

5010

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 10, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. V. LOPEZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law and the executive law, in relation to procedures for providing victim notification of criminal justice processes affecting the interests of crime victims and to repeal section 440.50 of the criminal procedure law relating thereto

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Section 440.50 of the criminal procedure law is REPEALED.
2 S 2. Part 3 of the criminal procedure law is amended by adding a new
3 title V to read as follows:
4 TITLE V-VICTIM NOTIFICATION ACT
5 ARTICLE 740-VICTIM NOTIFICATION
6 SECTION 740.10 DEFINITION OF TERMS.
7 740.15 ISSUANCE AND FILING OF VICTIM NOTICES.
8 740.20 NOTIFICATION OF VICTIM.
9 740.25 VICTIM FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE IN-
10 FORMATION.
11 S 740.10 DEFINITION OF TERMS.
12 AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEAN-
13 INGS:
14 1. "CRIME" MEANS CONDUCT DEFINED AS A FELONY OR A MISDEMEANOR IN THE
15 PENAL LAW.
16 2. "VICTIM" MEANS A PERSON WHO, AS A RESULT OF A CRIME, HAS SUFFERED A
17 DIRECT ADVERSE EFFECT CONSISTING OF: DEATH, PHYSICAL INJURY, RAPE,
18 SODOMY, SEXUAL ABUSE OR LOSS OF PROPERTY.
19 3. "FAMILY MEMBER" MEANS (A) ANY PERSON RELATED TO A VICTIM WITHIN THE
20 THIRD DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY, OR (B) ANY PERSON RESIDING IN
21 THE SAME HOUSEHOLD WITH A VICTIM.
22 4. "VICTIM NOTICE" MEANS A FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF
23 CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 JUSTICE SERVICES ON WHICH A VICTIM MAY INDICATE A DEMAND THAT HE OR SHE
2 BE ADVISED AS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS AND THAT HE OR SHE BE ADVISED OF
3 CERTAIN OTHER CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES' ACTIONS
4 AFFECTING THE INTERESTS OF SUCH VICTIM AS PRESCRIBED BY THIS ARTICLE IN
5 ANY CRIMINAL ACTION THAT MAY BE BASED UPON THE CRIME OF WHICH HE OR SHE
6 WAS A VICTIM. SUCH FORM SHALL BE DESIGNED TO INCLUDE AT LEAST THE
7 FOLLOWING INFORMATION: THE NAME OF THE VICTIM; THE ADDRESS OF THE
8 VICTIM; THE NATURE OF THE CRIME; A DESCRIPTION OF THE CRIME; THE ADVERSE
9 EFFECTS SUFFERED BY THE VICTIM AND BY ANY FAMILY MEMBER; WHETHER OR NOT
10 THE VICTIM WISHES TO BE ADVISED AS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS AND CERTAIN
11 OTHER CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES' ACTIONS AFFECTING
12 THE INTEREST OF SUCH VICTIM AS PRESCRIBED BY THIS ARTICLE IN ANY CRIMI-
13 NAL ACTION INVOLVING THE CRIME; AND THE PLACE OR PLACES WHERE THE VICTIM
14 MAY BE REACHED BY MAIL AND TELEPHONE.

15 5. "DISCRETIONARY DISPOSITION" MEANS DISMISSAL IN FURTHERANCE OF
16 JUSTICE, PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (G) OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION 170.30
17 AND SECTION 170.40 OF THIS CHAPTER; ADJOURNMENT IN CONTEMPLATION OF
18 DISMISSAL PURSUANT TO SECTION 170.55 OF THIS CHAPTER; REDUCTION OF A
19 FELONY CHARGE TO ONE FOR A NON-FELONY OFFENSE PURSUANT TO SECTION 180.50
20 OF THIS CHAPTER, OTHER THAN WHERE THE REDUCTION IS MADE PURSUANT TO
21 PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION TWO THEREOF; REDUCTION OF A FELONY CHARGE
22 TO A NON-FELONY OFFENSE PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION THREE OF SECTION 180.70
23 OF THIS CHAPTER; DISMISSAL OF AN INDICTMENT IN THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE
24 PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (I) OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION 210.20 OF THIS
25 CHAPTER AND SECTION 210.40 OF THIS CHAPTER; THE ENTRY OF A PLEA OF GUIL-
26 TY TO ANY CRIME OTHER THAN ONE THAT IS NOT MORE THAN A SINGLE CLASSI-
27 FICATION BELOW THE HIGHEST CLASSIFICATION OF FELONY CHARGED IN THE
28 INDICTMENT, OR THE ENTRY OF A PLEA OF GUILTY TO A CRIME CHARGED IN
29 ANOTHER INDICTMENT TO CONSTITUTE A DISPOSITION OF THE INDICTMENT FOR THE
30 CRIME UPON WHICH THE VICTIM NOTICE IS BASED; A DETERMINATION THAT AN
31 ELIGIBLE YOUTH IS A YOUTHFUL OFFENDER; OR IMPOSITION OF SENTENCE.

32 6. "FILING" MEANS SUBMISSION, EITHER BY MAIL OR IN PERSON, OF THE
33 VICTIM NOTIFICATION FORM BY THE VICTIM OR FAMILY MEMBER TO THE CRIMINAL
34 JUSTICE AGENCY WHERE THE RECORD OF THE REPORT OF THE CRIME IS MAINTAINED
35 OR IF A CRIMINAL ACTION HAS BEEN COMMENCED, WITH THE CLERK OF THE COURT
36 WHERE THE ACTION IS PENDING.

37 S 740.15 ISSUANCE AND FILING OF VICTIM NOTICES.

38 1. WHENEVER A VICTIM SHALL GIVE INFORMATION IN PERSON TO A POLICE
39 OFFICER OR TO A DISTRICT ATTORNEY OR AN EMPLOYEE OF A DISTRICT ATTORNEY
40 CONCERNING A CRIME OF WHICH HE OR SHE IS A VICTIM SUCH OFFICER, DISTRICT
41 ATTORNEY OR EMPLOYEE SHALL INQUIRE AS TO WHETHER THE VICTIM HAS RECEIVED
42 A VICTIM NOTICE FORM AND, WHERE THE VICTIM INDICATES THAT HE OR SHE HAS
43 NOT RECEIVED SUCH FORM, SHALL ISSUE OR SHALL MAKE ARRANGEMENT TO ISSUE
44 TO THE VICTIM A VICTIM NOTICE FORM AND A COPY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS
45 ARTICLE. IN THE EVENT THAT THE VICTIM IS DECEASED OR IS UNDER THE AGE
46 OF EIGHTEEN OR IS UNABLE BY REASON OF MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY TO
47 FILL OUT A VICTIM NOTICE FORM, THE FORM AND A COPY OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL
48 BE ISSUED TO ANY FAMILY MEMBER WHO APPEARS TO REPRESENT THE INTEREST OF
49 THE VICTIM.

50 2. AT THE TIME A VICTIM NOTICE IS ISSUED AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION
51 ONE OF THIS SECTION, THE PERSON ISSUING SAID NOTICE SHALL INDICATE THER-
52 EON HIS OR HER OWN NAME AND (A) IF NO CRIMINAL ACTION HAS YET BEEN
53 COMMENCED, THE PLACE WHERE THE RECORD OF THE REPORT OF THE CRIME WILL BE
54 MAINTAINED, OR (B) IF A CRIMINAL ACTION HAS BEEN COMMENCED (I) THE COURT
55 WHERE SUCH ACTION PRESENTLY IS PENDING, (II) THE PART, IF KNOWN, TO
56 WHICH SUCH ACTION HAS BEEN ASSIGNED, AND (III) THE DOCKET NUMBER,

1 INDICTMENT NUMBER OR OTHER IDENTIFYING NUMBER, IF KNOWN, ASSIGNED TO THE
2 CRIMINAL ACTION. THE PERSON ISSUING A VICTIM NOTICE FORM SHALL, ALSO AT
3 THE TIME OF ISSUANCE, INFORM THE VICTIM OR FAMILY MEMBER OF THE MANNER
4 AND PLACE WHERE SUCH FORM MUST BE FILED IF AN ELECTION TO FILE IS MADE.

5 3. A PERSON TO WHOM A VICTIM NOTICE HAS BEEN ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS
6 SECTION MAY, IF HE OR SHE SO ELECTS, FILE, BY MAIL OR IN PERSON, THE
7 VICTIM NOTICE AT THE PLACE INDICATED IN PARAGRAPH (A) OR SUBPARAGRAPH
8 (I) OF PARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION. WHERE THE
9 NOTICE HAS BEEN FILED AT THE PLACE SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDI-
10 VISION TWO OF THIS SECTION, IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF THE POLICE OFFICER
11 WHO APPEARS AT THE ARRAIGNMENT ON THE FIRST ACCUSATORY INSTRUMENT FILED
12 IN ANY CRIMINAL ACTION BASED UPON THE CRIME TO SUBMIT THE VICTIM NOTICE
13 TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT. WHERE A VICTIM NOTICE HAS BEEN SO SUBMITTED,
14 OR WHERE A VICTIM NOTICE IS FILED WITH THE COURT INDICATED IN SUBPARA-
15 GRAPH (I) OF PARAGRAPH (B) OF SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION, IT SHALL
16 BE THE DUTY OF THE CLERK OF THE COURT OR THE CLERK OF THE PART TO ATTACH
17 THE NOTICE TO THE ACCUSATORY INSTRUMENT.

18 4. A VICTIM NOTICE FILED WITH AN ACCUSATORY INSTRUMENT MUST BE TRANS-
19 MITTED TO ANY COURT THAT SUBSEQUENTLY ACQUIRES JURISDICTION OF THE CRIM-
20 INAL ACTION AND MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE ACCUSATORY INSTRUMENT FILED
21 THEREIN. IT ALSO SHALL BE ATTACHED TO ALL SUPERSEDING ACCUSATORY
22 INSTRUMENTS.

23 5. IF A SENTENCE IS IMPOSED OR OTHER COURT ORDER ISSUED REQUIRING
24 CUSTODIAL PLACEMENT, THE CLERK OF THE COURT OR THE CLERK OF THE PART
25 SHALL TRANSMIT A VICTIM NOTICE TO THE CUSTODIAL INSTITUTION WHERE PLACE-
26 MENT IS TO OCCUR. FURTHER, IF AT ANY TIME THE ORIGINAL CUSTODIAL INSTI-
27 TUTION TRANSFERS AN INDIVIDUAL TO ANY OTHER CUSTODIAL INSTITUTION A
28 VICTIM NOTICE SHALL ACCOMPANY SUCH TRANSFER.
29 S 740.20 NOTIFICATION OF VICTIM.

30 1. WHEN A VICTIM NOTICE HAS BEEN FILED PURSUANT TO SECTION 740.15 OF
31 THIS ARTICLE AND A VICTIM OR A FAMILY MEMBER HAS INDICATED THEREIN A
32 WISH TO BE ADVISED AS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS IN THE CRIMINAL ACTION
33 INVOLVING THE CRIME, THEN NO COURT SHALL MAKE ANY DISCRETIONARY DISPOSI-
34 TION IN THE ACTION UNLESS THE VICTIM OR FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS FILED THE
35 NOTICE IS PRESENT OR THE COURT HAS ASCERTAINED THAT REASONABLE EFFORTS
36 HAVE BEEN MADE TO GIVE SUCH PERSON AT LEAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS ADVANCE
37 NOTICE OF THE FACT THAT A DISCRETIONARY DISPOSITION IS TO BE MADE IN THE
38 ACTION.

39 2. WHERE THE VICTIM OR FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS FILED THE NOTICE IS PRES-
40 ENT, THE COURT SHALL NOT MAKE ANY DISCRETIONARY DISPOSITION IN THE
41 ACTION UNLESS THE COURT FIRST ADVISES SUCH PERSON OF THE SUBJECT MATTER
42 OF THE DISPOSITION TO BE MADE AND ASKS SUCH PERSON WHETHER HE OR SHE
43 WISHES TO MAKE A STATEMENT WITH RESPECT THERETO. IF SUCH PERSON WISHES
44 TO MAKE A STATEMENT, THE COURT SHALL GRANT HIM OR HER AN OPPORTUNITY TO
45 DO SO BEFORE MAKING A DISCRETIONARY DISPOSITION.

46 3. WHETHER OR NOT A VICTIM OR FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS FILED A VICTIM
47 NOTICE APPEARS IN COURT, THE CLERK OF THE COURT SHALL PROMPTLY FORWARD
48 BY MAIL TO ANY PERSON WHO HAS FILED A VICTIM NOTICE A NOTIFICATION AS TO
49 THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

50 (A) ANY DISCRETIONARY DISPOSITION, INCLUDING THE SPECIFICS THEREOF;
51 (B) ANY DISMISSAL OF THE ACCUSATORY INSTRUMENT; AND
52 (C) ANY REVERSAL OR MODIFICATION OF THE JUDGMENT BY AN APPELLATE
53 COURT.

54 4. WHEN A VICTIM NOTICE HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION
55 FIVE OF SECTION 740.15 OF THIS ARTICLE AND A VICTIM OR FAMILY MEMBER HAS
56 INDICATED THEREIN A WISH TO BE ADVISED OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY

1 ACTIONS, THEN NO CUSTODIAL INSTITUTION SHALL RELEASE, DISCHARGE, PAROLE,
2 FURLOUGH, GRANT TEMPORARY PASS, GRANT WORK RELEASE PRIVILEGES TO A
3 PERSON IN ITS CUSTODY UNLESS IT SHALL FORWARD BY MAIL NOTICE, AT LEAST
4 EIGHT DAYS, EXCLUDING SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS, IN ADVANCE OF
5 SUCH PERSON'S CHANGE OF STATUS, TO THE VICTIM OR FAMILY MEMBER.

6 5. WHEN A VICTIM NOTICE HAS BEEN FILED PURSUANT TO SECTION 740.15 OF
7 THIS ARTICLE AND A VICTIM OR A FAMILY MEMBER HAS INDICATED THEREIN A
8 WISH TO BE ADVISED OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES'
9 ACTIONS THEN IT SHALL BE THE DUTY, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, OF THE INVESTIGAT-
10 ING POLICE OFFICER AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY OR AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DISTRICT
11 ATTORNEY TO INFORM A VICTIM, UPON ORAL OR WRITTEN REQUEST, OF THE
12 PROGRESS, STATUS OR RESULTS OF AN INVESTIGATION OR THE PROGRESS OR
13 STATUS OF A CASE WHICH IS BASED UPON THE CRIME OF WHICH HE OR SHE WAS A
14 VICTIM. HOWEVER, DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION MAY BE WITHHELD FROM A
15 VICTIM IF SUCH INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL OR COULD POTENTIALLY COMPRO-
16 MISE THE RESULTS OF AN INVESTIGATION OR PROSECUTION AS THE CASE MAY BE.
17 S 740.25 VICTIM FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE INFORMATION.

18 NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABSENCE OF FILING A VICTIM NOTICE, WHENEVER A
19 VICTIM SHALL GIVE INFORMATION TO A POLICE OFFICER OR TO A DISTRICT
20 ATTORNEY OR AN EMPLOYEE OF A DISTRICT ATTORNEY CONCERNING A CRIME OF
21 WHICH HE OR SHE IS A VICTIM, SUCH OFFICER, DISTRICT ATTORNEY OR EMPLOYEE
22 SHALL, TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITY, PROVIDE THE VICTIM WITH INFORMATION
23 ABOUT FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO CRIME
24 VICTIMS. THIS INFORMATION SHALL INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, INFOR-
25 MATION ABOUT AVAILABLE: RAPE CRISIS CENTERS; VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE
26 PROGRAMS; ELDERLY VICTIM PROJECTS; THE CRIME VICTIMS BOARD; VICTIM
27 ASSISTANCE HOTLINES; AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS AND PROGRAMS.

28 S 3. Subparagraph (A) of paragraph (c) of subdivision 2 of section
29 259-i of the executive law, as separately amended by chapters 40 and 126
30 of the laws of 1999, is amended to read as follows:

31 (A) Discretionary release on parole shall not be granted merely as a
32 reward for good conduct or efficient performance of duties while
33 confined but after considering if there is a reasonable probability
34 that, if such inmate is released, he will live and remain at liberty
35 without violating the law, and that his release is not incompatible with
36 the welfare of society and will not so deprecate the seriousness of his
37 crime as to undermine respect for law. In making the parole release
38 decision, the guidelines adopted pursuant to subdivision four of section
39 two hundred fifty-nine-c of this article shall require that the follow-
40 ing be considered: (i) the institutional record including program goals
41 and accomplishments, academic achievements, vocational education, train-
42 ing or work assignments, therapy and interpersonal relationships with
43 staff and inmates; (ii) performance, if any, as a participant in a
44 temporary release program; (iii) release plans including community
45 resources, employment, education and training and support services
46 available to the inmate; (iv) any deportation order issued by the feder-
47 al government against the inmate while in the custody of the department
48 of correctional services and any recommendation regarding deportation
49 made by the commissioner of the department of correctional services
50 pursuant to section one hundred forty-seven of the correction law; and
51 (v) any statement made to the board by the crime victim or the victim's
52 representative, where the crime victim is deceased or is mentally or
53 physically incapacitated. The board shall provide toll free telephone
54 access for crime victims. [In the case of an oral statement made in
55 accordance with subdivision one of section 440.50 of the criminal proce-
56 dure law, the parole board member shall present a written report of the

1 statement to the parole board.] A crime victim's representative shall
2 mean the crime victim's closest surviving relative, the committee or
3 guardian of such person, or the legal representative of any such person.
4 Such statement submitted by the victim or victim's representative may
5 include information concerning threatening or intimidating conduct
6 toward the victim, the victim's representative, or the victim's family,
7 made by the person sentenced and occurring after the sentencing. Such
8 information may include, but need not be limited to, the threatening or
9 intimidating conduct of any other person who or which is directed by the
10 person sentenced. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, in
11 making the parole release decision for persons whose minimum period of
12 imprisonment was not fixed pursuant to the provisions of subdivision one
13 of this section, in addition to the factors listed in this paragraph the
14 board shall consider the factors listed in paragraph (a) of subdivision
15 one of this section.

16 S 4. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 of section 646-a of the executive
17 law, as added by chapter 67 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 (b) the rights of crime victims to routine notification of judicial
20 proceedings relating to their case as provided in section six hundred
21 forty-one of this article[,] AND in section 330.20[, and section 440.50]
22 of the criminal procedure law [and section one hundred forty-nine-a of
23 the correction law];

24 S 5. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeed-
25 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.