



**THE VICTIM ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER**

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**COLLABORATION**

Welcome to our first edition of the Victim Advocacy Newsletter! This newsletter will be distributed on a quarterly basis to assist and aid in our networking and collaboration efforts. The Chester County Sheriff's Office collaborates with other victim service agencies as needed to ensure that victims are assisted in putting the pieces of their lives back together and receive the best quality of services possible. Our collaboration efforts are ongoing to help those who are hurting.

**AWARENESS AND EVENT MONTHS**

**APRIL:**  
National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

**MAY:**  
Mental Health Awareness Month

**JUNE:**  
Gun Violence Awareness Month

**CRIME VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS**

- Be treated with fairness, respect and dignity
- Be free from intimidation or harm throughout the criminal and juvenile justice process; be informed about victim's rights
- Be reasonably informed about criminal proceedings
- Be informed if the accused is arrested, released, or escapes
- Confer with 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
- 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.

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

