

## American Hospital Association Webinar Series

### Ten Core Victims' Rights

When referring crime victims and survivors to victim services in the community, it's helpful to be knowledgeable about victims' rights.

All states have a Victims' Bill of Rights and, in approximately 35 states, victims' rights are embedded in the state's constitution. While Bills of Rights and constitutional amendments differ from state to state, there are generally ten core victims' rights (*Edmunds and Seymour, 2006*) that include the rights to:

1. Be treated with fairness, dignity and respect
2. Notification
3. Be present at/attend proceedings
4. Be heard
5. Reasonable protection from intimidation and harm
6. Restitution
7. Information and referral
8. Apply for victim compensation (in violent crime cases)
9. Speedy proceedings
10. Enforcement of victims' rights

The National Crime Victims Law Institute (NCVLI) offers *Victims' Rights Laws by State*, which provides detailed overviews of victims' rights statutes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, at <https://law.lclark.edu/live/news/23544-victims-rights-law-by-state?>

If a client is a victim of a Federal crime, he/she has a number of rights as set forth in the *Justice for All Act of 2004* under the *Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA)*, which can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/usao/resources/crime-victims-rights-ombudsman/victims-rights-act>.