

# Rights for Victims of Crime: Rebalancing Justice



Victims of crime have historically been neglected by the criminal justice system, with their rights often overlooked in favor of those of the accused. In recent years, however, there has been a growing movement to

rebalance justice and give victims a greater voice in the process. This article will explore the rights of victims of crime, the challenges they face, and the progress that has been made in protecting their rights.



## Rights for Victims of Crime: Rebalancing Justice

by Irvin Waller

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### The Rights of Victims of Crime

Victims of crime have a number of rights, including:

\* The right to be informed about the status of their case \* The right to be present at all proceedings involving their case \* The right to make a statement at sentencing \* The right to restitution from the offender \* The right to counseling and other support services

These rights are essential to ensuring that victims are treated with respect and dignity throughout the criminal justice process. They also help to ensure that victims have a say in the outcome of their case and that their needs are taken into account.

## **Challenges Faced by Victims of Crime**

Victims of crime often face a number of challenges, including:

\* Emotional trauma \* Financial hardship \* Physical injuries \* Social isolation

These challenges can make it difficult for victims to cope with the aftermath of their crime and to move on with their lives. They can also make it difficult for victims to participate fully in the criminal justice process.

## **Progress in Protecting the Rights of Victims of Crime**

In recent years, there has been significant progress in protecting the rights of victims of crime. This progress includes:

\* The passage of the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 \* The creation of the Office for Victims of Crime \* The establishment of victim assistance programs throughout the country

These advances have helped to improve the way that victims are treated by the criminal justice system and have made it easier for victims to get the support and services they need.

The rights of victims of crime are essential to ensuring that victims are treated with respect and dignity throughout the criminal justice process. They also help to ensure that victims have a say in the outcome of their case and that their needs are taken into account. While there has been significant progress in protecting the rights of victims of crime, there is still more work to be done. By continuing to advocate for the rights of victims, we can help to create a more just and equitable criminal justice system for all.

## Additional Resources

\* [Office for Victims of Crime](https://www.ovc.gov/) \* [National Crime Victim Center](https://www.victimsofcrime.org/) \* [Crime Victims Legal Assistance Network](https://cvlan.org/)



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