the law. They make sure people who do the same kind of crime get similar punishments.

Stalking
Repeatedly following or bothering someone in a scary or harassing way.

Status Hearings
Court check-ins to see how the case is going.

Subpoena
A paper that says someone must come to court. (Pronounced "sub-peena")

Suspect
A person police think might have done the crime.

Testimony
What someone says in court about what they saw or know.

Trial
The court process where both sides share evidence and a decision is made.

Trial Jury (Petit)
A group of people who listen in court and decide if someone is guilty.

Verdict
The final decision in court about if someone is guilty or not.

Victim
The person who was hurt or affected by a crime.

Victim Impact Statement
A note or story from the victim about how the crime affected them.

Warrant
A warrant is an official order, either on paper or electronic, signed by a judge that gives police permission to do something they normally can't do, like search a house or arrest someone.

Witness / Witnesses
Someone who saw or knows something about the crime.

Writ of Mandamus
A writ of mandamus (pronounced "man-dame-us") is a court order that tells a government official or lower court to do something the law requires them to do. It is used when a victim's legal rights are being ignored and there's no other way to fix the problem.

Case Diary

Name(s) of the Accused/Defendant/Offender

Police Report Number

Court Case Number *(Case docket information is available online at: www.dccourts.gov/services/cases-online.)*

Charge(s)

Crime Date

Presentment/Arraignment Date

Detention Hearing Date

Preliminary Hearing Date

Status Hearings Date(s)

Grand Jury Date

Trial Date

Sentencing Date

Other Important Dates

Police Officer's Name and Contact Information

Prosecutor's Name and Contact Information

Defense Attorney/Investigator and Contact Information

Victim Advocate's Name and Contact Information

Insurance Information *(Company, agent's name, contact information, and claim number)*

Other Important Contact Information

Crime Victims' Rights Laws

Federal law – Crime Victims' Rights Act: 18 U.S.C. § 3771

The victims of federal crimes enjoy certain rights to notice, attendance, and participation in the federal criminal justice process by virtue of 18 U.S.C. § 3771. More specifically, the section assures victims that they have:

1. The right to be reasonably protected from the accused.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, sentencing, or any parole proceeding.
5. The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case.
6. The right to full and timely restitution as provided in law.
7. The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.
8. The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.
9. The right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement.
10. The right to be informed of the rights under this section and the services described in section 503(c) of the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607(c)) and provided contact information for the Office of the Victims' Rights Ombudsman of the Department of Justice.

D.C. Law – § 23–1901. Crime victims' bill of rights.

(a) Officers or employees of the District of Columbia engaged in the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime or the judicial process shall make their best efforts to see that victims of crime are accorded the rights described in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) A crime victim has the right to:

1. Be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy;
2. Be reasonably protected from the accused offender;
3. Be notified of court proceedings;
4. Be present at all court proceedings related to the offense, including the sentencing, and release, parole, record-sealing, and post-conviction hearings, unless the court determines that testimony by the victim would be materially affected if the victim heard other testimony or where the needs of justice otherwise require;
5. Confer with an attorney for the prosecution in the case which does not include the authority to direct the prosecution of the case;
6. An order of restitution from the person convicted of the criminal conduct that caused the victim's loss or injury;
7. Information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, detention, and release of the offender, and about any court order to seal the offender's criminal records;
8. Notice of the rights provided in this chapter and under the laws of the District of Columbia; and
9. Be notified of any available victim advocate or other appropriate person to develop a safety plan and appropriate services.

(c) This section does not create a cause of action or defense in favor of any person arising out of the failure to accord to a victim the rights enumerated in subsection (b) of this section.

D.C. Law 24-341. Expanding Supports for Crime Victims Amendment Act of 2022.

TITLE I. EXPANDING SERVICES AND PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

Amend § 2-536

Sec. 101. Section 206(a)(1) of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, effective March 29, 1977 (D.C. Law 1-96; D.C. Official Code § 2-536(a)(1)), is amended to read as follows:

"(1) The names, salaries, title, and dates of employment of all employees and officers of a public body, except for any employee or officer of a public body who is a participant, as that term is defined in section 101(12) of the Address Confidentiality Act of 2018, effective July 3, 2018 (D.C. Law 22-118; D.C. Official Code § 4-555.01(12)) ("Address Confidentiality Act"), in the Address Confidentiality Program established by section 102 of the Address Confidentiality Act, and submits a request to the Department of Human Resources ("Department"), through a process to be established by the Department, that their information not be made public.".

Sec. 102. The Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Act of 1996, effective April 9, 1997 (D.C. Law 11-243; D.C. Official Code § 4-501 et seq.), is amended as follows:

AMEND § 4-501

(a) Section 2 (D.C. Official Code § 4-501) is amended as follows:

(1) The lead-in language is amended by striking the phrase "act the" and inserting the phrase "act, the" in its place.

(2) Paragraph (2) is amended as follows:

(A) Subparagraph (A) is amended by striking the semicolon and inserting the phrase "; or" in its place.

(B) Subparagraph (B) is amended by striking the phrase "; or" and inserting a period in its place.

(C) Subparagraph (C) is repealed.

(3) Paragraph (3) is amended to read as follows:

"(3) "Collateral source":

"(A) Means a source of benefits or compensation available to a claimant for economic loss resulting from a crime; and

"(B) Includes payments or benefits from:

"(i) The offender;

"(ii) The United States, District of Columbia, a state or territory of the United States or its political subdivisions, or an agency of the foregoing, including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, workers' compensation, public employees' disability compensation, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, the Child and Family Services Agency, or Court Social Services;

"(iii) A wage continuation program of an employer;

"(iv) A contract of life, health, disability, liability, or fire and casualty insurance, or a contract providing prepaid hospital or health care benefits;

"(v) Proceeds of a lawsuit brought as a result of the crime; or

"(vi) Life insurance proceeds of more than $50,000.".

(4) Paragraph (6) is amended to read as follows:

"(6) "Crime" means the following offenses, or the attempt to commit the following offenses, whether prosecuted under the District of Columbia Official Code or substantially similar offense defined in the United States Code, and whether committed in the District against any person or outside of the United States against a resident of the District:

"(A) An act of terrorism, as described in section 103 of the Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act of 2002, effective October 17, 2002 (D.C. Law 14-194; D.C Official Code § 22-3153);

"(B) Arson, as described in section 820 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1323; D.C. Official Code § 22-301);

"(C) Assault with intent to kill, rob, or poison, or to commit first degree sexual abuse, second degree sexual abuse or child sexual abuse, as described in section 803 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1321; D.C. Official Code § 22-401);

"(D) Assault with intent to commit mayhem or with a dangerous weapon, as described in section 804 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1321; D.C. Official Code § 22-402);

"(E) Assault with intent to commit any offense, as described in section 805 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1322; D.C. Official Code § 22-403);

"(F) Assault or threatened assault in a menacing manner; stalking, as described in section 806 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1322; D.C. Official Code § 22-404);

"(G) Aggravated assault, as described in section 806a of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, effective August 20, 1994 (D.C. Law 10-151; D.C. Official Code § 22-404.01);

"(H) Assault on member of police force, campus or university special police, or fire department, as described in section 432 of the Revised Statutes of the District of Columbia (D.C. Official Code § 22-405);

"(I) Burglary, as described in section 823 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1323; D.C. Official Code § 22-801);

"(J) Carjacking, as described in section 811a(a)(1) of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, effective May 8, 1993 (D.C. Law 9-270; D.C. Official Code § 22-2803(a)(1)); or

"(K) Armed carjacking, as described in section 811a(b)(1) of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, effective May 8, 1993 (D.C. Law 9-270; D.C. Official Code § 22-2803(b)(1));

"(L) Criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult or elderly person, as described in section 203 of the Senior Protection Amendment Act of 2000, effective June 8, 2001 (D.C. Law 13-301; D.C. Official Code § 22-933);

"(M) Financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult or elderly person, as described in section 203a of the Senior Protection Amendment Act of 2000, effective November 23, 2016 (D.C. Law 21-166; D.C. Official Code § 22-933.01);

"(N) Criminal negligence, as described in section 204 of the Senior Protection Amendment Act of 2000, effective June 8, 2001 (D.C. Law 13-301; D.C. Official Code § 22-934);

"(O) Cruelty to animals, as described in section 1 of Chapter 106 of the Acts of the Legislative Assembly, approved August 23, 1871, (D.C. Official Code § 22-1001), when committed against the victim's animal;

"(P) Cruelty to children, as described in section 3 of An act for the protection of children in the District of Columbia and for other purposes, approved February 13, 1885 (23 Stat. 303; D.C. Official Code § 22-1101);

"(Q) The following offenses that resulted in death or bodily injury to a person, notwithstanding that the offender lacked the capacity to commit the offense by reason of infancy, insanity, intoxication, or otherwise:

"(i) Speeding and reckless driving, as described in section 9 of the District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925, approved March 3, 1925 (43 Stat. 1123; D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.04);

"(ii) Fleeing from a law enforcement officer in a motor vehicle, as described in section 10b of District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925, effective March 16, 2005 (D.C. Law 15-239; D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.05b);

"(iii) Leaving after colliding, as described in section 10c of District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925, effective April 27, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-266; D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.05c);

"(iv) Object falling or flying from vehicle, as described in section 10d of District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925, effective April 27, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-266; D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.05d);

"(v) Driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or a drug, as described in section 3b of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective April 27, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-266; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.11);

"(vi) Driving under the influence of alcohol or a drug; commercial vehicle, as described in section 3c of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective April 27, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-266; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.12);

"(vii) Operating a vehicle while impaired, as described in section 3e of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective April 27, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-266; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.14);

"(viii) Operating under the influence of alcohol or a drug (horse-drawn vehicle), as described in section 3g of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective April 27, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-266; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.16);

"(ix) Operating under the influence of alcohol or a drug (watercraft), as described in section 3j of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective April 27, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-266; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.31); and

"(x) Operating a watercraft while impaired, as described in section 3l of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective April 27, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-266; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.33);

"(R) Manufacture, transfer, use, possession, or transportation of Molotov cocktails, or other explosives for unlawful purposes, as described in section 15A of An Act To control the possession, sale, transfer, and use of pistols and other dangerous weapons in the District of Columbia, to provide penalties, to prescribe rules of evidence, and for other purposes, approved July 8, 1932 (47 Stat. 654; D.C. Official Code § 22-4515a);

"(S) Forced labor, as described in section 102 of the Prohibition Against Human Trafficking Amendment Act of 2010, effective October 23, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-239; D.C. Official Code § 22-1832);

"(T) Trafficking in labor or commercial sex acts, as described in section 103 of the Prohibition Against Human Trafficking Amendment Act of 2010, effective October 23, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-239; D.C. Official Code § 22-1833);

"(U) Sex trafficking of children, as described in section 104 of the Prohibition Against Human Trafficking Amendment

Act of 2010, effective October 23, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-239; D.C. Official Code § 22-1834);

"(V) Unlawful conduct with respect to documents in furtherance of human trafficking, as described in section 105 of the Prohibition Against Human Trafficking Amendment Act of 2010, effective October 23, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-239; D.C. Official Code § 22-1835);

"(W) Benefitting financially from human trafficking, as described in section 106 of the Prohibition Against Human Trafficking Amendment Act of 2010, effective October 23, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-239; D.C. Official Code § 22-1836);

"(X) Kidnapping, as described in section 812 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1322; D.C. Official Code § 22-2001);

"(Y) Malicious burning, destruction, or injury of another's property, as described in section 848 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1327; D.C. Official Code § 22-303), that:

"(i) Resulted from the discharge of a firearm into the victim's residence or vehicle; or

"(ii) Was committed by an intimate partner;

"(Z) Mayhem or maliciously disfiguring, as described in section 807 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1322; D.C. Official Code § 22-406);

"(AA) Manslaughter, as described in section 802 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1321; D.C. Official Code § 22-2105);

"(BB) Murder in the first degree (purposeful killing; killing while perpetrating certain crimes), as described in section 798 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1321; D.C. Official Code § 22-2101);

"(CC) Murder in the first degree (placing obstructions upon or displacement of railroads), as described in section 799 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1321; D.C. Official Code § 22-2102);

"(DD) Murder in the second degree, as described in section 800 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1321; D.C. Official Code § 22-2103);

"(EE) Murder of law enforcement officer, as described in section 802a of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-256; D.C. Official Code § 22-2106);

"(FF) Negligent homicide, as described in section 802(a) of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1321; D.C. Official Code § 22-2203.01);

"(GG) Where a person was compelled to engage in prostitution:

"(i) Engaging in prostitution or soliciting for prostitution, as described in section 1 of An Act For the Suppression of prostitution in the District of Columbia, approved August 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 651; D.C. Official Code § 22-2701);

"(ii) Abducting or enticing child from the child's home for purposes of prostitution; harboring such child, as described in section 813 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1322; D.C. Official Code § 22-2704);

"(iii) Pandering; inducing or compelling an individual to engage in prostitution, as described in section 1 of an Act In relation to pandering, to define and prohibit the same and to provide for the punishment thereof, approved June 25, 1910 (36 Stat. 833; D.C. Official Code § 22-2705);

"(iv) Compelling an individual to live life of prostitution against the individual's will, as described in section 2 of an Act In relation to pandering, to define and prohibit the same and to provide for the punishment thereof, approved June 25, 1910 (36 Stat. 833; D.C. Official Code § 22-2706);

"(v) Procuring; receiving money or other valuable thing for arranging assignation, as described in section 3 of an Act In relation to pandering, to define and prohibit the same and to provide for the punishment thereof, approved June 25, 1910 (36 Stat. 833; D.C. Official Code § 22-2707);

"(vi) Causing spouse or domestic partner to live in prostitution, as described in section 4 of an Act In relation to pandering, to define and prohibit the same and to provide for the punishment thereof, approved June 25, 1910 (36 Stat. 833; D.C. Official Code § 22-2708);

"(vii) Detaining an individual in disorderly house for debt there contracted, as described in section 5 of an Act In relation to pandering, to define and prohibit the same and to provide for the punishment thereof, approved June 25, 1910 (36 Stat. 833; D.C. Official Code § 22-2709);

"(viii) Procuring for house of prostitution, as described in section 6 of an Act In relation to pandering, to define and prohibit the same and to provide for the punishment thereof, approved January 3, 1941 (54 Stat. 1226; D.C. Official Code § 22-2710);

"(ix) Procuring for third persons, as described in section 7 of an Act In relation to pandering, to define and prohibit the same and to provide for the punishment thereof, approved January 3, 1941 (54 Stat. 1226; D.C. Official Code § 22-2711); and

"(x) Operating house of prostitution, as described in section 8 of an Act In relation to pandering, to define and prohibit the same and to provide for the punishment thereof, approved January 3, 1941 (54 Stat. 1226; D.C. Official Code § 22-2712);

"(HH) Rioting or inciting to riot, as described in section 901 of An Act relating to crime and criminal procedure in the District of Columbia, approved December 27, 1967 (81 Stat. 742; D.C. Official Code § 22-1322);

"(II) Robbery, as described in section 810 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1322; D.C. Official Code § 22-2801);

"(JJ) Attempt to commit robbery, as described in section 811 of An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia, approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1322; D.C. Official Code § 22-2802);

"(KK) First degree sexual abuse, as described in section 201 of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3002);

"(LL) Second degree sexual abuse, as described in section 202 of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3003);

"(MM) Third degree sexual abuse, as described in section 203 of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3004);

"(NN) Fourth degree sexual abuse, as described in section 204 of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3005);

"(OO) Misdemeanor sexual abuse, as described in section 205 of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3006);

"(PP) First degree child sexual abuse, as described in section 207 of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3008);

"(QQ) Second degree child sexual abuse, as described in section 208 of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3009);

"(RR) First degree sexual abuse of a minor, as described in section 208a of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective April 24, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-306; D.C. Official Code § 22-3009.01);

"(SS) Second degree sexual abuse of a minor, as described in section 208b of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective April 24, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-306; D.C. Official Code § 22-3009.02);

"(TT) First degree sexual abuse of a secondary education student, as described in section 208c of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective October 23, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-239; D.C. Official Code § 22-3009.03);

"(UU) Second degree sexual abuse of a secondary education student, as described in section 208d of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective October 23, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-239; D.C. Official Code § 22-3009.04);

"(VV) Enticing a child or minor, as described in section 209 of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3010);

"(WW) Misdemeanor sexual abuse of a child or minor, as described in section 209a of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective April 24, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-306; D.C. Official Code § 22-3010.01);

"(XX) Arranging for a sexual contact with a real or fictitious child, as described in section 209b of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective June 3, 2011 (D.C. Law 18-377; D.C. Official Code § 22-3010.02);

"(YY) First degree sexual abuse of a ward, patient, client, arrestee, detainee, or prisoner, as described in section 212 of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3013);

"(ZZ) Second degree sexual abuse of a ward, patient, client, arrestee, detainee, or prisoner, as described in section 213 of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3014);

"(AAA) First degree sexual abuse of a patient or client, as described in section 214 of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3015);

"(BBB) Second degree sexual abuse of a patient or client, as described in section 215 of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3016);

"(CCC) Sexual performances using minors, as described in section 3 of the District of Columbia Protection of Minors Act of 1982, effective March 9, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-173; D.C. Official Code § 22-3102);

"(DDD) Stalking, as described in section 503 of the Omnibus Public Safety and Justice Amendment Act of 2009, effective December 10, 2009 (D.C. Law 18-88; D.C. Official Code § 22-3133);

"(EEE) Threats to do bodily harm, as described in section 2 of An Act To confer concurrent jurisdiction on the police court of the District of Columbia in certain cases, approved July 16, 1912 (37 Stat. 193; D.C. Official Code § 22-407);

"(FFF) Voyeurism, as described in section 105 of the Omnibus Public Safety Amendment Act of 2006, effective April 24, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-306; D.C. Official Code § 22-3531); and

"(GGG) Use, dissemination, or detonation of a weapon of mass destruction, as described in section 105 of the Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act of 2002, effective October 17, 2002 (D.C. Law 14-194; D.C. Official Code § 22-3155).".

(5) Paragraph (7)(A) is amended as follows:

(A) Sub-subparagraph (i) is amended by striking the phrase "the District of Columbia" and inserting the phrase "the District" in its place.

(B) Sub-subparagraph (xi) is amended by striking the phrase "cost of a rental car for" and inserting the phrase "cost of alternate transportation, including a rental car or rideshare, for" in its place.

(6) A new paragraph (8A) is added to read as follows:

"(8A) "Intimate partner" means a person:

"(A) To whom the offender is or was married;

"(B) With whom the offender is or was in a domestic partnership;

"(C) With whom the offender has a child in common; or

"(D) With whom the offender is, or was, or is seeking to be in a romantic, dating, or sexual relationship.".

(7) Paragraph (9) is amended as follows:

(A) Subparagraph (C) is amended by striking the phrase "; and" and inserting a semicolon in its place.

(B) Subparagraph (D) is amended as follows:

(i) Sub-subparagraph (ii) is amended by striking the phrase "; or" and inserting a semicolon in its place.

(ii) Sub-subparagraph (iii) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phrase "; or" in its place.

(iii) A new sub-subparagraph (iv) is added to read as follows:

"(iv) Individual licensed by the Board of Professional Counseling as a:

"(I) Professional counselor, as described in section 710(a) of the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, effective July 22, 1992 (D.C. Law 9-126; D.C. Official Code § 3-1207.10(a));

"(II) Professional counselor, as described in section 710(c) of the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, effective July 22, 1992 (D.C. Law 9-126; D.C. Official Code § 3-1207.10(c)); or

"(III) Graduate professional counselor, as described in insection 710(b) of the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, effective July 22, 1992 (D.C. Law 9-126; D.C. Official Code § 3-1207.10(b)); and".

(C) A new subparagraph (E) is added to read as follow:

"(E) Veterinary expenses in claims where the victim's animal was a victim of cruelty to animals, as described in section 1 of Chapter 106 of the Acts of the Legislative Assembly, adopted August 23, 1871 (D.C. Official Code § 22-1001).".

(8) A new paragraph (9A) is added to read as follows:

"(9A) "Minor" means a person under 18 years of age.".

(9) Paragraph (13)(A) is amended by striking the phrase "step, and adopted" and inserting the phrase "step, foster, and adopted" in its place.

(10) Paragraph (14) is amended as follows:

(A) The lead-in language is amended by striking the phrase "the District of Columbia" wherever it appears and inserting the phrase "the District" in its place.

(B) Subparagraph (C) is amended by striking the semicolon and inserting the phrase "; or" in its place.

(C) Subparagraph (D) is amended by striking the phrase "; or" and inserting a period in its place.

(D) Subparagraph (E) is repealed.

AMEND § 4-502

(b) Section 3 (D.C. Official Code § 4-502) is amended by striking the phrase "claims of victims of violent crime" and inserting the phrase "claims of victims and secondary victims" in its place.

AMEND § 4-503

(c) Section 4 (D.C. Official Code § 4-503) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase "the Superior Court of the District of Columbia ("Court")" and inserting the phrase "the Court" in its place.

(2) Subsection (c) is amended as follows:

(A) Paragraph (6) is amended by striking the phrase "the Crime Victims Compensation Appeals Board ("Board"), the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Corporation Counsel of the District of Columbia" and inserting the phrase "the Board, the Metropolitan Police Department, the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia" in its place.

(B) Paragraph (7) is amended by striking the phrase "both English" and inserting the phrase "at least both English" in its place.

AMEND § 4-504

(d) Section 5 (D.C. Official Code § 4-504) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase "Commission ("Commission") is established" and inserting the phrase "Commission is established" in its place.

(2) Subsection (b) is amended to read as follows:

"(b) The Commission's members shall:

"(1) Serve for a term of 3 years;

"(2) Be eligible for reappointment;

"(3) Serve without compensation; and

"(4) Elect any additional officers necessary for the efficient discharge of their duties.".

(3) Subsection (c) is amended as follows:

(A) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the phrase "Committee on the Judiciary of the Council of the District of Columbia" and inserting the phrase "Council committee with jurisdiction over victims' compensation" in its place.

(B) Paragraph (2) is amended by striking the phrase "the Corporation Counsel" and inserting the phrase "the Attorney General for the District of Columbia" in its place.

(C) Paragraph (3) is amended by striking the phrase "U.S. Attorney's Office" and inserting the phrase "Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia" in its place.

(D) Paragraph (7) is amended by striking the phrase "District of Columbia Department of Corrections" and inserting the phrase "Department of Corrections" in its place.

AMEND § 4-505

(e) Section 6(a) (D.C. Official Code § 4-505(a)) is amended by striking the phrase "Board ("Board") is" and inserting the phrase "Board is" in its place.

AMEND § 4-506

(f) Section 7 (D.C. Official Code § 4-506) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) A claimant is eligible to receive compensation under this act if:

"(1) The claimant filed a claim under this act within one year after:

"(A) The crime occurred;

"(B) Learning of the Program, with an adequate showing that the delay in learning of the Program was reasonable;

"(C) The resolution of a first application, or any subsequent application entertained by the court, for a sentence modification as described in section 3c of An Act To establish a Board of Indeterminate Sentence and Parole for the District of Columbia and to determine its functions, and for other purposes, effective April 4, 2017 (D.C. Law 21-238; D.C. Official Code § 24-403.03); or

"(D) The resolution of a motion to modify a term of imprisonment as described in section 3d of An Act To establish a Board of Indeterminate Sentence and Parole for the District of Columbia and to determine its functions, and for other purposes, effective April 27, 2021 (D.C. Law 23-274; D.C. Official Code § 24-403.04); and

"(2) The crime was reported to a law enforcement office within 7 days after its occurrence or, if the crime could not be reasonably reported within that time period, within 7 days from the time a report can reasonably be made.".

(2) New subsections (a-1) and (a-2) are added to read as follows:

"(a-1)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a victim of the offense of malicious burning, destruction, or injury of another's property, as described in section 2(6)(Y), whose claim is barred under subsection (a)(1)(A) of this section, may file a claim under this act during the one-year period after the effective date of the Expanding Supports for Crime Victims Amendment Act of 2022, passed on 2nd reading on October 18, 2022 (Enrolled version of Bill 24-75), which shall be deemed timely filed under subsection (a)(1)(A) of this section; provided, that the offense occurred within the 2-year period before the effective date of the Expanding Supports for Crime Victims Amendment Act of 2022, passed on 2nd reading on October 18, 2022 (Enrolled version of Bill 24-75).

"(2) Compensation awarded for a claim filed under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be limited to the reasonable cost of replacing doors, windows, locks, or other items to secure the victim's home or other place of residence, which shall not exceed $1,000.

"(a-2)(1) A claimant shall not be deemed ineligible to receive compensation in cases where the claimant is a family member or household member of the perpetrator of the crime for which compensation is sought.

"(2) The identification, arrest, prosecution, or conviction of a perpetrator of the crime for which compensation is sought is not required for a claimant to be eligible for compensation.

"(3) Unless an application for rehearing, appeal, or petition for certiorari is pending or a new trial or hearing has been ordered, conviction of the perpetrator of the crime for which compensation is sought is conclusive evidence that a crime was committed.

"(4) If the offense listed in the police report or criminal charge is not a crime eligible for compensation, the Program may determine a claimant's eligibility based on the facts of the incident for which compensation is sought instead of the offense listed in the police report or criminal charge.".

(3) Subsection (c) is amended to read as follows:

"(c) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(2) of this section, the victim may satisfy the reporting requirement by:

"(1) In the case of a domestic violence victim, obtaining a:

"(A) Temporary protection order or civil protection order from the Court; or

"(B) Forensic medical examination;

"(2) In the case of a stalking victim, obtaining a temporary anti-stalking order or anti-stalking order from the Court;

"(3) In the case of a sexual assault victim:

"(A) Obtaining a:

"(i) Temporary civil protection order or civil protection order from the Court; or

"(ii) Forensic medical examination; or

"(B) Reporting the offense to a law enforcement office before expiration of the applicable statute of limitations for that offense, as provided in D.C. Official Code § 23-113;

"(4) In the case of a victim of cruelty to children, the filing of a neglect petition by the District of Columbia in the Court; or

"(5) For any victim, if the Program determines that the claimant's ability to report the crime may be impacted due to the claimant's age, physical condition, psychological state, cultural or linguistic barriers, or any other health or safety concern that jeopardizes the claimant's well-being, as described in 34 U.S.C. § 20102(b)(2), including in their application any of the following documents establishing they are a victim:

"(A) An order or judgement from any court of competent jurisdiction;

"(B) Records from a law enforcement agency; or

"(C) Records from a medical professional from whom the victim has sought assistance in dealing with the alleged crime.".

(4) New subsections (e) and (f) are added to read as follows:

"(e) Any written requests for information release issued to providers of medical services to victims or secondary victims, including to hospitals, physicians, and mental health clinics, shall:

"(1) Not be made available to the public;

"(2) Limit the request for information from the provider to an acknowledgement of their treatment of the victim or secondary victim, and that such treatment was in connection to the crime for which the claimant is requesting compensation;

"(3) Include a limitation on the time or duration of the authorization for release of information;

"(4) Notify the victim or secondary victim that they may submit a written revocation of the authorization for release of information;

"(5) Include a disclaimer that the provider is not authorized to discuss the victim's or secondary victim's health information or medical care with anyone other than the Program; and

"(6) Include a disclaimer that the provider must notify the victim or secondary victim if any additional information about the victim's or secondary victim's treatment is requested by:

"(A) The Program; or

"(B) Any other person or entity related to a claim under this act.

"(f) In evaluating the claimant's application, the Program shall not require a victim or secondary victim to affirmatively and fully waive the physician-patient privilege as a condition to claiming such compensation.".

AMEND § 4-507

(g) Section 8 (D.C. Official Code § 4-507) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a-1) is amended by striking the phrase "himself or herself of" and inserting the phrase "themselves of" in its place.

(2) Subsection (b) is amended to read as follows:

"(b) The Court shall not award compensation in an amount exceeding $25,000 per victimization; except, that:

"(1) If the victim is or was the parent, guardian, custodian, or primary caregiver to more than 2 children who reside or resided with the victim, the Court may award additional compensation to the claimant of up to $5,000 for each child

who resides with the claimant, beginning with the third child; and

"(2) Compensation for veterinary expenses as described in section 2(9)(E) shall not exceed $1,000.".

AMEND § 4-508

(h) Section 9(b)(2) (D.C. Official Code § 4-508(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2)(A) The victim failed to reasonably cooperate with law enforcement; and

"(B) The victim's cooperation was not impacted by the factors described in section 7(c).".

AMEND § 4-509

(i) Section 10 (D.C. Official Code § 4-509) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (c) is amended by striking the phrase "The District of Columbia" both times it appears and inserting the phrase "The District" in its place.

(2) Subsection (d) is amended by striking the phrase "Corporation Counsel of the District of Columbia if a lawsuit for restitution or damages is instituted. The District of Columbia" and inserting the phrase "Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia if a lawsuit for restitution or damages is instituted. The District" in its place.

AMEND § 4-512

(j) Section 13 (D.C. Official Code § 4-512) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase "or by electronic mail" and inserting the phrase "online, or by electronic mail" in its place.

(2) Subsection (b) is amended by striking the phrase "claimant by first class mail or electronic mail, along" and inserting the phrase "claimant, along" in its place.

(3) Subsection (c) is amended by striking the phrase "claimant by first class mail or electronic mail, along" and inserting the phrase "claimant, along" in its place.

AMEND § 4-515.01

(k) Section 16a (D.C. Official Code § 4-515.01) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase "Services." and inserting the phrase "Services and Justice Grants." in its place.

(2) Subsection (c) is amended by striking the phrase "than 5% of" and inserting the phrase "than 8% of" in its place.

AMEND § 4-516

(l) Section 17(a) (D.C. Code Official Code § 4-516(a)) is amended to read as follows:

"(a)(1) In addition to and separate from punishment imposed, an assessment of $100 for each violation of the following crimes, an assessment of between $50 and $250 for other serious traffic or misdemeanor offenses, and an assessment of between $100 and $5,000 for each felony offense shall be imposed upon each person convicted of or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to the offense in the Court or any other court in which the offense charged is:

"(A) Leaving after colliding, as defined in section 10c of District of Columbia Traffic Act, approved March 3, 1925 (43

Stat. 1119; D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.05c);

"(B) Object falling or flying from vehicle, as defined in section 10d of District of Columbia Traffic Act, approved March 3, 1925 (43 Stat. 1119; D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.05d);

"(C) Driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or a drug, as defined in section 3b of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective September 14, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-145; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.11);

"(D) Driving under the influence of alcohol or a drug (commercial vehicle), as defined in section 3c of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective September 14, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-145; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.12);

"(E) Operating a vehicle while impaired, as defined in section 3e of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective September 14, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-145; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.14);

"(F) Operating under the influence of alcohol or a drug (horse-drawn vehicle), as defined in section 3g of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective September 14, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-145; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.16);

"(G) Operating under the influence of alcohol or a drug (watercraft), as defined in section 3j of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective September 14, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-145; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.31); or

"(H) Operating a watercraft while impaired, as defined in section 3l of the Anti-Drunk Driving Act of 1982, effective September 14, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-145; D.C. Official Code § 50-2206.33).

"(2) The decision of the Court regarding assessments is final.

"(3) If an offender is indigent at the time of sentencing and is later employed for salary, receives compensation while on probation or parole, or is incarcerated in a facility of the Department of Corrections or elsewhere and receives wages or compensation therein, the amount of assessments under this section shall be paid from such salary, wages, or other compensation.".

Sec. 103. The Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Act of 2014, effective November 20, 2014 (D.C. Law 20-139; D.C. Official Code § 4-561.01 et seq.), is amended as follows:

AMEND § 4-561.04

(a) Section 204 (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.04) is amended by adding a new subsection (e) to read as follows:

"(e) Once retained by OVSJG, the work product, reports, and recommendations of the independent expert consultant shall remain in the exclusive control of the independent expert consultant until the draft version of the independent expert consultant's report is provided to entities for review as described in section 206(a)(2)(A).".

AMEND § 4-561.06

(b) Section 206(a) (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.06(a)) is amended as followed:

(1) Paragraph (1) is amended as follows:

(A) Subparagraph (A)(v) is amended by striking the phrase "; and" and inserting a semicolon in its place.

(B) Subparagraph (B) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phrase "; and" in its place.

(C) A new subparagraph (C) is amended to read as follows:

"(C) Review any changes to the sexual assault response continuum of care resulting from the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Act of 2014, effective November 20, 2014 (D.C. Law 20-139; 61 DCR 5913), and the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2019, effective March 3, 2020 (D.C. Law 23-57; 66 DCR 15914), including the legal obligations imposed on entities participating in the sexual assault response continuum of care and the service delivery models used within the sexual assault response continuum of care.".

(2) Paragraph (2) is amended as follows:

(A) Subparagraph (A) is amended by striking the phrase "the Chief of Police for" and inserting in its place the phrase "the Mayor, the City Administrator, the Council, the Chief of Police, and the SART for" in its place.

(B) Subparagraph (B) is amended by striking the phrase "of Police shall" and inserting the phrase "of Police and the SART shall" in its place.

(c) Section 213(a) (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.13(a)) is amended as follows:

AMEND § 4-561.13

(1) Paragraph (4) is amended by striking the phrase "; and" and inserting a semicolon in its place.

AMEND § 4-561.13

(2) Paragraph (5)(F) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phrase "; and" in its place.

AMEND § 4-561.13

(3) A new paragraph (6) is added to read as follows:

"(6) After reviewing the feedback and recommendations from the Case Review Subcommittee and national best practices, establish minimum standards of care for entities participating in the continuum of services for sexual assault victims, in consultation with the independent expert consultant.".

Sec. 104. An Act To provide for the mandatory reporting by physicians and institutions in the District of Columbia of certain physical abuse of children, approved November 6, 1966 (80 Stat. 1354; D.C. Official Code § 4-1321.01 et seq.), is amended as follows:

AMEND § 4-1321.02

(a) Section 2 (D.C. Official Code § 4-1321.02) is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 2. Mandatory reporters.

"(a) For the purposes of this section, the term "mandatory reporter" means any of the following:

"(1) An employee, agent, or contractor of the Child and Family Services Agency;

"(2) A physician;

"(3) A psychologist;

"(4) A medical examiner;

"(5) A dentist;

"(6) A chiropractor;

"(7) A registered nurse;

"(8) A licensed practical nurse;

"(9) An individual involved in the care and treatment of patients;

"(10) A law-enforcement officer;

"(11) A humane officer of any agency charged with the enforcement of animal cruelty laws;

"(12) A school official;

"(13) A teacher;

"(14) An athletic coach;

"(15) An employee of the Department of Parks and Recreation;

"(16) A public housing resident manager;

"(17) A social services worker;

"(18) A day care worker; and

"(19) A mental health professional, as that term is defined in section 101 of the District of Columbia Mental Health Information Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-136; D.C. Official Code § 7-1201.01(11)).

"(b)(1) Notwithstanding D.C. Official Code § 14-307, mandatory reporters shall, if they know or have reasonable cause to believe that a:

"(A) Child they know in their professional capacity for which they have been designated as a mandatory reporter has been or is in immediate danger of being abused, as that term is defined in section 102(1)(A) of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective September 23, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-22; D.C. Official Code § 4-1301.02(1)(A)), or is a neglected child, as that term is defined in section 102(15B) of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective September 23, 1977 (D.C. Law 2-22; D.C. Official Code § 4-1301.02(15B)), make a report to the Child and Family Services Agency or the Metropolitan Police Department as described in section 3;

"(B) Child ages 5 through 13 years of age they know in their professional capacity for which they have been designated as a mandatory reporter has 10 or more days of unexcused absences within a school year, as that term is defined in section 1 of Article I of An Act To provide for compulsory school attendance, for the taking of a school census in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, approved February 4, 1925 (43 Stat. 806; D.C. Official Code § 38-201(4)), make a report to the Child and Family Services Agency as described in section 3;

"(C) Child they know in their professional capacity for which they have been designated as a mandatory reporter has been, or is in immediate danger of being, the victim of sexual abuse or attempted sexual abuse prohibited by the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3001 et seq.), or was assisted, supported, caused, encouraged, commanded, enabled, induced, facilitated, or permitted to become a prostitute, as that term is defined in section 2 of the Control of Prostitution and Sale of Controlled Substances in Public Places Criminal Control Act of 1981, effective December 10, 1981 (D.C. Law 4-57; D.C. Official Code § 22-2701.01(3)), make a report to the Child and Family Services Agency or the Metropolitan Police Department as described in section 3; or

"(D) Child they know in their professional capacity for which they have been designated as a mandatory reporter has an injury caused by a bullet, knife, or other sharp object which has been caused by other than accidental means, make a report to the Child and Family Services Agency or the Metropolitan Police Department as described in section 3.

"(2) Notwithstanding any other law, mandatory reporters shall not be required to report when:

"(A) Employed or supervised by a lawyer who is providing representation in a criminal, civil, including family law, or delinquency matter, and the basis for the belief arises solely in the course of that representation; or

"(B) Employed or supervised by a lawyer with whom a prospective client is seeking representation in a criminal, civil, including family law, or delinquency matter, and the basis for the belief arises solely in the course of seeking that representation.

"(3) This section shall not apply to the following individuals while acting in their capacity as a counselor:

"(A) Domestic violence counselor, as that term is defined in D.C. Official Code § 14-310(a)(2);

"(B) Human trafficking counselor, as that term is defined in D.C. Official Code § 14-311(a)(2); or

"(C) Sexual assault counselor, as that term is defined in D.C. Official Code § 14-312(a)(2).

"(4) Whenever a mandatory reporter is required to report in their capacity as an employee, agent, or contractor of a hospital, school, social agency, or similar institution, the mandatory reporter shall also immediately notify the person in charge of the institution or their designated agent who shall subsequently make a report; except, that notifying the person in charge of the institution or their designated agent shall not relieve the mandatory reporter who was originally required to report from their duty under subsection (b) of this section.

"(c) In addition to the requirements of subsection (b) of this section, the following mandatory reporters shall make a report to the Child and Family Services Agency as described in section 3 if they have reasonable cause to believe that a child is abused as a result of inadequate care, control, or subsistence in the home environment due to exposure to drug-related activity:

"(1) Health professionals licensed pursuant to the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01 et seq.); and

"(2) Law enforcement officers and humane officers of any agency charged with the enforcement of animal cruelty laws, except an undercover officer whose identity or investigation might be jeopardized.

"(d) A health professional licensed pursuant to the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code § 3-1201.01 et seq.), who in their own professional capacity knows that a child under 12 months of age is diagnosed as having a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, shall immediately report or have a report made to the Child and Family Services Agency.

"(e) A person who violates this section shall not be prosecuted under Title II-A of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective June 8, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-315; D.C. Official Code § 22-3020.51 et seq.).

"(f) The Metropolitan Police Department shall immediately report or have a report made to the Child and Family Services Agency of any knowledge, information, or suspicion of a child engaging in or offering to engage in a sexual act, as that term is defined in section 101(8) of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3001(8)), or sexual contact, as that term is defined in section 101(9) of the Anti-Sexual

Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3001(9)), in return for receiving anything of value.".

NEW § 4-1321.08

(b) A new section 8 is added to read as follows:

"Sec. 8. Training for mandatory reporters.

"(a) By December 31, 2023, the Office of the Attorney General ("OAG") shall, in consultation with the Child and Family Services Agency ("CFSA"), develop and approve a training curriculum explaining the reporting requirements of this act, which shall include:

"(1) The purpose of the mandatory reporting requirements;

"(2) The dynamics surrounding abuse, neglect, and other forms of child victimizations that must be reported;

"(3) The impact of racial bias on the mandatory reporting and child welfare systems; and

"(4) The legal duties imposed on mandatory reporters, including:

"(A) How to make a report, the contents of the report, and the process after a report is filed;

"(B) The legal protections provided to mandatory reporters; and

"(C) The penalty for failing to make a report.

"(b) All mandatory reporters shall complete a training based upon the curriculum required by subsection (a) of this section which shall be conducted by OAG, CFSA, or a third party.".

AMEND § 7-1201.01

Sec. 105. Section 101(11)(E) of the District of Columbia Mental Health Information Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-136; D.C. Official Code § 7-1201.01(11)(E)), is amended by striking the phrase "A rape crisis or sexual abuse counselor who has undergone at least 40 hours of training and is" and inserting the phrase "A sexual assault counselor, as that term is defined in D.C. Official Code § 23-1907(10), who is" in its place.

AMEND § 7-2502.03

Sec. 106. Section 203 of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975, effective September 24, 1976 (D.C. Law 1-85; D.C. Official Code § 7-2502.03), is amended as follows:

(a) Subsection (a)(6)(B) is amended to read as follows:

"(B) Subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall not apply if:

"(i) For applicants disqualified as a result of a voluntary admission, commitment, incapacity determination, or adjudication that occurred in the District, the Superior Court of the District of Columbia has granted the applicant relief pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, unless the applicant, since the court granted the applicant relief pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, is again disqualified under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph; and

"(ii) For applicants disqualified as a result of a voluntary admission, commitment, incapacity determination, or adjudication that occurred in another jurisdiction, the court or commission of competent jurisdiction has granted the

applicant relief, unless the applicant, since the court or commission granted the applicant relief, is again disqualified under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.".

(b) Subsection (f)(1) is amended by striking the phrase ", or" and inserting the phrase ", 18 U.S.C. § 922(d)(4), or" in its place.

Sec. 107. Chapter 3 of Title 14 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as follows:

AMEND § 14-307

(a) Section 14-307 is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 14-307. Confidential information.

"(a) For the purposes of this section, the term:

"(1) "Health care benefit program" means any public or private plan or contract under which a medical benefit, item, or service is or may be provided to an individual, and includes an individual or entity who provides a medical benefit, item, or service for which payment may be made under the plan or contract.

"(2) "Injury" includes:

"(A) Physical damage to the body;

"(B) A sexual act prohibited by Chapter 30 of Title 22; and

"(C) Sexual contact prohibited by Chapter 30 of Title 22.

"(b) In the Federal courts in the District of Columbia and District of Columbia courts, the following individuals shall not be permitted, without the written consent of their client or of the client's legal representative, to disclose any confidential information that the individual has acquired in attending the client in a professional capacity and that was necessary to enable the individual to act in that capacity, whether the information was obtained from the client, the client's family, or the person or persons in charge of the client:

"(1) Physicians;

"(2) Surgeons;

"(3) Mental health professionals, as that term is defined in § 7-1201.01(11);

"(4) Domestic violence counselors, as that term is defined in § 14-310(a)(2);

"(5) Human trafficking counselors, as that term is defined in § 14-311(a)(2);

"(6) Sexual assault counselors, as that term is defined in § 23-1907(10);

"(7) HVIP members, as that term is defined in § 14-313(a)(4); and

"(8) Crime victim counselors, as that term is defined in § 14-314(a)(4).

"(c) This section shall not apply to evidence:

"(1) In a grand jury, criminal, delinquency, family, or domestic violence proceeding, where:

"(A) A person is targeted for or charged with causing the death of or injuring a human being, or with attempting or threatening to kill or injure a human being, or a report has been filed with the police pursuant to § 7-2601; and

"(B) The disclosure is required in the interests of justice;

"(2) Related to the mental competency or sanity of an accused in criminal trials where the accused raises the defense of insanity or where the court is required under prevailing law to raise the defense sua sponte, or in the pre-trial or post-trial proceedings involving a criminal case where a question arises concerning the mental condition of an accused or convicted person;

"(3) Related to the mental competency or sanity of a child alleged to be delinquent, neglected, or in need of supervision in any proceeding before the Family Division of the Superior Court;

"(4) In a grand jury, criminal, delinquency, or civil proceeding where a person is alleged to have defrauded:

"(A) The District of Columbia or federal government in relation to receiving or providing services under the District of Columbia medical assistance program authorized by title 19 of the Social Security Act, approved July 30, 1965 (79 Stat. 343; 42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.);

"(B) A health care benefit program; or

"(C) An elderly person or vulnerable adult, as those terms are defined in § 22-932(3) and (5); or

"(5) In a criminal or delinquency proceeding where:

"(A) A person is charged with an impaired driving offense resulting in the death of or injury to another human being; and

"(B) The disclosure is required in the interest of justice.

"(d)(1) Before finding that the disclosure of confidential information is required in the interest of justice, as provided in subsection (c)(1)(B) and (5)(B) of this section, the court shall:

"(A) Serve the victim with notice of the potential disclosure of confidential information; and

"(B) Provide the victim with 14 days from the date of service to object to the disclosure of confidential information and provide an explanation for why the disclosure is not in the interest of justice.

"(2) When determining whether the disclosure of confidential information is required in the interest of justice, as provided in subsection (c)(1)(B) and (5)(B) of this section, the court shall consider the rights of crime victims under § 23-1901 and 18 U.S.C. 3771.

"(e) If the victim's ability to object pursuant to subsection (d)(1)(B) of this section is diminished because of minority, mental impairment, medical incapacity, or some other reason, the court:

"(1)(A) Shall provide notice to the victim's parent, guardian, or custodian; or

"(B) May appoint an attorney to receive the notice on the victim's behalf; and

"(2) Shall provide the victim's parent, guardian, or custodian, or an attorney acting on the victim's behalf, with 14 days from the date of service to object to the disclosure of confidential information and provide an explanation for why the disclosure is not in the interest of justice.".

AMEND § 14-310

(b) Section 14-310 is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (b) is amended by adding a new paragraph (4) to read as follows:

"(4) Notwithstanding any other law, domestic violence counselors shall report to the Metropolitan Police Department or the Child and Family Services Agency any crime disclosed in a confidential communication if the domestic violence counselor has actual knowledge that the crime disclosed to the domestic violence counselor involves:

"(A) A victim under the age of 13;

"(B) A perpetrator or alleged perpetrator with whom the victim has a significant relationship, as that term is defined in § 22-3001(10); or

"(C) A perpetrator or alleged perpetrator who is more than 4 years older than the victim.".

(2) Subsection (c)(1) is amended by striking the phrase "under 12 years" and inserting the phrase "under 13 years" in its place.

AMEND § 14-311

(c) Section 14-311 is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (b) is amended by adding a new paragraph (4) to read as follows:

"(4) Notwithstanding any other law, human trafficking counselors shall report to the Metropolitan Police Department or the Child and Family Services Agency any crime disclosed in a confidential communication if the human trafficking counselor has actual knowledge that the crime disclosed to the human trafficking counselor involves:

"(A) A victim under the age of 13;

"(B) A perpetrator or alleged perpetrator with whom the victim has a significant relationship, as that term is defined in § 22-3001(10); or

"(C) A perpetrator or alleged perpetrator who is more than 4 years older than the victim.".

(2) Subsection (c)(1) is amended by striking the phrase "under 12 years" and inserting the phrase "under 13 years" in its place.

AMEND § 14-312

(d) Section 14-312 is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (b) is amended as follows:

(A) Paragraph (4) is repealed.

(B) Paragraph (5) is amended by striking the phrase "Notwithstanding § 4-1321.02, sexual assault counselors shall be exempt from mandatory reporting of any crime disclosed in a confidential communication unless the" and inserting the phrase "Notwithstanding any other law, sexual assault counselors shall report to the Metropolitan Police Department or the Child and Family Services Agency any crime disclosed in a confidential communication if the" in its place.

(2) Subsection (c)(1) is amended by striking the phrase "subsection, when a sexual assault victim has" and inserting the phrase "subsection, when a sexual assault victim who is under 13 years of age has" in its place.

(e) New sections 14-313 and 14-314 are added to read as follows:

NEW § 14-313

"Sec. 14-313. Hospital-based violence intervention programs.

"(a) For the purposes of this section, the term:

"(1) "Confidential communication" means information exchanged between a victim and a HVIP member during the course of the HVIP member providing counseling, support, and assistance to a victim, including all records kept by the HVIP member and the hospital-based violence intervention program concerning the victim and services provided to the victim.

"(2) "Hospital" means a facility that provides 24-hour inpatient care, including diagnostic, therapeutic, and other health-related services, for a variety of physical or mental conditions, and may, in addition, provide outpatient services, particularly emergency care, from which a hospital-based violence intervention program operates.

"(3) "Hospital-based violence intervention program" means a non-governmental program that:

"(A) Provides counseling, case management, and social services to victims at, or in conjunction with, a hospital to prevent retaliatory violence; and

"(B) Participates in, or is a member of, a coordinating body for similar programs, such as Project CHANGE or the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention.

"(4) "HVIP member" means an employee, contractor, or volunteer of a hospital-based violence intervention program.

"(5) "Victim" means a person who suffered an intentionally inflicted gunshot or stabbing wound.

"(b)(1) An HVIP member shall not disclose a confidential communication except:

"(A) As required by statute or by a court of law;

"(B) As voluntarily authorized in writing by the victim;

"(C) To other individuals employed at the hospital-based violence intervention program and third-party providers when, and to the extent necessary, to facilitate the delivery of services to the victim;

"(D) To the Metropolitan Police Department or other law enforcement agencies, to the extent necessary to protect the victim or another individual from a substantial risk of imminent and serious physical injury;

"(E) To compile statistical or anecdotal information, without personal identifying information, for research or public information purposes; or

"(F) For any confidential communications relevant to a claim or defense if the victim files a lawsuit against a hospital-based violence intervention program or HVIP members.

"(2) Unless the disclosure is public, confidential communications disclosed pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not be further disclosed by the recipient except as authorized in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

"(3) The confidentiality of a confidential communication shall not be waived by the presence of, or disclosure to, a:

"(A) Sign language or foreign language interpreter, who shall be subject to the limitations and exceptions set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection and the same privileges set forth in subsection (c) of this section;

"(B) Third party participating in group counseling with the victim; or

"(C) Third party with the consent of the victim where reasonably necessary to accomplish the purpose for which the HVIP member is consulted.

"(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, when a victim is under 13 years of age, has been adjudicated incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction for the purpose of asserting or waiving the privilege established by this section, or is deceased, the victim's parent, guardian, or personal representative may assert or waive the privilege.

"(2) If the parent, guardian, or personal representative of a victim described in paragraph (1) of this subsection has been charged with an intrafamily offense or has had a protection order or a neglect petition entered against the parent, guardian, or personal representative at the request of or on behalf of the victim, or otherwise has interests adverse to those of the victim with respect to the assertion or waiver of the privilege, the court shall appoint an attorney for purposes of asserting or waiving the privilege.

"(d) The assertion of any privilege under this section is not admissible in evidence.

NEW § 14-314

"Sec. 14-314. Crime victim counselors.

"(a) For the purposes of this section, the term:

"(1) "Confidential communication" means information exchanged between a victim and a crime victim counselor during the course of the advocate providing counseling, support, and assistance to a victim, including all records kept by the crime victim counselor and the crime victim counselor program concerning the victim and services provided to the victim.

"(2) "Crime" means the following criminal offenses:

"(A) Assault with intent to kill, rob, or poison, or to commit first degree sexual abuse, second degree sexual abuse or child sexual abuse, as provided in § 22-401;

"(B) Assault with intent to commit mayhem or with dangerous weapon, as provided in § 22-402;

"(C) Aggravated assault, as provided in § 22-404.01;

"(D) Murder in the first degree, as provided in § 22-2101;

"(E) Murder in the second degree, as provided in § 22-2103; and

"(F) Murder of a law enforcement officer, as provided in § 22-2106.

"(3) "Crime victim counselor program" means a nonprofit, non-governmental organization that supports, counsels, and assists victims of crime.

"(4) "Crime victim counselor" means an employee, contractor, or volunteer of a crime victim counselor program who:

"(A) Is rendering support, counseling, or assistance to a victim;

"(B) Has undergone at least 40 hours of training related to crime victim counseling that includes instruction on:

"(i) The dynamics and history of violent crime;

"(ii) Trauma resulting from violent crime;

"(iii) Responding to the specific needs of youth victims of violent crime;

"(iv) Trauma-informed care, crisis intervention, personal safety, and risk management;

"(v) Cultural humility; and

"(vi) Services available to victims of violent crime; and

"(C) Is supervised by an individual who has a minimum of:

"(i) Five years of experience rendering support, counseling, or assistance to victims of violent crime; or

"(ii) Three years of experience rendering support, counseling, or assistance victims of violent crime and an advanced degree in a related field.

"(5) "Victim" means a person against whom a crime has been committed or attempted to be committed.

"(b)(1) A crime victim counselor shall not disclose a confidential communication except:

"(A) As required by statute or by a court of law;

"(B) As voluntarily authorized in writing by the victim;

"(C) To other individuals employed at the crime victim counselor program and third-party providers when, and to the extent necessary, to facilitate the delivery of services to the victim;

"(D) To the Metropolitan Police Department or other law enforcement agencies, to the extent necessary to protect the victim or another individual from a substantial risk of imminent and serious physical injury;

"(E) To compile statistical or anecdotal information, without personal identifying information, for research or public information purposes; or

"(F) For any confidential communications relevant to a claim or defense if the victim files a lawsuit against a crime victim counselor program or its members.

"(2) Unless the disclosure is public, confidential communications disclosed pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not be further disclosed by the recipient except as authorized in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

"(3) The confidentiality of a confidential communication shall not be waived by the presence of, or disclosure to, a:

"(A) Sign language or foreign language interpreter, who shall be subject to the limitations and exceptions set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection and the same privileges set forth in subsection (c) of this section;

"(B) Third party participating in group counseling with the victim; or

"(C) Third party with the consent of the victim where reasonably necessary to accomplish the purpose for which the

crime victim counselor is consulted.

"(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, when a victim is under 13 years of age, has been adjudicated incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction for the purpose of asserting or waiving the privilege established by this section, or is deceased, the victim's parent, guardian, or personal representative may assert or waive the privilege.

"(2) If the parent, guardian, or personal representative of a victim described in paragraph (1) of this subsection has been charged with an intrafamily offense or has had a protection order or a neglect petition entered against him or her at the request of or on behalf of the victim, or otherwise has interests adverse to those of the victim with respect to the assertion or waiver of the privilege, the court shall appoint an attorney for purposes of asserting or waiving the privilege.

"(d) The assertion of any privilege under this section is not admissible in evidence.".

Sec. 108. Chapter 10 of Title 16 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as follows:

AMEND § 16-1003

(a) Section 16-1003(d) is amended as follows:

(1) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the phrase ", or legal custodian" and inserting the phrase ", legal custodian, or physical custodian" in its place.

(2) Paragraph (2)(A) is amended by striking the phrase ", legal custody" and inserting the phrase ", legal custody, physical custody" in its place.

AMEND § 16-1005

(b) Section 16-1005(a-1)(3) is amended to read as follows:

"(3) In a case in which an individual described in § 16-1003(d)(2)(A) petitioned on behalf of a minor petitioner 13 years of age or older, the court shall consider the expressed wishes of the minor petitioner in deciding whether to issue an order pursuant to this section and in determining the contents of such an order.".

Sec. 109. The Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C. Official Code § 22-3001 et seq.), is amended as follows:

AMEND § 22-3013

(a) Section 212 (D.C. Official Code § 22-3013) is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 212. First degree sexual abuse of a ward, patient, client, arrestee, detainee, or prisoner.

"Any staff member, employee, contract employee, consultant, or volunteer of a law enforcement agency or at a hospital, treatment facility, law enforcement facility, detention or correctional facility, group home, or other institution; anyone who is an ambulance driver or attendant, bus driver or attendant, or person who participates in the transportation of a ward, patient, client, arrestee, detainee, or prisoner to and from such institutions; or any official custodian of a ward, patient, client, arrestee, detainee, or prisoner, who engages in a sexual act with a ward, patient, client, arrestee, detainee, or prisoner, or causes a ward, patient, client, arrestee, detainee, or prisoner to engage in or submit to a sexual act shall be fined not more than the amount set forth in section 101 of the Criminal Fine Proportionality Amendment Act of 2012, effective June 11, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-317; D.C. Official Code § 22-3571.01), or incarcerated for no more than 10 years, or both.".

AMEND § 22-3014

(b) Section 213 (D.C. Official Code § 22-3014) is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 213. Second degree sexual abuse of a ward, patient, client, arrestee, detainee, or prisoner.

"Any staff member, employee, contract employee, consultant, or volunteer of a law enforcement agency or at a hospital, treatment facility, law enforcement facility, detention or correctional facility, group home, or other institution; anyone who is an ambulance driver or attendant, bus driver or attendant, or person who participates in the transportation of a ward, patient, client, arrestee, detainee, or prisoner to and from such institutions; or any official custodian of a ward, patient, client, arrestee, detainee, or prisoner, who engages in a sexual contact with a ward, patient, client, arrestee, detainee, or prisoner, or causes a ward, patient, client, arrestee, detainee, or prisoner, to engage in or submit to a sexual contact shall be fined not more than the amount set forth in section 101 of the Criminal Fine Proportionality Amendment Act of 2012, effective June 11, 2013 (D.C. Law 19-317; D.C. Official Code § 22-3571.01), or incarcerated for no more than 5 years, or both.".

AMEND § 22-3020.52

(c) Section 252 (D.C. Official Code § 22-3020.52) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (c)(3) is amended to read as follows:

"(3) Domestic violence counselors, as that term is defined in D.C. Official Code § 14-310(a)(2), human trafficking counselors, as that term is defined in D.C. Official Code § 14-311(a)(2), and sexual assault counselor, as that term is defined in D.C. Official Code § 14-312(a)(2), shall be exempt from reporting pursuant to subsection (a) of this section any crime disclosed in a confidential communication, as that term is defined in D.C. Official Code § 14-310(a)(1), § 14-311(a)(1), or § 14-312(a)(1), respectively.".

(2) Subsection (d) is amended by striking the phrase "in section 2(b) of An Act To provide for the mandatory reporting by physicians and institutions in the District of Columbia of certain physical abuse of children, approved November 6, 1966 (80 Stat. 1354; D.C. Official Code § 4-1321.02(b))" and inserting the phrase "in section 2(a) of An Act To provide for the mandatory reporting by physicians and institutions in the District of Columbia of certain physical abuse of children, approved November 6, 1966 (80 Stat. 1354; D.C. Official Code § 4-1321.02(a))" in its place.

Sec. 110. Title 23 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as follows:

(a) The table of contents is amended as follows:

(1) A new section heading is added to read as follows:

23-1329a. Violation of a post-conviction stay away condition of release.

(2) New section headings are added to read as follows:

23-1904a. Right to member of a hospital-based violence intervention program.

23-1904b. Task Force on Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs.

23-1904c. Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Policy and Training Pilot.

(3) A new section heading is added to read as follows:

23-1912. Limitations on law enforcement actions against sexual assault victims seeking medical treatment.

AMEND § 23-581

(b) Section 23-581(a)(2) is amended by adding a new subparagraph (G) to read as follows:

"(G) Intentionally violating a condition of release that the person stay away from, or have no contact with, an individual or location as described in § 23-1329a.".

NEW § 23-1329A

(c) A new section 23-1329a is added to read as follows:

"Sec. 23-1329a. Violation of a post-conviction stay away condition of release.

"(a) It is unlawful for a person on supervised release, probation, or parole to intentionally violate any condition of release that the person stay away from, or have no contact with, an individual or location.

"(b) Whoever violates this section shall, if the condition of release was imposed as part of supervised release, probation, or parole for a:

"(1) Misdemeanor offense, be fined no more than the amount set forth in § 22-3571.01, or incarcerated for no more than 180 days, or both; or

"(2) Felony offense, be fined no more than the amount set forth in § 22-3571.01, or incarcerated for no more than 5 years, or both.".

(d) New sections 23-1904a, 23-1904b, and 23-1904c are added to read as follows:

New § 23-1904a

"Sec. 23-1904a. Right to member of a hospital-based violence intervention program.

"(a) For the purposes of §§ 23-1904a, 23-1904b, and 23-1904c, the term:

"(1) "Hospital" means a facility that provides 24-hour inpatient care, including diagnostic, therapeutic, and other health-related services, for a variety of physical or mental conditions, and may, in addition, provide outpatient services, particularly emergency care, from which a hospital-based violence intervention program operates.

"(2) "Hospital-based violence intervention program" means a non-governmental program that:

"(A) Provides counseling, case management, and social services to victims at, or in conjunction with, a hospital to prevent retaliatory violence; and

"(B) Participates in, or is a member of, a coordinating body for similar programs, such as Project CHANGE or the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention.

"(3) "HVIP member" means an employee, contractor, or volunteer of a hospital-based violence intervention program.

"(4) "Victim" means a person who has suffered an intentionally inflicted gunshot or stabbing wound.

"(b)(1) A HVIP member shall, if the victim consents, have the right to remain physically present with a victim at any:

"(A) Forensic medical, evidentiary, or physical examination at the hospital; or

"(B) Interview with law enforcement at the hospital.

"(2) A victim may at any time revoke their consent to have a HVIP member present at the setting described in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

NEW § 23-1904B

"Sec. 23-1904b. Task Force on Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs.

"(a) Beginning October 1, 2022, the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants shall establish a Task Force on Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs ("Task Force") to study nationally recognized best practices and develop recommendations for:

"(1) Improving service delivery and outcomes for victims served by hospital-based violence intervention programs;

"(2) Promoting collaboration between hospital-based violence intervention programs, hospital staff, medical providers, and other victims' assistance programs;

"(3) Evaluating whether to extend the right to a HVIP member:

"(A) To include other victimizations; and

"(B) Beyond forensic medical, evidentiary, or physical examinations at the hospital or interviews with law enforcement at the hospital.

"(b) The Task Force shall include:

"(1) Representatives from the following entities:

"(A) The Metropolitan Police Department;

"(B) The Office of the Attorney General;

"(C) The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants;

"(D) The Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement;

"(E) The Office of Gun Violence Prevention;

"(F) Three hospitals that operate hospital-based violence intervention programs in the District, including one children's or pediatric hospital;

"(G) A professional organization, standards organization, or coordinating body that focuses on improving outcomes for patients served by hospital-based violence intervention programs, such as Project CHANGE or the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention; and

"(H) A District-based victim services provider; and

"(2) Three current or former District residents who have had personal experience with a hospital-based violence intervention program.

"(c)(1) The Task Force shall hold its initial meeting by March 31, 2023, and shall hold quarterly meetings thereafter.

"(2) A chairperson, who shall not be a representative of a District agency, shall be elected by a majority vote of the Task

Force members at the initial meeting.

"(3) No District agency or non-governmental entity shall have more than one representative on the Task Force.

"(4) The Task Force shall establish its own procedures and requirements with respect to the place and manner in which it will conduct its meetings.

"(d) By December 31, 2023, the Task Force shall submit a report to the Mayor and Council that:

"(1) Analyzes outcomes for patients served by hospital-based violence intervention programs and proposes policies that should be adopted by hospitals or District agencies to improve patient outcomes; and

"(2) Determines whether a need exists to expand the right to a HVIP member as described in subsection (a)(3) of this section.

NEW § 23-1904C

NOTE § 23-1904C

"Sec. 23-1904c. Hospital-based violence intervention policy and training pilot.

"(a) The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants shall, in Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024, issue grants for a pilot program ("pilot program") to develop evidence-based policies, protocols, and training for hospital staff, medical providers, and law enforcement to guide their interactions when operating as part of a hospital-based violence intervention program.

"(b) The pilot program shall be conducted by a District-based entity with experience and expertise in academic research, police practices, civil and constitutional rights and laws, developing and implementing police and community safety policies and training, and training or educating Metropolitan Police Department officers.

"(c) The pilot program shall include:

"(1) Designing and testing outcome measures for patients, hospital staff, medical providers, and law enforcement in order to improve patient health, increase the effectiveness of violence intervention programs, and improve efficiency and coordination for hospital staff, medical providers, community-based organizations, and law enforcement;

"(2) Soliciting input from law enforcement agencies, hospital staff, medical providers, and hospital-based violence intervention programs;

"(3) Developing and delivering policies and training for hospital staff, medical providers, and law enforcement;

"(4) Evaluating and revising the impact of policies, protocols, and training on outcomes; and

"(5) Issuing a report by September 30, 2024, that shall be presented at a public meeting of the Task Force on Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs.

"(d) Any entity conducting the pilot program shall be considered a hospital-based violence intervention program for the purposes of determining whether confidential communications can be disclosed as described in § 14-313(b)(1).".

AMEND § 23-1911

(c) Section 23-1911 is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 23-1911. Cause of action; remedies.

"(a) An individual whose rights under this subchapter were violated may bring a civil action in the Superior Court for the District of Columbia against the District agencies responsible for the violation.

"(b) Remedies in actions brought pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be limited to injunctive relief and shall not include money damages.".

NEW § 23-1912

(d) A new section 23-1912 is added to read as follows:

"Sec. 23-1912. Limitations on law enforcement actions against sexual assault victims seeking medical treatment.

"(a) A sexual assault victim, when the sexual assault victim is seeking emergency medical treatment or medical forensic care related to a sexual assault, or a victim, as that term is defined in § 23-1904a(a)(4), when the victim is seeking emergency medical treatment or medical forensic care at a hospital related to an intentionally inflicted gunshot or stab wound, shall not be subject to a custodial arrest by a law enforcement officer unless a warrant for the sexual assault victim's arrest or the victim's arrest has been issued by a competent court of jurisdiction for the commission of a:

"(1) Dangerous crime, as that term is defined in § 23-1331(3); or

"(2) Crime of violence, as that term is defined in § 23-1331(4).

"(b) A law enforcement officer who is prohibited from making a custodial arrest under subsection (a) of this section may issue a field arrest form to the sexual assault victim or victim in lieu of making a custodial arrest; provided, that the issuance of a field arrest form does not at that time pose health or safety risks to the sexual assault victim or victim.".

Sec. 111. An Act To provide for compulsory school attendance, for the taking of a school census in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, approved February 4, 1925 (43 Stat. 806; D.C. Official Code § 38-201 et seq.), is amended as follows:

AMEND § 38-203

(a) Section 2(i)(B) of Article II (D.C. Official Code § 38-203(i)(B)) is amended by striking the phrase "to section 2(a-1) or (a-2) of An Act To provide for the mandatory reporting by physicians and institutions in the District of Columbia of certain physical abuse of children, approved November 6, 1966 (80 Stat. 1354; D.C. Official Code § 4-1321.02(a-1) and (a-2))" and inserting the phrase "to section 2(b)(1)(B) of An Act To provide for the mandatory reporting by physicians and institutions in the District of Columbia of certain physical abuse of children, approved November 6, 1966 (80 Stat. 1354; D.C. Official Code § 4-1321.02(b)(1)(B))" in its place.

AMEND § 38-208

(b) Section 7(c)(1)(A) of Article II (D.C. Official Code § 38-208(c)(1)(A)) is amended by striking the phrase "to section 2(a-1) of An Act To provide for the mandatory reporting by physicians and institutions in the District of Columbia of certain physical abuse of children, approved November 6, 1966 (80 Stat. 1354; D.C. Official Code § 4-1321.02(a-1))" and inserting the phrase "to section 2(b)(1)(B) of An Act To provide for the mandatory reporting by physicians and institutions in the District of Columbia of certain physical abuse of children, approved November 6, 1966 (80 Stat. 1354; D.C. Official Code § 4-1321.02(b)(1)(B))" in its place.

New subchapter VI of Chapter 5 of Title 4

TITLE II. OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES AND JUSTICE GRANTS

NEW § 4-581.01

Sec. 201. Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants.

(a)(1) There is established, as a subordinate agency, the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants ("OVSJG") within the District of Columbia government.

(2) OVSJG shall be led by an Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the Mayor and report to the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice.

(3) The Executive Director shall coordinate, hire, and supervise all staff as needed to achieve OVSJG's mission.

(b) OVSJG shall be composed, at a minimum, of the following programs:

(1) The Victim Services Administration, which shall:

(A) Disburse grant funds to community-based organizations and other entities to support victims and survivors of crime and to better coordinate systems of care; and

(B) Disburse grant funds to entities operating or evaluating a hospital-based violence intervention program, as defined in D.C. Official Code § 14-313(a)(3);

(2) The Justice Grants Administration, which shall disburse grant funds to:

(A) Community-based organizations and other entities to support returning citizens, justice-involved individuals, and other vulnerable populations; and

(B) Support initiatives to improve coordination within the criminal and juvenile justice system, including data collection, research and analysis, information sharing, and compliance monitoring;

(3) The Access to Justice Initiative, established pursuant to section 201(a) of the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Support Act of 2010, effective September 24, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-223; D.C. Official Code § 4-1702.01(a)), which shall disburse grant funds to community-based organizations and other entities to support the provision of legal services to low-income and underserved District residents; and

(4) The Truancy Reduction Program, which shall disburse grant funds to community-based organizations and other entities to reduce truancy and chronic absenteeism among students in the District.

(c) OVSJG shall:

(1) Serve as the state administering agency for the following federal funds:

(A) The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program funds, authorized by section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, approved January 5, 2006 (119 Stat. 3095; 34 U.S.C. § 10152);

(B) Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners funds, authorized by section 1901 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, approved September 13, 1994 (108 Stat. 1898; 34 U.S.C. § 10421);

(C) Title II Formula Grants Program funds, authorized by section 221 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, approved September 7, 1974 (88 Stat. 1118; 34 U.S.C. § 11131);

(D) Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grants funds, authorized by section 2801 of the of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, approved December 21, 2000 (114 Stat. 2788; 34 U.S.C. § 10561);

(E) The Crime Victims Fund, authorized by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, approved October 12, 1984 (98 Stat. 2170; 34 U.S.C. § 20101 et seq.); and

(F) Grants to Combat Violent Crimes Against Women funds, authorized by section 2001 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, approved September 13, 1994 (108 Stat. 1910; 34 U.S.C. § 10441);

(2) Monitor the District's compliance with the following federal laws and any expenditure of associated federal funds:

(A) Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, approved September 4, 2003 (117 Stat. 972; 34 U.S.C. § 30301 et seq.); and

(B) Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, approved July 27, 2006 (120 Stat. 590; 34 U.S.C. § 20901 et seq.);

(3) Administer and make disbursements from the following local funds:

(A) The Crime Victims Assistance Fund, established by section 16a of the Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Act of 1996, effective October 1, 2002 (D.C. Law 14-190; D.C. Official Code § 4-515.01);

(B) Shelter and Transitional Housing for Victims of Domestic Violence Fund, established by section 3013 of the Crime Victims Assistance Fund and Shelter and Transitional Housing for Victims of Domestic Violence Fund Amendment Act of 2007, effective September 18, 2007 (D.C. Law 17-20; D.C. Official Code § 4-521); and

(C) Community-based Violence Reduction Fund, established by section 3014 of the Community-based Violence Reduction Fund, effective August 16, 2008 (D.C. Law 17-219; D.C. Official Code § 1-325.121);

(4) Provide administrative support to:

(A) The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, as described in Mayor's Order 2009-13, dated February 9, 2009;

(B) Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, established by D.C. Official Code § 16-1052(a); and

(C) The Sexual Assault Response Team, established by section 212(a) of the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2014, effective November 20, 2014 (D.C. Law 20-139; D.C. Official Code § 4-561.12(a)); and

(5) Be the sole agency responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, approved September 7, 1974 (88 Stat. 1118; 34 U.S.C. § 11131 et seq.) ("JJDP Act"), and the sole agency responsible for supervising the preparation and administration of the state plan pursuant to section 223(a) of the JJDP Act.

NEW § 4-581.02

Sec. 202. Batterer intervention program.

(a) The Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants ("OVSJG") shall, by December 31, 2023, in coordination with the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, established pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 16-1052(a), fund a voluntary, peer-led batterer intervention program:

(1) Participation in which shall not be mandated by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia;

(2) That uses a public health approach to reduce a future risk of violence; and

(3) That is informed by best practices.

(b) OVSJG shall, by December 31, 2023, after consultation with the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, create a domestic violence questionnaire and service referral resource for use in Family Court proceedings.

TITLE III. APPLICABILITY; FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT; EFFECTIVE DATE.

SEC. 301. APPLICABILITY.

(a) Section 103(c), the amendatory sections 23-1904(b) and, with respect to Fiscal Year 2024, 23-1904(c), within section 110(d), section 201, and section 202 shall apply upon the date of inclusion of their fiscal effect in an approved budget and financial plan.

(b) The Chief Financial Officer shall certify the date of the inclusion of the fiscal effect in an approved budget and financial plan and provide notice to the Budget Director of the Council of the certification.

(c)(1) The Budget Director shall cause the notice of the certification to be published in the District of Columbia Register.

(2) The date of publication of the notice of the certification shall not affect the applicability of the provisions identified in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 302. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

Sec. 303. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 60-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(2) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(2)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

"Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Amendment Act of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Act of 1996, effective April 9, 1997 (D.C. Law 11-243; D.C. Official Code § 4-501 et seq.), is amended as follows:

Amend § 4-507

(a) Section 8 (D.C. Official Code § 4-507) is amended by adding a new subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

"(a-1) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, if a victim or secondary victim is a dependent on a primary insurance holder's insurance policy, the primary insurance holder's insurance policy shall not constitute a collateral source for the purposes of subsection (a) of this section, unless the victim or secondary victim chooses to avail himself or herself of the benefits or compensation from the primary insurance holder's insurance policy.".

AMEND § 4-512

(b) Section 13 (D.C. Official Code § 4-512) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase "in person or by mail." and inserting the phrase "in person, by mail, or by electronic mail." in its place.

(2) Subsection (b) is amended by striking the phrase "claimant by first class mail, along" and inserting the phrase "claimant by first class mail or electronic mail, along" in its place.

(3) Subsection (c) is amended by striking the phrase "claimant by first class mail, along" and inserting the phrase "claimant by first class mail or electronic mail, along" in its place.

Sec. 3. Title II of the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Act of 2014, effective November 20, 2014 (D.C. Law 20-139; D.C. Official Code § 4-561.01 et seq.), is amended as follows:

AMEND § 4-561.01

(a) Section 201 (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.01) is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 201. Definitions.

"For the purposes of this title, the term:

"(1) "Case Review Subcommittee" means the SART Case Review Subcommittee established by section 214.

"(2) "Consumption litigation" means litigation in a criminal proceeding initiated by notification to the defense of the need to consume an entire DNA sample in forensic testing.

"(3) "DC SANE Program" means the DC Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program that provides comprehensive medical forensic care to sexual assault victims, including:

"(A) The DC Forensic Nurse Examiners;

"(B) The Child and Adolescent Protection Center; and

"(C) Any other entity within the District that is a member of the SART or the multidisciplinary investigation team, as described in section 151 of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective October 19, 2002 (D.C. Law 14-206; D.C. Official Code § 4-1301.51).

"(4) "DFS" means the Department of Forensic Sciences.

"(5) "Hospital" means a facility that provides 24-hour inpatient care, including diagnostic, therapeutic, and other health-related services, for a variety of physical or mental conditions, and may, in addition, provide outpatient services, particularly emergency care.

"(6) "Independent expert consultant" means the individual retained pursuant to section 204 and charged with the duties and obligations specified in section 205.

"(7) "MPD" means the Metropolitan Police Department.

"(8) "OCME" means the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

"(9) "OVSJG" means the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, established by Mayor's Order 2016-171.

"(10) "PERK" means a Physical Evidence Recovery Kit used to collect and preserve physical evidence related to a sexual assault or alleged sexual assault.

"(11) "SART" means the Sexual Assault Response Team established by section 212.

"(12) "Sexual assault" shall have the same meaning as provided in D.C. Official Code § 23-1907(9).

"(13) "Sexual assault victim" means an individual against whom a sexual assault has been committed or is alleged to have been committed, including a deceased individual.

"(14) "Sexual assault victim advocate dispatch system" means the system developed by OVSJG and approved by the SART, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 23-1909(e).

"(15) "Task Force" means the Sexual Assault Victims' Rights Task Force established pursuant to section 215.".

AMEND § 4-561.02

(b) Section 202 (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.02) is amended as follows:

(1) The section heading is amended by striking the phrase "of sexual assault forensic examination kits" and inserting the phrase "of PERKs" in its place.

(2) Subsection (a) is amended as follows:

(A) The lead-in language is amended by striking the phrase "the kits" and inserting the phrase "any PERK" in its place.

(B) Paragraph (1) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) The PERK to the DFS; and".

(3) Subsection (b) is amended to read as follows:

"(b)(1) If a PERK is not involved in consumption litigation, the DFS shall process the PERK within 90 days after DFS receives the PERK.

"(2) If a PERK is involved in consumption litigation, the DFS shall process the PERK within 90 days after the DFS receives a consumption determination from the prosecution.".

(4) A new subsection (b-1) is added to read as follows:

"(b-1)(1) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, the DFS may delegate the processing of a PERK to an accredited laboratory pursuant to a statement of work, which shall establish protocols for:

"(A) DFS to notify the accredited laboratory that a PERK is available for processing;

"(B) Delivery of the PERK to the accredited laboratory;

"(C) Processing the PERK; and

"(D) Delivery of the PERK and any results to the DFS.

"(2) Even if DFS delegates the processing of a PERK to an accredited laboratory, DFS shall comply with the time periods described in subsection (b) of this section.".

(5) Subsection (c) is amended by striking the phrase "from the" and inserting the phrase "after the" in its place.

AMEND § 4-561.03

(c) Section 203 (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.03) is amended as follows:

(1) The section heading is amended by striking the phrase "sexual assault forensic examination kits." and inserting the phrase "PERKs." in its place.

(2) Strike the phrase "the administration of a sexual assault forensic examination kit or for the kit itself" and insert the phrase "a PERK, including the costs of the PERK, its administration, and the processing of the PERK or any biological specimens" in its place.

AMEND § 4-561.04

(d) Section 204 (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.04) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase "the OVS" and inserting the phrase "the OVSJG" in its place.

(2) Subsection (b) is amended as follows:

(A) Strike the word "consultant" and insert the phrase "independent expert consultant" in its place.

(B) Strike the phrase "the OVS" and insert the phrase "the OVSJG" in its place.

(3) Subsection (c) is amended to read as follows:

"(c) The independent expert consultant shall be retained for a period of one year, with the option for the OVSJG to extend the contract in 1-year increments.".

(4) Subsection (d) is amended to read as follows:

"(d) The independent expert consultant selected shall have current and recognized expertise in the areas of law enforcement, crime victims' rights, victim advocacy, medical best practices, policy and procedure development, sexual assault, and the investigation or prosecution of sexual assault.".

AMEND § 4-561.05

(e) Section 205 (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.05) is amended as follows:

(1) The section heading is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 205. Duties and obligations of the independent expert consultant.

(2) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the phrase "Task Force established by section 215" and inserting the phrase "Task Force" in its place.

(3) Paragraph (2)(C) is amended by striking the phrase "with current best practices" and inserting the phrase "with best practices" in its place.

(4) Paragraph (3) is amended by striking the phrase "including;" and inserting the phrase "including:" in its place.

(5) Paragraph (5) is amended to read as follows:

"(5) Within 120 days after the date of being retained by the OVSJG, audit all PERKs in storage to determine if all PERKs in which a sexual assault victim reported a sexual assault to MPD have been delivered to the DFS for processing;".

(6) Paragraph (7) is amended by striking the phrase "the consultant" and inserting the phrase "the independent expert consultant" in its place.

AMEND § 4-561.06

(f) Section 206 (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.06) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a)(1)(A)(ii) is amended by striking the phrase "the consultant" and inserting the phrase "the independent expert consultant" in its place.

(2) Subsection (b) is amended to read as follows:

"(b)(1) The independent expert consultant shall, within 45 days after being retained by the OVSJG:

"(A) Develop a plan and schedule for preparing the public report and reviewing the case review plan and process described in subsection (a)(1) of this section; and

"(B) Submit the plan to the OVSJG for review and approval.

"(2) The plan developed pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include a timeline for submitting any recommendations to the Council or the Mayor regarding proposed legislation.".

(3) Subsection (c) is amended as follows:

(A) Strike the phrase "The OVS" and insert the phrase "The OVSJG" in its place.

(B) Strike the phrase "30 days from the" and insert the phrase "30 days after the" in its place.

AMEND § 4-561.08

(g) Section 208 (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.08) is amended by striking the phrase "sexual assault crimes" and inserting the phrase "sexual assaults" in its place.

AMEND § 4-561.09

(h) Section 209(a) (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.09(a)) is amended as follows:

(1) Paragraph (4) is amended to read as follows:

"(4) The recommendations received from the Case Review Subcommittee and the measures the MPD has taken, if any, to address those recommendations;".

(2) Paragraph (5) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phrase "; and" in its place.

(3) A new paragraph (6) is added to read as follows:

"(6) The number of sexual assault victims who:

"(A) Requested the results of their PERK; and

"(B) Did not request the results of their PERK.".

AMEND § 4-561.10

(i) Section 210 (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.10) is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 210. DFS reporting requirement.

"In the annual report filed pursuant to section 5(a)(5) of the Department of Forensic Sciences Establishment Act of 2011, effective August 17, 2011 (D.C. Law 19-18; D.C. Official Code § 5-1501.04(a)(5)), the Director of the DFS shall provide, for the prior calendar year:

"(1) The number of PERKs received from the MPD;

"(2) The number of PERKs processed by the DFS or an accredited laboratory to which the DFS delegated the processing;

"(3) The average time it took for PERKs to be processed by the DFS or an accredited laboratory to which the DFS delegated the processing;

"(4) The longest period of time it took for PERKs to be processed by the DFS or an accredited laboratory to which the DFS delegated the processing;

"(5) The number of PERKS involved in consumption litigation;

"(6) The number of times in which an accredited laboratory to which the DFS delegated the processing failed to comply with the time periods described in section 202(b);

"(7) If permission to consume was requested, the number of cases in which processing was completed 90 days after the PERK was received by the DFS due to consumption litigation; and

"(8) The number of days in which each PERK was delayed awaiting a consumption litigation determination.".

AMEND § 4-561.12

(j) Section 212 (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.12) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase "Team." and inserting the phrase "Team ("SART")." in its place.

(2) Subsection (b) is amended to read as follows:

"(b) The SART shall be a partnership of public and private agencies that:

"(1) Coordinates a high-quality, multidisciplinary, victim-centered response to sexual assault cases; and

"(2) Makes recommendations to improve the continuum of services in the District for sexual assault victims.".

(3) Subsection (c) is amended to read as follows:

"(c) Membership on the SART shall include the following persons:

"(1) The Director of the OVSJG, or the Director's designee;

"(2) The SART coordinator, who shall be appointed by the Director of the OVSJG, and serve as a non-voting member;

"(3) The Attorney General for the District of Columbia, or the Attorney General's designee;

"(4) The Chief of Police, or the Chief's designee who is a member of the Sexual Assault Unit with the rank of Captain or above;

"(5) A representative from the MPD Victim Services Branch;

"(6) The Director of the Child and Family Services Agency, or the Director's designee;

"(7) The Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Center, or the Director's designee;

"(8) The United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, or the United States Attorney's designee who is an attorney assigned to the Sex Offense and Domestic Violence Section;

"(9) A representative from the Victim Witness Assistance Unit of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia;

"(10) A representative from the United States Park Police;

"(11) The Director of each entity in the DC SANE Program, or the Director's designee; provided, that the Director or the Director's designee shall be a forensic nurse examiner, as that term is defined in D.C. Official Code § 23-1907(2), or a physician with specialized training in medical forensic evidence collection;

"(12) The Director of each community-based organization that is providing victim advocacy services pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 23-1909, or the Director's designee; provided, that the community-based organization has been approved for membership by the SART;

"(13) The Director, or the Director's designee, of each entity that provides medical forensic care to sexual assault victims; provided, that the entity has been approved for membership by the SART;

"(14) A representative from a community-based organization, selected by the SART, that is providing post-sexual assault mental health services;

"(15) A representative from the designated State sexual assault coalition, as that term is defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(33), for the District;

"(16) The Director of the DFS, or the Director's designee, who is a forensic scientist;

"(17) The Chief Medical Examiner, or the Chief Medical Examiner's designee; and

"(18) A representative from a District of Columbia-based college or university that provides direct victim services to sexual assault victims and who holds a position at that college or university.".

(4) New subsections (d-1) and (d-2) are added to read as follows:

"(d-1) A chairperson shall be elected from among the non-governmental members of the SART.

"(d-2) No non-governmental organization or entity shall have more than one representative on the SART.".

(5) Subsection (g) is amended by striking the phrase "does not" and inserting the phrase "shall not" in its place.

(6) New subsections (h) and (i) are added to read as follows:

"(h)(1) At least annually, OVSJG shall, in collaboration with the DFS and the OCME, facilitate training for members of the SART.

"(2) The training shall include instruction on explaining, in a manner that is trauma-informed and victim-centered, the procedure and results of a PERK, forensic analysis of the PERK, and toxicology tests.

"(i) In addition to the members listed in subsection (c) of this section, the SART may expand its membership by estab-

lishing a membership application, evaluation, and approval process for:

"(1) Any community-based organization that seeks to provide victim advocacy services pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 23-1909;

"(2) Any entity that seeks to provide medical forensic care to sexual assault victims; and

"(3) Any entity that seeks to administer a victim hotline or participate in the sexual assault victim advocate dispatch system.".

AMEND § 4-561.13

(k) Section 213 (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.13) is amended as follows:

(1) The existing text is designated as subsection (a).

(2) The newly designated subsection (a) is amended as follows:

(A) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the phrase "victims of sexual assault" and inserting the phrase "sexual assault victims" in its place.

(B) Paragraph (2) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) Conduct regular case reviews, through the Case Review Subcommittee, of all parties involved in sexual assault responses involving sexual assault victims 18 years of age or older, including a review of sexual assault reports and investigations by the MPD and cases reported to any member of the SART;".

(C) Paragraph (3) is amended as follows:

(i) Strike the phrase "Case Review Subcommittee, established by section 214," and insert the phrase "Case Review Subcommittee" in its place.

(ii) Strike the period and insert a semicolon in its place.

(D) New paragraphs (4) and (5) are added to read as follows:

"(4) Establish a Feedback Review Committee for the purpose of receiving and investigating all complaints and comments from sexual assault victims, including complaints and comments regarding the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia; and

"(5) By January 1, 2022, submit a report to the Mayor and the Council that includes the following:

"(A) A summary of the case review activities conducted pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection;

"(B) A summary of all feedback received and the findings of all investigations conducted pursuant to paragraph (4) of this subsection;

"(C) The number of sexual assault victims who were informed by the MPD of the results of their PERK;

"(D) A discussion of any trends related to victimization and reporting;

"(E) A description of the activities conducted by the SART during the preceding fiscal year; and

"(F) Activities planned by the SART for the following fiscal year.".

(3) A new subsection (b) is added to read as follows:

"(b) Each SART member shall provide the following data to other members of the SART:

"(1) The numbers of sexual assault victims served by each SART member;

"(2) The demographics of sexual assault victims and offenders, if known, served by each SART member;

"(3) The type and extent of service provided to each sexual assault victim by each SART member;

"(4) The disposition of each case closed by the SART member; and

"(5) Any other information requested by the Director of the OVSJG or the chairperson of the SART that is directly related to sexual assault cases; provided, that the information is not otherwise confidential or privileged under District or federal law.".

AMEND § 4-561.14

(l) Section 214 (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.14) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended by striking the phrase "Review Subcommittee" and inserting the phrase "Review Subcommittee ("Case Review Subcommittee")" in its place.

(2) Subsection (b) is amended as follows:

(A) The lead-in language is amended by striking the phrase "of, at a minimum, the" and inserting the phrase "of the" in its place."

(B) Paragraph (2) is amended by striking the phrase "or his or her" and inserting the phrase "or the Commander's" in its place.

(C) Paragraph (3) is amended by striking the phrase "or his or her" and inserting the phrase "or the Director's" in its place.

(D) Paragraph (4) is amended by striking the phrase "the OVS" and inserting the phrase "the OVSJG" in its place.

(E) Subsection (5) is amended by striking the phrase "or his or her" and inserting the phrase "or the Director's" in its place.

(F) Subsection (6) is amended by striking the phrase "or his or her" and inserting the phrase "or the Director's" in its place.

(3) Subsection (c) is amended to read as follows:

"(c)(1) The Case Review Subcommittee shall conduct case reviews of the following types of cases involving sexual assault victims 18 years of age or older:

"(A) A random sample of investigations that involve sexual assault; and

"(B) Specific cases as requested by members of the SART, the Case Review Subcommittee, or the independent expert consultant.

"(2) Before conducting case reviews under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the SART shall obtain the consent of the sexual assault victim involved in the case.".

(4) The lead-in language of subsection (d) is amended to read as follows:

"(d) In addition to the duties set forth in subsection (c) of this section, the Case Review Subcommittee shall, for cases involving sexual assault victims 18 years of age or older:".

(5) Subsection (e) is amended by striking the phrase "does not" and inserting the phrase "shall not" in its place.

AMEND § 4-561.15

(m) Section 215 (D.C. Official Code § 4-561.15) is amended as follows:

(1) The lead-in language of subsection (a) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) Beginning October 1, 2014, the OVSJG shall establish a Sexual Assault Victim Rights Task Force ("Task Force") to study nationally recognized best practices and develop recommendations regarding:".

(2) Subsection (b)(8) is amended by striking the phrase "the OVS" and inserting the phrase "the OVSJG" in its place.

AMEND § 7-2123

Sec. 4. Section 4 of the Emergency Care for Sexual Assault Victims Act of 2008, effective March 25, 2009 (D.C. Law 17-346; D.C. Official Code § 7-2123), is amended as follows:

(a) Paragraph (3) is amended to read as follows:

"(3) Inform each victim of sexual assault, orally and in writing, in a language that the victim understands, of the:

"(A) Victim of sexual assault's rights under D.C. Official Code § 23-1908; and

"(B) Option to be provided, by the hospital, with prophylactic antibiotics for the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and emergency contraception for the prevention of pregnancy;".

(b) Paragraph (4) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phrase "; and" in its place.

(c) A new paragraph (5) is added to read as follows:

"(5) If the sexual assault victim, who is 13 years of age or older, consents, immediately notify the sexual assault victim advocate dispatch system described in D.C. Official Code § 23-1909(e).".

AMEND § 14-312

Sec. 5. Section 14-312 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as follows:

(a) The section heading is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 14-312. Sexual assault counselors.

(b) Subsection (a) is amended as follows:

(1) Paragraph (1) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) "Confidential communication" means:

"(A) Information exchanged between a sexual assault victim 13 years of age or older and a sexual assault counselor during the course of the sexual assault counselor providing counseling, support, and assistance to the victim; and

"(B) Records kept by a community-based organization in the course of providing victim advocacy services pursuant to

D.C. Official Code § 23-1909 for sexual assault victim 13 years of age or older.".

(2) Paragraph (2) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) "DC SANE Program" means the DC Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program that provides comprehensive medical forensic care to sexual assault victims including:

"(A) The DC Forensic Nurse Examiners;

"(B) The Child and Adolescent Protection Center; and

"(C) Any other entity within the District that is a member of the SART or the multidisciplinary investigation team, as described in section 151 of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective October 19, 2002 (D.C. Law 14-206; D.C. Official Code § 4-1301.51).".

(3) Paragraph (5) is amended to read as follows:

"(5) "Sexual assault" means any of the following offenses: §§ 22-1834 (sex trafficking of children); 22-2704 (abducting or enticing child from his or her home for the purposes of prostitution; harboring such child); 22-2705 (pandering; inducing or compelling an individual to engage in prostitution); 22-2706 (compelling an individual to live life of prostitution against his or her will); 22-2708 (causing spouse or domestic partner to live in prostitution); 22-2709 (detaining an individual in disorderly house for debt there contracted); 22-1901 (incest); 22-3002 (first degree sexual abuse); 22-3003 (second degree sexual abuse); 22-3004 (third degree sexual abuse); 22-3005 (fourth degree sexual abuse); 22-3006 (misdemeanor sexual abuse); 22-3008 (first degree child sexual abuse); 22-3009 (second degree child sexual abuse); 22-3009.01 (first degree sexual abuse of a minor); 22-3009.02 (second degree sexual abuse of a minor); 22-3009.03 (first degree sexual abuse of a secondary education student); 22-3009.04 (second degree sexual abuse of a secondary education student); 22-3010 (enticing a child or minor);22-3010.01 (misdemeanor sexual abuse of a child or minor); 22-3010.02 (arranging for sexual contact with a real or fictitious child); 22-3013 (first degree sexual abuse of a ward, patient, client, or prisoner); 22-3014 (second degree sexual abuse of a ward, patient, client, or prisoner); 22-3015 (first degree sexual abuse of a patient or client); 22-3016 (second degree sexual abuse of a patient or client); 22-3018 (attempts to commit sexual offenses); or 22-3102 (knowingly using a minor in a sexual performance or promoting a sexual performance by a minor).".

(4) A new paragraph (5A) is added to read as follows:

"(5A) "Sexual assault counselor" shall have the same meaning as provided in § 23-1907(10).".

(5) Paragraph (6) is amended to read as follows:

"(6) "Sexual assault victim" means any individual against whom a sexual assault has been committed or is alleged to have been committed, including:

"(A) Deceased individuals; and

"(B) Representatives appointed by the court to exercise the rights and receive services on behalf of sexual assault victims who are under 18 years of age, incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased.".

(6) Paragraph (7) is repealed.

(c) Subsection (b) is amended as follows:

(1) Paragraph (1) is amended as follows:

(A) The lead-in language is amended by striking the phrase "victim advocate shall" and inserting the phrase "counselor shall" in its place.

(B) Subparagraph (F) is amended by striking the phrase "victim advocate" and inserting the word "counselor" in its place.

(2) Paragraph (3) is amended to read as follows:

"(3) The confidentiality of a confidential communication shall not be waived by the presence of, or disclosure to a:

"(A) Sign language or foreign language interpreter; provided, that a sign language or foreign language interpreter shall be subject to the limitations and exceptions set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection and the same privileges set forth in subsection (c) of this section;

"(B) Third party participating in group counseling with the sexual assault victim; or

"(C) Third party with the consent of the victim where reasonably necessary to accomplish the purpose for which the sexual assault counselor is consulted.".

(3) New paragraphs (4) and (5) are added to read as follows:

"(4) Except as provided in this subsection, no sexual assault counselor shall be compelled to reveal a confidential communication in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding, unless the sexual assault victim has given written consent.

"(5) Notwithstanding § 4-1321.02, sexual assault counselors shall be exempt from mandatory reporting of any crime disclosed in a confidential communication unless the sexual assault counselor has actual knowledge that the crime disclosed to the sexual assault counselor involves:

"(A) A victim under the age of 13;

"(B) A perpetrator or alleged perpetrator with whom the sexual assault victim has a significant relationship, as that term is defined in § 22-3001(10); or

"(C) A perpetrator or alleged perpetrator who is more than 4 years older than the sexual assault victim.".

(d) A new subsection (b-1) is added to read as follows:

"(b-1) The presence of a sexual assault counselor shall not waive any privilege otherwise guaranteed by law.".

AMEND § 22-3020.52

Sec. 6. Section 252(c) of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 19-315; D.C. Official Code § 22-3020.52(c)), is amended by adding a new paragraph (3) to read as follows:

"(3) Sexual assault counselors shall be exempt from reporting pursuant to subsection (a) of this section any crime disclosed in a confidential communication unless the sexual assault counselor has actual knowledge that the crime disclosed to the sexual assault counselor involves:

"(A) A victim under the age of 13;

"(B) A perpetrator or alleged perpetrator with whom the sexual assault victim has a significant relationship, as that term is defined in section 101(10) of the Anti-Sexual Abuse Act of 1994, effective May 23, 1995 (D.C. Law 10-257; D.C.

Official Code § 22-3001(10)); or

"(C) A perpetrator or alleged perpetrator who is more than 4 years older than the sexual assault victim.".

AMEND § 22-4233

Sec. 7. Section 1504(a) of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the District of Columbia Establishment Act of 2001, effective October 3, 2001 (D.C. Law 14-28; D.C. Official Code § 22-4233(a)), is amended as follows:

(a) Paragraph (6) is amended by striking the phrase "Director, District of Columbia Department" and inserting the phrase "Director, Department" in its place.

(b) Paragraph (15) is amended by striking the phrase "; and" and inserting a semicolon in its place.

(c) Paragraph (18) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phrase "; and" in its place.

(d) A new paragraph (19) is added to read as follows:

"(19) Director, Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants.".

Sec. 8. Subchapter II of Chapter 19 of Title 23 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as follows:

(a) The table of contents is amended by striking the phrase "victim advocate" and inserting the phrase "victim advocates and sexual assault youth victim advocates" in its place.

AMEND § 23-1907

(b) Section 23-1907 is amended to read as follows:

" For the purposes of this subchapter, the term:

"(1) "DC SANE Program" means the DC Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program that provides comprehensive medical forensic care to sexual assault victims, including:

"(A) The DC Forensic Nurse Examiners;

"(B) The Child and Adolescent Protection Center; or

"(C) Any other entity within the District that is a member of the SART, or the multidisciplinary investigation team, described in § 4-1301.51.

"(2) "Forensic nurse examiner" means a nurse with specialized training in medical forensic evidence collection who provides comprehensive medical forensic care to sexual assault victims and participates in the DC SANE Program.

"(3) "Hospital" means a facility that provides 24-hour inpatient care, including diagnostic, therapeutic, and other health-related services, for a variety of physical or mental conditions, and may, in addition, provide outpatient services, particularly emergency care.

"(4) "Interview" means any interview conducted by the MPD or other District agency with a sexual assault victim relating to the alleged sexual assault.

"(5) "MPD" means the Metropolitan Police Department.

"(6) "OVSJG" means the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, established pursuant to Mayor's Order 2016-171.

"(7) "PERK" means a Physical Evidence Recovery Kit used to collect and preserve physical evidence related to a sexual assault or alleged sexual assault.

"(8) "SART" shall have the same meaning as provided in § 4-561.01(11).

"(9) "Sexual assault" means any of the following offenses: §§ 22-1834 (sex trafficking of children); 22-2704 (abducting or enticing child from his or her home for the purposes of prostitution; harboring such child); 22-2705 (pandering; inducing or compelling an individual to engage in prostitution); 22-2706 (compelling an individual to live life of prostitution against his or her will); 22-2708 (causing spouse or domestic partner to live in prostitution); 22-2709 (detaining an individual in disorderly house for debt there contracted); 22-1901 (incest); 22-3002 (first degree sexual abuse); 22-3003 (second degree sexual abuse); 22-3004 (third degree sexual abuse); 22-3005 (fourth degree sexual abuse); 22-3006 (misdemeanor sexual abuse); 22-3008 (first degree child sexual abuse); 22-3009 (second degree child sexual abuse); 22-3009.01 (first degree sexual abuse of a minor); 22-3009.02 (second degree sexual abuse of a minor); 22-3009.03 (first degree sexual abuse of a secondary education student); 22-3009.04 (second degree sexual abuse of a secondary education student); 22-3010 (enticing a child or minor); 22-3010.01 (misdemeanor sexual abuse of a child or minor); 22-3010.02 (arranging for sexual contact with a real or fictitious child); 22-3013 (first degree sexual abuse of a ward, patient, client, or prisoner); 22-3014 (second degree sexual abuse of a ward, patient, client, or prisoner); 22-3015 (first degree sexual abuse of a patient or client); 22-3016 (second degree sexual abuse of a patient or client); 22-3018 (attempts to commit sexual offenses); or 22-3102 (knowingly using a minor in a sexual performance or promoting a sexual performance by a minor).

"(10) "Sexual assault counselor" means an employee, contractor, or volunteer of a community-based organization serving sexual assault victims 13 years of age or older who:

"(A) Renders support, counseling, or assistance to a sexual assault victim;

"(B) Has undergone at least 40 hours of training related to sexual assault counseling using a curriculum approved by the OVSJG that includes instruction on:

"(i) The dynamics and history of sexual assault and gender-based violence;

"(ii) Sex trafficking and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation;

"(iii) Trauma resulting from sexual assault, gender-based violence, and commercial sexual exploitation;

"(iv) Responding to the specific needs of youth sexual assault victims;

"(v) Responding to the specific needs of sexual assault victims with respect to their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;

"(vi) Trauma-informed care, crisis intervention, personal safety, and risk management; and

"(vii) Cultural humility;

"(viii) The sexual assault victim advocate dispatch system, developed by OVSJG and approved by the SART, pursuant to § 23-1909(e); and

"(ix) Services available to sexual assault victims, including how to access medical forensic care services available through the DC SANE Programs; and

"(C) Is supervised by an individual who has a minimum of:

"(i) 5 years of experience rendering support, counseling, or assistance to sexual assault victims; or

"(ii) 3 years of experience rendering support, counseling, or assistance to sexual assault victims and an advanced degree in a related field.

"(11) "Sexual assault victim" means any individual against whom a sexual assault has been committed or is alleged to have been committed, including:

"(A) Deceased individuals; and

"(B) Representatives appointed by the court to exercise the rights and receive services on behalf of sexual assault victims who are under 18 years of age, incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased.

"(12) "Sexual assault victim advocate" means an employee or contractor of a community-based organization whose director or their director's designee is a member of the SART and who:

"(A) Is a sexual assault counselor; and

"(B) Has undergone an additional 20 hours of training related to sexual assault victim advocacy using a curriculum approved by the OVSJG that includes instruction on:

"(i) The District's criminal justice system;

"(ii) Crime victims' rights; and

"(iii) Avoiding the unauthorized practice of law.".

"(13) "Sexual Assault Victim's Rights Card" means a document, published by OVSJG in consultation with the SART, printed in the most widely spoken languages in the District, that advises sexual assault victims of their rights under this subchapter.

"(14) "Sexual assault youth victim advocate" means an employee or contractor of a community-based organization whose director or the director's designee is a member of the SART and who:

"(A) Qualifies as a sexual assault victim advocate; and

"(B) Has undergone an additional 20 hours of training related to youth sexual assault victim advocacy using a curriculum approved by the OVSJG that includes instruction on:

"(i) Providing services to sexual assault victims under the age of 18, including the different needs of children and adolescents;

"(ii) Navigating family dynamics in the context of providing services to children and adolescents who have experienced sexual assault;

"(iii) The co-occurrence of child abuse in children and adolescents who have experienced sexual assault; and

"(iv) Children's susceptibility to suggestive questioning, the impact suggestive questions have on criminal investigations and prosecutions, and techniques for minimizing the potential for suggestibility.".

AMEND § 23-1908

(c) Section 23-1908 is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 23-1908. Sexual assault victims' rights.

"(a) In addition to the rights set forth in subchapter I of this chapter, a sexual assault victim shall have the right to have:

"(1) A PERK performed at no cost;

"(2) To have their PERK and any additional probative or evidentiary contents preserved, without charge, for 65 years from the date the crime is first reported to the law enforcement agency, as that term is defined in § 5-113.31(9);

"(3) For sexual assault victims 18 years of age or older, a sexual assault victim advocate, and for sexual assault victims ages 13 to 17, a sexual assault youth victim advocate, present during any:

"(A) Forensic medical, evidentiary, or physical examination;

"(B) Point during the hospital visit; provided, that the presence of a sexual assault victim advocate or a sexual assault youth victim advocate does not pose health or safety risks to the sexual assault victim, the sexual assault victim advocate, or the sexual assault youth victim advocate; and

"(C) Interview.

"(b) A sexual assault victim shall have the rights provided in subsection (a)(3) of this section even if the sexual assault victim previously declined the presence of a sexual assault victim advocate or a sexual assault youth victim advocate.".

AMEND § 23-1909

(d) Section 23-1909 is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 23-1909. Sexual assault victim advocates and sexual assault youth victim advocates; sexual assault victim advocate dispatch system.

"(a)(1) Hospitals shall, if a sexual assault victim who is 13 years of age or older consents, immediately notify the sexual assault victim advocate dispatch system before beginning any forensic medical, evidentiary, or physical examination arising out of a sexual assault or an alleged sexual assault.

"(2) A sexual assault victim advocate shall, for sexual assault victims 18 years of age or older, and a sexual assault youth victim advocate shall, for sexual assault victims ages 13 to 17, inform the sexual assault victim of their rights under this subchapter.

"(b) The MPD shall, for a person known or suspected to be a sexual assault victim 13 years of age or older:

"(1) Upon making, provide to that person a Sexual Assault Victim's Rights Card;

"(2) Before beginning an interview, advise the person of a sexual assault victim's right to either a sexual assault victim advocate, if the sexual assault victim is 18 years of age or older, or a sexual assault youth victim advocate, if the sexual assault victim is ages 13 to 17;

"(3) If a sexual assault victim asserts their right to a sexual assault victim advocate or a sexual assault youth victim advocate, only conduct a minimal facts interview before the sexual assault victim consults with the advocate; and

"(4) If a sexual assault victim declines their right to a sexual assault victim advocate or sexual assault youth victim advocate, notify the sexual assault victim of their right to have a sexual assault victim advocate or a sexual assault youth victim advocate present as provided in § 23-1908.

"(c)(1) By June 1, 2020, the independent expert consultant, as that term is defined in § 4-561.01(6), shall submit to the MPD a report making recommendations on the scope of a minimal facts inquiry.

"(2)(A) By April 1, 2020, the independent expert consultant shall provide a draft of the report making recommendations on the scope of a minimal facts inquiry to the SART.

"(B) SART members may provide to the independent expert consultant written comments in response to that draft report within a reasonable period of time, to be determined by the independent expert consultant, but not less than one month.

"(3) The independent expert consultant shall consider all written comments that are timely received from SART members under paragraph (2)(B) of this subsection and submit its final report to the MPD based on the comments received.

"(4) The MPD shall, within 60 days after receiving the independent expert consultant's final report, issue a general order regarding the scope of a minimal facts inquiry.

"(d) The MPD's duties described in subsection (b) of this section shall:

"(1) For sexual assault victims ages 13 to 17, be performed by a member of MPD's Youth Division; and

"(2) For sexual assault victims 18 years of age or older, be performed by a member of MPD's Sexual Assault Unit.

"(e)(1) There is established a sexual assault victim advocate dispatch system that:

"(A) For a sexual assault victim ages 13 to 17:

"(i) Dispatches a sexual assault youth victim advocate to settings in which the sexual assault victim has the right to a sexual assault youth victim advocate's presence pursuant to § 23-1908(a)(3); or

"(ii) Provides the sexual assault victim with electronic access, including telephonic access, to a sexual assault youth victim advocate:

"(I) In settings or during times in which dispatching a sexual assault youth victim advocate is impracticable; or

"(II) Upon the sexual assault victim's request; and

"(B) For a sexual assault victim 18 years of age or older:

"(i) Dispatches a sexual assault victim advocate to settings in which the sexual assault victim has the right to a sexual assault victim advocate's presence pursuant to § 23-1908(a)(3); or

"(ii) Provides the sexual assault victim with electronic access, including telephonic access, to a sexual assault victim advocate:

"(I) In settings or during times in which dispatching a sexual assault advocate is impracticable; or

"(II) Upon the sexual assault victim's request.

"(2) The sexual assault victim advocate dispatch system shall be developed by OVSJG and approved by the SART.".

AMEND § 23-1910

(e) Section 23-1910 is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 23-1910. Access to information.

"(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, in addition to the notice requirements set forth in subchapter I of this chapter, for a sexual assault victim 13 years of age or older, MPD shall:

"(1) Inform the sexual assault victim of:

"(A) The status of any medical forensic examination, PERK, or toxicology test related to the sexual assault, including the reasons for any delay in processing and the eventual completion of the testing and analysis of specimens related to the case, within 15 business days after any material change in the status of the medical forensic examination, PERK, or toxicology test; and

"(B) Any PERK test results, DNA testing results, toxicology report, or other information collected as part of a medical forensic examination within 15 business days after the results become available; provided, that the MPD is not required to disclose to the sexual assault victim the identity of any suspect implicated by DNA or similar testing for cases with an open investigation or active prosecution;

"(2) Provide the sexual assault victim, upon request, with a written copy of all policies governing the administration and preservation of a PERK;

"(3) Have the PERK and its probative contents preserved for 65 years from the date the crime is first reported to the law enforcement agency, as that term is defined in § 5-113.31(9);

"(4) Provide the sexual assault victim with written notification at least 60 days before the date of the intended destruction or disposal of the PERK; and

"(5) Make reasonable attempts to notify a sexual assault victim 13 years of age or older of the MPD's intent to communicate with a suspect before communicating with the suspect and alerting the suspect of the sexual assault allegation made against the suspect; provided, that if prior notification is not possible, notification shall be made as soon as is reasonably possible after the communication with the suspect has occurred.

"(b)(1) A sexual assault victim 13 years of age or older may request, in writing, that the MPD not perform any of its duties described in subsection (a) of this section.

"(2) If a sexual assault victim 13 years of age or older requests that the MPD not perform any of its duties described in subsection (a) of this section, the MPD shall not perform those duties, unless the sexual assault victim later requests that the MPD perform those duties; provided, that if a sexual assault victim requests that the MPD not preserve his or her PERK and its probative contents pursuant to subsection (a)(3) of this section, a sexual assault victim may not subsequently request that the MPD preserve his or her PERK and its probative contents pursuant to subsection (a)(3) of this section.

"(3)(A) The DFS shall notify the MPD of any material change in the status of any medical forensic examination, PERK, or toxicology test within 7 days after the material change.

"(B) The DFS shall notify the MPD of any PERK test results, DNA testing results, toxicology report, or other information collected as part of a medical forensic examination within 7 business days after the results become available.".

SEC. 9. APPLICABILITY.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, sections 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 shall apply as of October 1, 2020.

(b) The amendatory section 23-1909(c) within section 8(d) shall apply as of the effective date of this act.

SEC. 10. FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement provided in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

SEC. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 60-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(2) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(2)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

Notes

Notes

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