

Case and Officer's Information:	*Suspect's Information:
Case Number: _____	Name of Accused: _____
Officer's Name: _____	Taken into custody: ____Yes ____No
<b>Department:</b> _____	Will be released on citation: ____Yes ____No
_____, Vermont _____	Date of Arraignment: _____
802-_____-_____	Information is being withheld due to: _____
<b>State's Attorney Office - County:</b> _____	
_____, Vermont _____	
802-_____-_____	
	<b>*Complete ONLY if an adult offender or "Listed" crime - 33 VSA 5204(a)</b>

## YOUR RIGHTS AS A VICTIM OF CRIME IN VERMONT

As a victim of crime, or a victim's family member, you may feel confused, helpless, angry, or even fearful. There are free services and supports to help you. Many people work in this system who care and are committed to helping you. **As a victim of crime, you have rights!**

### The Right to Choice

- You can choose how you participate if your case moves forward.
- You do not have to answer any questions from anyone outside of a courtroom or a sworn deposition. A deposition is a formal process where you give recorded, sworn testimony.

### The Right to Advocacy

If the accused is charged, you will be assigned a Victim Advocate from the State's Attorney's office. Your advocate can provide support and information and can help you:

- Understand your rights;
- Complete paperwork;
- Request financial support for eligible crime-related losses;
- Communicate with law enforcement and attorneys; and
- Notify you of court proceedings.

**Your advocate is there for you!** Contact them with any questions or concerns you have.

### The Right to Safety

If you have concerns about your safety, call a law enforcement agency first. Then call your Victim Advocate. **They can help you!**

### The Right to Be Heard

You have the right to a voice in the court process if you choose. This could include sharing your thoughts with your Victim Advocate, writing a Victim Impact Statement, and addressing the court at sentencing.

### **The Right to Financial Assistance**

The Victim Compensation Program provides limited financial assistance to victims of crime. The financial loss must be a direct result of the crime and not covered by other sources, such as insurance. You may receive witness fees and mileage costs if you are called as a witness or ordered to attend a court hearing. For more information about this program, contact the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services at 800-750-1253.

*You have the right to ask for restitution!* The court can order reimbursement for uninsured losses as part of the defendant's sentence. It is very important to save all your receipts. Your victim advocate can help you with your claim, or you can call the Restitution Unit at (802) 241-4688.

### **The Right to Information and Notification**

If the accused is charged, you have the right to be informed as your case moves forward – even after it is resolved. You have many other rights. The extent of the rights available to you depends upon the nature of the crime charged. Ask your Victim Advocate about your specific rights to information and notification so you will know what to expect. Your Advocate can help you understand your options.

You also have access to some records related to your case. Contact the law enforcement department on this form to learn more.

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### **VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE HAVE ADDITIONAL RIGHTS.**

Your local Vermont Network program supports victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. This support may include: free and confidential 24/7 hotline support, help with the legal system, financial, medical and personal medical advocacy, help finding emergency shelter, and assistance filing a protection order. Additional services are available to you *at no cost* if you are a victim of sexual violence. You are not required to report a crime. Contact your local network program at the number listed below.

#### **Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence**

**Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline: 1-800-228-7395**

**Sexual Violence 24-Hour Hotline: 1-800-489-7273**

*Hotlines are confidential with a few exceptions.*

*To learn more about these exceptions talk to the hotline or an advocate about your concerns first.*

**My local network program is:** \_\_\_\_\_

Find more information about your nearest Network program at <https://www.vtnetwork.org/>

This form can also be viewed at [www.ccvs.vermont.gov](http://www.ccvs.vermont.gov) and is available in other formats upon request. For more information, contact the Vermont Center for Crime Victims Services at this website or at 1-800-750-1213.