
Crime Victim Compensation and Rights

318.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that crime victims and witnesses receive appropriate assistance, that they are provided with information from government and private resources, and that the agency meets all related legal mandates.

318.2 POLICY

The Reno Police Department is committed to providing guidance and assistance to the victims and witnesses of crime. The employees of the Reno Police Department will show compassion and understanding for victims and witnesses and will make reasonable efforts to provide the support and information identified in this policy.

318.3 CRIME VICTIM LIAISON

The Chief of Police may appoint a member of the Department to serve as the crime victim liaison. The crime victim liaison will be the point of contact for individuals requiring further assistance or information from the Reno Police Department regarding benefits from crime victim resources. This person shall also be responsible for maintaining compliance with all legal mandates related to crime victims and/or witnesses.

318.4 CRIME VICTIMS

Officers should provide all victims with the applicable victim information handouts.

Officers should never guarantee a victim's safety from future harm but may make practical safety suggestions to victims who express fear of future harm or retaliation. Officers should never guarantee that a person qualifies as a victim for the purpose of compensation or restitution but may direct him/her to the proper written department material or available victim resources.

318.5 VICTIM INFORMATION

The VSU Supervisor shall ensure that victim information handouts are available and current. These should include as appropriate:

- (a) Shelters and other community resources for victims including domestic violence and sexual assault victims.
- (b) Assurance that sexual assault victims will not incur out-of-pocket expenses for forensic medical exams, and information about evidence collection, storage, and preservation in sexual assault cases (34 USC § 10449; 34 USC § 20109).
- (c) An advisement that a person who was arrested may be released on bond or some other form of release and that the victim should not rely upon an arrest as a guarantee of safety.
- (d) A clear explanation of relevant court orders and how they can be obtained.
- (e) Information regarding available compensation for qualifying victims of crime.

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- (f) VINE® information (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), including the telephone number and whether this free service is available to allow victims to check on an offender's custody status and to register for automatic notification when a person is released from jail.
- (g) Notice regarding U-Visa and T-Visa application processes.
- (h) Resources available for victims of identity theft.
- (i) A place for the officer's name, badge number, and any applicable case or incident number.
- (j) The specific statements and information to victims of domestic violence required by NRS 171.1225.
- (k) Information that certain victims may apply to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to have a fictitious address, designated by the DCFS, serve as their actual address (NRS 217.462).
- (l) Information about the Nevada Victims of Crime Program (VOCP).
- (m) The Nevada Attorney General's Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights (NRS 178A.170 et seq.).

318.5.1 VICTIM CONFIDENTIALITY

When a victim requests to use a pseudonym to keep his/her identity confidential, the crime victim liaison shall provide the victim a pseudonym form. When the victim completes and returns the form, the crime victim liaison shall ensure (NRS 200.3772):

- (a) Substitution of the pseudonym for the name of the victim is made on all reports, files and records in the department's possession.
- (b) The prosecuting attorney is notified of the pseudonym.
- (c) The pseudonym form is maintained in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the information.

318.6 WITNESSES

Officers should never guarantee a witness' safety from future harm or that his/her identity will always remain confidential. Officers may make practical safety suggestions to witnesses who express fear of future harm or retaliation.

Officers should investigate allegations of witness intimidation and take enforcement action when lawful and reasonable.