

Victim Assistance

The ICE Victim Assistance Specialist can tell you about available victim assistance programs.

These programs offer a variety of services to help crime victims, such as crisis intervention, counseling, and emotional support.

The Emotional Impact of Crime

Many crime victims are affected emotionally by the crime. Although everyone reacts differently, victims report some common reactions, such as:

- Anger, panic, or anxiety
- Increased concern for personal safety and that of family or loved ones
- Depression
- Trouble concentrating
- Feeling overwhelmed
- Continuously thinking about the incident

Everyone copes with tragedy differently, and all of these responses are normal and may decrease with time. However, some people continue to have problems for a period of time after the crime. Positive support is important during this period.

You might want to talk about what happened with a counselor, clergy member, friend, family member, or other victims. Making contact with a victim assistance program can be an important step in your recovery. Community-based victim assistance programs are there to serve you.

If You Need Additional Assistance

We encourage you to contact the ICE Victim Assistance Specialist or Coordinator if you have any questions.

Important Numbers

In regard to the status of the investigation, contact the ICE Special Agent:

Name _____

Phone _____

In regard to other available assistance contact the ICE Victim Assistance Specialist/Coordinator:

Name _____

Phone _____

In regard to the prosecution, contact the U.S. Attorney Victim-Witness Coordinator:

Name _____

Phone _____

In regard to compensation for medical or other expenses, contact your state's office for crime victim compensation:

Phone _____

**For a state program directory, see:
www.nacvcb.org/progdir.html**

**ICE Victim Assistance Program
Phone (toll free): 1-866-872-4973
Fax: 703-877-3205**

VictimAssistance.ICE@ice.dhs.gov

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Information for Victims of Crime



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

Introduction

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents investigate a variety of federal crimes. As federal law enforcement professionals, we are aware of and concerned about the problems often experienced by victims of crime. We know that as a victim, you may experience anger, confusion, frustration, fear, or other reactions as a result of your experience.

This brochure provides information to help you deal with the problems and questions that often arise during a federal investigation. It describes your rights under federal law and the services available to you. We hope this information will be helpful and we encourage you to contact the ICE case agent or the ICE Victim Assistance Specialist if you have any questions.

The Investigation

Even though the days and months ahead may be difficult for you and your family, your continued assistance is needed and appreciated to insure that the aims of justice are fully achieved.

During the investigation, you will be kept informed of the status of your case at your request. Throughout the investigative process, your case agent will remain your principal contact. A federal investigation can be both complex and lengthy. It may involve several agencies, some federal and some local. Remember, your interests and safety are important to us.

If an Arrest is Made

Every effort will be made to notify you if a suspect is apprehended. Following the arrest, ICE will make every effort to keep you advised of the status of your case. Once the case has been filed with the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Victim-Witness Coordinator in that office is available to answer your questions during the prosecution phase of your case.

If You Are Threatened or Harassed

If anyone threatens you or you feel that you are being harassed because of your cooperation with this investigation, contact the ICE case agent or the Victim Assistance Specialist immediately. There are penalties for harassment and other threats. If you are in immediate danger, contact your local law enforcement agency. It is a crime to threaten a victim or witness.

If You Were Injured

All states have crime victim compensation programs to help cover some expenses relating to violent crimes. Your state program may pay for medical and mental health care costs, lost wages and support, and funeral and burial expenses not covered by insurance or other benefits. If an individual is arrested and prosecuted, you may be eligible for restitution. Restitution is court ordered payment to you as a victim of crime for expenses caused by your victimization.

If You Need Assistance With Your Employer or Creditors

Upon your request, and if appropriate, we may be able to contact your employer or creditors to help resolve any problems arising from your victimization.

If Your Property is Held as Evidence

If your property is held as evidence, we will make every effort to see that it is returned to you as quickly as possible when it is no longer needed as evidence.

Your Rights as a Crime Victim

(18 United States Code, Section 3771)*

- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused.
- 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.
- 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.
- The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, sentencing, or any parole proceeding.
- The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the government in the case.
- The right to full and timely restitution as provided by law.
- The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.
- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.

We will make our best efforts to ensure you are afforded these rights. Child victims, victims of sex offenses, domestic violence, and human trafficking have additional rights. You may also seek the advice of a private attorney with respect to your rights.

*These rights arise from the detection, investigation, prosecution, and incarceration relating to federal criminal cases. ICE civil immigration proceedings are not federal criminal cases.