

# The Rights of Crime Victims

## Thornton/Northglenn Victim Services Unit



**CASE NUMBER**

**AGENCY**

THORNTON

NORTHGLENN

**OFFICER/DETECTIVE NAME AND BADGE #**

**General Line: 720-977-5172**

Thornton Police Department  
9551 Civic Center Dr., Thornton 80229  
Non-Emergency - 720-977-5150

Northglenn Police Department  
50 W. Community Center Dr., Northglenn 80234  
Non-Emergency - 303-288-1535

Pursuant to the State of Colorado, you should be informed of your rights  
as a victim of a crime under the Victims Rights Act.

# V.I.N.E

## VICTIM INFORMATION NOTIFICATION EVERY DAY

V.I.N.E is a toll-free, 24-hours a day, 365 days a year automated telephone service that provides victims of crime information and notification concerning the custody status of offenders. This registration process is easy and anonymous and will provide you with notification of when an offender is released or transferred from jail or prison.

### How to Register and Receive Notifications

#### VRA Crimes

If you have been a victim of a crime under the Victim Rights Act, you will automatically be registered on this system by the responding officer only if the suspect has been arrested

- When registered by an officer, your PIN number will automatically be 1234.
- To change your PIN, contact V.I.N.E directly.

#### Registration and Notification

You have the option to receive notifications via email, phone or text. Register by phone at 1-888-263-8463, online at [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com) or download the application to your smartphone.

Information needed for online registration is:

- The offender's name
- The phone number or email address where you want to receive the notification
- A four-digit PIN (This can be used in the future if the suspect is arrested for another violation.)

### When V.I.N.E Calls

- Listen to the entire message
- Enter the PIN number (1234) and press the pound key (#) when asked to do so.

*(Please note, if you registered online, use the PIN number you created instead.)*

If there is no answer or the line is busy, V.I.N.E will continue to call every two hours during the first 24-hours. V.I.N.E will leave a message on a voice mail, but will still continue to call every two hours up to 24-hours, or until a PIN is entered.



### Receiving V.I.N.E Text Notifications

Once registered to receive text message notifications, V.I.N.E will send a you a text message when an offender's status changes. You will receive only **ONE** text message per status change. You may be required to set a four-digit PIN.

**For questions, speak to a live V.I.N.E operator 24/7 by calling 1-888-263-8463 or visit [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com).**



## Who We Are

Our Victim Service unit was created to solely focus on the victims of crimes and to help victims and families cope with the crisis. The Victims Services Unit provides victims and their families with advocacy support and guidance, practical help and crisis interventions at a time when its most needed. The initial

shock following a crime, sudden death or other trauma is harsh and painful for those involved.

Victim Advocates not only support victims at the time of the crime on scene with the immediate trauma, but also provide follow-up services with case updates and referral information to further aid victims and their families through the healing process.

The Thornton/Northglenn Victim Services Unit is staffed by dedicated and highly-trained advocates who are on-call 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week, to respond immediately at the request of a police officer.

## Types of Support

### **Crisis Intervention**

As experienced active listeners, advocates will assist victims in sorting through the confusing feelings they may be experiencing. Advocates will provide guidance and support to get some stability after the traumatic event to help manage one part of the problem at a time, and will answer any questions they may have. Initial information of the investigation of the case and next steps will also be provided.

### **Immediate Emergency Needs/Safety Planning**

Advocates are able to address immediate safety concerns and/or needs victims or their families may have. This will include developing a safety plan, request extra patrolling and in some instances assist with relocation. Other supports provided include giving 9-1-1 phones and other emergency items.

### **Advocacy and Practical Help**

There are many resources available to you within the community. Our advocates will provide you with appropriate referrals related to crime victim compensation, counseling and safe shelter. Your advocate can give you procedural and factual information concerning the crime or accident, act as a liaison with law enforcement and other community agencies and provide guidance on obtaining copies of the initial police report.

# Victim Rights Act (VRA)

The legislation known as the Victim Rights Act (VRA) became effective in January 1993. The VRA provides victims of crime an active role in the criminal justice process and ensures certain supports are provided. Law Enforcement Departments are one of three entities with responsibilities to ensure victims receive their rights.

## Core Victim Rights:

- To be treated with fairness, dignity and respect.
- To be informed, present and heard.

## The Law Enforcement Responsibilities Under the VRA Are:

- Receive the case #, name of law enforcement agency, name officer/detective assigned to the case and contact information
- Availability of services/resources
- Notice of filing of charges
- A copy of the VRA Rights
- Name and contact information of the prosecution office
- Availability of compensation benefits
- Availability of protection including protection orders
- Information of mandatory criminal protection orders and procedure to modify
- Decision not to file misdemeanor cases
- Update the victim on the status of the case, prior to the filing of charges and make all responsible efforts to exclude or redact a victim's social security number from a criminal justice form.
- Keep the victim of crime informed as to whether a suspect has been taken into custody and, if known, notification of the offender's release, escape, death or transfer while in custody
- Receive property when it is no longer needed for evidence purposes within five working days upon the request of the victim
- Right to:
  - Pursue civil judgment
  - Access to secure waiting area
  - Employer intercession services
  - Swift and fair resolution of a case
- Cold Case
  - Provide victims of cold cases for which the crime has a statute of limitations of longer than three years with an annual update concerning the status of the case.
- A free copy of the initial report if the case has been filed with the District Attorney's Office and at the discretion of the records unit.

## THE VRA GUARANTEES CERTAIN RIGHTS TO VICTIMS OF THE FOLLOWING CRIMINAL ACTS

### Assault

- Assault 1-degree  
Assault 2-degree  
Assault 3-degree
- Vehicular Assault

### Crimes Against Children

- Child abuse
- Child prostitution
- Inducement of child prostitution
- Patronizing a prostituted child
- Pimping of a child
- Procurement of a child for sexual exploitation
- Sexual assault of a child
- Sexual exploitation of children
- Soliciting for child prostitution

### Court-Related

- Retaliation against a witness/victim
- Intimidating a witness/victim
- Aggravated intimidation of a witness/victim
- Tampering with a witness/victim
- Retaliation against a judge
- Retaliation against a prosecutor
- Retaliation against a juror
- Violation of protection orders issued under 18-1-1001 against a person charged with committing sexual assault, sexual assault on a child, sexual assault on a child by position of trust, sexual assault on a client by a psychotherapist

### Domestic Violence

- Any crime identified by law enforcement prior to the filing of charges as domestic violence.
- An act identified by a district attorney in a formal criminal charge as domestic violence.
- Any crime with underlying factual basis of which has been found by the court on the record to include an act of domestic violence.

## THE VRA GUARANTEES CERTAIN RIGHTS TO VICTIMS OF THE FOLLOWING CRIMINAL ACTS

### Murder/Manslaughter/Homicide/Death Related Offenses

- Careless driving resulting in death of another
- Failure to stop at the scene of an accident where the accident results in the death of another
- Murder 1-degree  
Murder 2-degree
- Manslaughter
- Criminally negligent homicide
- Vehicular homicide

### Other

- A bias-motivated crime
- Crimes against at risk adults/juveniles
- Kidnapping 1-degree  
Kidnapping 2-degree
- Menacing
- Stalking
- Failure to stop at the scene of an accident that results in serious bodily injury
- Violation of a criminal protection order issued against a person charged with stalking
- Posting a private image for harassment or pecuniary gain

### Robbery

- Robbery
- Aggravated robbery
- Aggravated robbery of controlled substances
- Burglary 1-degree

### Sex Assaults

- Sexual assault  
Sexual assault 1-degree  
Sexual assault 2-degree  
Sexual assault 3-degree
- Unlawful sexual contact
- Sexual assault on a client by a psychotherapist
- Invasion of privacy for sexual gratification
- Indecent exposure
- Incest  
Aggravated incest

### Trafficking

- Human trafficking

**\*Any crime attempt as described in section 18-2-101, any conspiracy 18-2-201, any criminal solicitation 18-2-301, and any accessory to a crime 18-8-105.**

## RIGHTS UNDER THE VICTIM RIGHTS ACT

- To be treated with fairness, respect and dignity.
- To be informed of all “critical stages” of the criminal justice process (victims must request notification, in writing, for post-sentencing critical stages.)
- To be present at specified critical stages in the criminal justice process.
- To be free from intimidation, harassment or abuse.
- To be informed about what steps can be taken if there is any intimidation or harassment by a person accused or convicted of a crime or any acting on that person’s behalf.
- To be present and heard regarding bond reduction or modification, acceptance of a plea agreement, sentencing, any request modification to the “no contact” provision or criminal protection order or the petition for expungement or modification of a sentence.
- To be present and heard regarding a court hearing to subpoena a victim’s personal records.
- To be heard by phone or similar technology when a victim cannot appear in court.
- To consult with the district attorney prior to any disposition of the case or before the case goes to trial and to be informed of the final disposition of the case.
- To be informed of the status of the case and any scheduling changes or cancellations, if known in advance.
- To prepare a victim impact statement and to be present and/or heard at the sentencing hearing.
- To have the court determine restitution and to be informed of the right to pursue a civil judgment against the person convicted of the crime.
- To prevent any party at any court proceeding from compelling testimony regarding a victim’s address, telephone number, place of employment, or other locating information.
- To have the victim’s social security number redacted or excluded from criminal justice documents when records are released to someone other than the victim, a criminal justice agency, or the defendant’s attorney of record.
- To receive a prompt return of property when it is no longer needed as evidence.
- To be informed of the availability of financial assistance and community services.
- To be provided with appropriate employer intercession services regarding court appearances and meetings with criminal justice officials.
- To be informed about the possibility of restorative justice practices.
- To be assured that in any criminal proceeding the court, the prosecutor, and other law enforcement officials will take appropriate action to achieve a swift and fair resolution of the proceedings.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## RIGHTS UNDER THE VICTIM RIGHTS ACT

- Whenever practicable, to provide a safe, secure waiting area during court proceedings.
- To be notified of the referral of an offender to community corrections and to provide a written victim impact statement to the community corrections board and, if permitted by the board, to provide an oral victim impact statement.
- To be informed when a person accused or convicted of a crime is released from custody other than the county jail, is paroled, escapes or absconds from probation or parole.
- To be informed of the filing of a petition to cease sex offender registration.
- To be informed when a person who is accused or convicted of a crime is released from the custody of the county jail.
- To be informed of and heard regarding any reconsideration of a sentence, parole, or commutation of sentence hearing.
- To be informed when a person convicted of a crime against the victim is placed in or transferred to a less secure correctional facility or program or is permanently or conditionally transferred or released from any state hospital.
- The right, at the discretion of the district attorney, to view all or a portion of the pre-sentence report of the probation department.
- To be informed of the results of any court-ordered HIV testing.
- To be informed of any rights which the victim has pursuant to the Constitution of the United States or the State of Colorado.
- To be informed of the process for enforcing compliance with the Victim Rights Act.
- Disclosure by agent of defense-initiated victim outreach required. (1) When any person attempting defense-initiated victim outreach contacts any victim of any crime, the person shall immediately provide full and unambiguous disclosure of: a.) The person's legal name; and b.) The fact that the person is acting as an agent for the person accused of the crime or for the defense team.
- The right to be informed by Law Enforcement of how the victim may request notification of the offender's change of status from jail.
- If a Victim is deceased or incapacitated, these rights may be exercised by the victim's spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, significant other, or other lawful representative.

### REMINDER

**It is your responsibility to keep the appropriate criminal justice agencies informed of your current address, email and telephone number.**



## Ensuring Your Victim Rights

Colorado state law provides that victims of crime may enforce compliance with the provisions of the Constitutional Amendment by contacting the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board.

### What to do if you feel your rights have not been provided

If possible, first attempt to seek compliance at the local level. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Contacting the person whom you feel has not provided you with your rights and explaining specifically what has not been done;
- Seeking assistance from your victim advocate, or other supportive persons such as a counselor; and
- Seeking assistance from the elected official or the head of the agency you feel is not providing you with your rights.
- Contacts may be verbal or in writing. Accurate records of your efforts to seek compliance at the local level will be helpful to you and to the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board should you decide to file a formal request for compliance with the Victim Rights Act.

If you feel you are unable to address your concerns at the local level or your efforts to resolve your concerns have been unsuccessful, you may request assistance from the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board by contacting the Victim Rights Act Specialist at:

**Colorado Department of Public Safety Division of Criminal Justice**  
**700 Kipling St., Ste. 1000 Denver, CO 80215-5865**  
**303-239-5719**  
**1-888-282-1080 Toll Free (outside the Denver Metro area)**



## Important Phone Numbers & Resources

17th Judicial District Attorney's Office  
1100 Judicial Center Dr., Ste. 100

- Brighton – Main Office: 303-659-7720
- Victim Witness: 303-659-7735
- Crime Victim Compensation: 303-835-5659/5615
- Probation Victim Services: 303-451-4771

Adams County Jail: 303-654-1850

Adams County Human Services Center: 720-523-2700

Adams County Coroner's Office: 303-659-1027

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### Domestic Violence Resources

A Woman's Place (*Domestic Violence Shelter/Resource*)

24-hour crisis line: 970-356-4226

970-351-0476

[www.awpfc.com](http://www.awpfc.com)

Address Confidentiality Program

303-866-2208/1-888-341-0002 (Toll Free)

[acp@state.co.us](mailto:acp@state.co.us)

[www.colorado.gov/pacific/dcs/acp](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dcs/acp)

Family Tree

[www.thefamilytree.org/domestic-violence-emergency-shelter](http://www.thefamilytree.org/domestic-violence-emergency-shelter)

Roots of Courage (*Domestic Violence*)

303-420-0412

Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (Shelter)

303-444-2424/1-888-557-4441 (Toll Free)

The Initiative (*Serving people with disabilities & the LGBTQ community*)

303-839-5510 (Voice/TDD)

<https://theinitiativecolorado.org>

### Mental Health Resources

Colorado Crisis Services (24-hr Crisis line)

1-844-493-8255 or text "TALK" to 38255

<https://coloradocrisisservices.org>

Community Reach (*Mental Health Services*)

303-853-3500 (Northglenn location)

[www.communityreachcenter.org](http://www.communityreachcenter.org)

### Sexual Assault Resources

Blue Bench (*Sexual Assault Hotline*)

303-329-9922 (Office)/303-322-7273 (Hotline)/303-329-0023 (TDD)

303-329-0031 (Español)

<https://thebluebench.org>

Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CCASA)

303-839-9999

[www.ccasa.org](http://www.ccasa.org)

## SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCES - CONTINUED

National Sexual Assault (24/7) Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

SAVA (Sexual Assault Victim Advocate) Center

970-472-4200/1-877-352-7273

savacenter.org

W.I.N.G.S. Foundation

*(Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse)*

303-238-8660 /1-800-373-8671

www.wingsfound.org

### Victim Resources

Asian Pacific Center - *(Services for Asian communities)*

303-923-2920

www.apdc.org

Families of Murdered Children and Other Survivors of Homicide

303-748-6395

ICE - Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE)

1-855-48-VOICE

www.ice.gov/voice

Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Center (JAMLAC)

*(Legal Assistance)*

303-839-1008

https://jamlac.org

Mile High United Way

211 or 1-866-760-6489

https://unitedwaydenver.org

Mother Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

303-425-5905

Project Safeguard *(Protection Orders)*

303-637-7761 (Adams County)

https://psghelps.org

Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center *(Legal Assistance)*

303-295-2001 (Brighton Location)

www.rmvictimlaw.org

Servicios De La Raza *(Latino Resource)*

DV/SA 24-hour crisis line: 303-953-5930

303-953-5940 - Housing Department /303-458-5851 - Office

https://serviciosdelaraza.org

The Center for Trauma & Resilience *(Serving all crime victims)*

303-894-8000 - English/303-718-8289 - Español

VINE – *(Victim Information Notification Everyday)*

888-263-8463

www.vinelink.com

### Other Resources

Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center *(Legal Assistance)*

303-295-2001 (Brighton Location)

www.rmvictimlaw.org

## IMPORTANT NOTES

During the investigation of a criminal case you may speak to several people about important updates and information. Use the following pages to write down questions you may want to ask at a later time or any information being given to you.

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THORNTON  
**POLICE**  
DEPARTMENT

[ThorntonCO.gov/police](https://ThorntonCO.gov/police)



[northglenn.org](https://northglenn.org)