

Chapter:	Rights Protection		
Title:	South Carolina Crime Victim's Bill of Rights		
Policy: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Review Cycle: Triennial	Adopted Date: 08.2020	Related Policies: Rights & Responsibilities
Procedure: <input type="checkbox"/>	Author: CEO/Designee	Review Date: 03.2023	

Purpose:

Hopeful Horizons' (HHs') employees and volunteers routinely work with victims of crime. As such, staff and volunteers have a responsibility to support victims to understand their rights and access related resources in the protection of their rights as defined under the South Carolina Victims' Bill of Rights. HHs' Board shall adopt policies necessary to assure protection of crime victims' rights.

Scope:

This policy applies to

- All HH Staff Selected HH Staff, as specified:
- HH Board Members HH Volunteers
- Other: Sub-contract Providers

Policy:

It is the policy of the HHs' Board that employees and volunteers shall support clients, who are victims of crime, to access all rights afforded to them under the South Carolina Crime Victims' Bill of Rights. Information about the South Carolina Crime Victims' Bill of Rights is available during the intake process and upon request.

To preserve and protect victims' rights to justice and due process regardless of race, sex, age, religion, or economic status, victims of crime have the right to:

1. Be treated with fairness, respect, and dignity, and to be free from intimidation, harassment, or abuse, throughout the criminal and juvenile justice process, and informed of the victim's constitutional rights, provided by statute;
2. Be reasonably informed when the accused or convicted person is arrested, released from custody, or has escaped;
3. Be informed of and present at any criminal proceedings which are dispositive of the charges where the defendant has the right to be present;
4. Be reasonably informed of and be allowed to submit either a written or oral statement at all hearings affecting bond or bail;
5. Be heard at any proceeding involving a post-arrest release decision, a plea, or sentencing;
6. Be reasonably protected from the accused or persons acting on his behalf throughout the criminal justice process;
7. Confer with the prosecution, after the crime against the victim has been charged, before the trial or before any disposition and informed of the disposition;
8. Have reasonable access after the conclusion of the criminal investigation to all documents relating to the crime against the victim before trial;
9. Receive prompt and full restitution from the person or persons convicted of the criminal conduct that caused the victim's loss or injury, including both adult and juvenile offenders;
10. Be informed of any proceeding when any post-conviction action is being considered, and be present at any post-conviction hearing involving a post-conviction release decision;

11. A reasonable disposition and prompt and final conclusion of the case;
12. Have all rules governing criminal procedure and the admissibility of evidence in all criminal proceedings protect victims' rights and have these rules subject to amendment or repeal by the legislature to ensure protection of these rights.

The penalty for violating the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights is:

- Writ of mandamus, issued by Supreme Court or circuit court to require compliance.
- A willful failure to comply with a writ of mandamus is punishable as contempt.

Communication and Training:

Employees receive initial orientation inclusive of the organization's policy on Crime Victims' Rights. As policies and procedures are reviewed, employees shall receive information about related changes.

Definitions:

Dispositive of Charges or Disposition: A hearing in which decisions are rendered related to the case.

Other Related Materials:

[South Carolina Victim Assistance Network](#)

References/Legal Authority:

[S.C. Constitution, Article I; SECTION 24. Victims' Bill of Rights.](#)

Change Log:

Date of Change	Description of Change	Responsible Party
3.2023	Updated to template, added communication and training, references and definitions.	N. Miller