

South Carolina Crime Victims' Constitutional Rights

*Excerpted from the Constitution of South Carolina, Article 1 Section 24
(This is a condensed reference and is not intended to substitute for the law.)*

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

- be treated with fairness, respect and dignity;
- be free from intimidation or harm throughout the criminal and juvenile justice process;
- be informed about victims' rights;
- be reasonably informed about criminal proceedings;
- be informed if the accused is arrested, released, or escapes;
- confer with the prosecution before the case is heard in court;
- be present at criminal proceedings where the accused has the right to be present;
- be heard at proceedings affecting bond, bail, release, pleas or sentencing;
- have reasonable access to documents relating to the crime before trial;
- receive restitution from the adult or juvenile offenders; and
- a reasonable, prompt and final conclusion of the case.

The penalty for violating the 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

