

CHAPTER 611A

CRIME VICTIMS: RIGHTS, PROGRAMS, AGENCIES

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611A.01 DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of sections 611A.01 to 611A.04 and 611A.06:

(a) "Crime" means conduct that is prohibited by local ordinance and results in bodily harm to an individual; or conduct that is included within the definition of "crime" in section 609.02, subdivision 1, or would be included within that definition but for the fact that (i) the person engaging in the conduct lacked capacity to commit the crime under the laws of this state, or (ii) the act was alleged or found to have been committed by a juvenile;

(b) "Victim" means a natural person who incurs loss or harm as a result of a crime, and for purposes of sections 611A.04 and 611A.045, also includes a corporation that incurs loss or harm as a result of a crime. If the victim is a natural person and is deceased, "victim" means the deceased's surviving spouse or next of kin; and

(c) "Juvenile" has the same meaning as given to the term "child" in section 260.015, subdivision 2.

History: 1983 c 262 art 1 s 1; 1987 c 254 s 10; 1988 c 649 s 1

611A.02 NOTIFICATION OF VICTIM SERVICES AND VICTIMS' RIGHTS.

Subdivision 1. **Victim services.** The commissioner of corrections, in cooperation with the executive director of the crime victims reparations board, shall develop a plan to provide victims with information concerning victim services in the geographic area where the crime occurred. This information shall include, but need not be limited to, information about available victim crisis centers, programs for victims of sexual assault, victim witness programs, elderly victims projects, victim assistance hotlines, incest abuse programs, and domestic violence shelters and programs.

The plan shall take into account the fact that some counties currently have informational service systems and victim or witness services or programs.

This plan shall be presented to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature no later than February 1, 1984.

Subd. 2. **Victims' rights.** (a) The commissioner of public safety, in consultation with the crime victim and witness advisory council, must develop a notice of the rights of crime victims. The notice must include a form for the preparation of a preliminary written victim impact summary. A preliminary victim impact summary is a concise statement of the immediate and expected damage to the victim as a result of the crime. A victim desiring to file a preliminary victim impact summary must file the summary with the investigating officer no more than five days after the victim receives the notice from a peace officer. If a preliminary victim impact statement is filed with the investigating officer, it must be sent to the prosecutor with other investigative materials. If a prosecutor has received a preliminary victim impact summary, the prosecutor must present the summary to the court. This subdivision does not relieve a probation officer of the notice requirements imposed by section 611A.037, subdivision 2.

(b) The notice of the rights of crime victims must be distributed by a peace officer to each victim, as defined in section 611A.01, when the peace officer takes a formal statement from the victim. A peace officer is not obligated to distribute the notice if a victim does not make a formal statement. The notice must inform a victim of:

- (1) the victim's right to request restitution under section 611A.04;
- (2) the victim's right to be notified of any plea negotiations under section 611A.03;
- (3) the victim's right to be present at sentencing, and to object orally or in writing to a proposed agreement or disposition; and
- (4) the victim's right to be notified of the final disposition of the case.

History: 1983 c 262 art 1 s 2; 1988 c 649 s 2; 1991 c 170 s 3; 1992 c 464 art 1 s 50

611A.021 NOTICE OF RIGHT TO REQUEST WITHHOLDING OF CERTAIN PUBLIC DATA.

A victim has a right under section 13.82, subdivision 10, clause (d), to request a law enforcement agency to withhold public access to data revealing the victim's identity.

History: 1990 c 579 s 7

611A.03 PLEA AGREEMENTS; NOTIFICATION.

Subdivision 1. **Plea agreements; notification of victim.** Prior to the entry of the factual basis for a plea pursuant to a plea agreement recommendation, a prosecuting attorney shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to inform the victim of:

(a) The contents of the plea agreement recommendation, including the amount of time recommended for the defendant to serve in jail or prison if the court accepts the agreement; and

(b) The right to be present at the sentencing hearing and to express orally or in writing, at the victim's option, any objection to the agreement or to the proposed disposition. If the victim is not present when the court considers the recommendation, but has communicated objections to the prosecuting attorney, the prosecuting attorney shall make these objections known to the court.

Subd. 2. Notification duties. A prosecuting attorney satisfies the requirements of subdivision 1 by notifying:

(a) The victim's legal guardian or guardian ad litem; or

(b) The three victims the prosecuting attorney believes to have suffered the most, if there are more than three victims of the offense.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1988 c 649 s 5]

History: 1983 c 262 art 1 s 3; 1986 c 351 s 18; 1986 c 444; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 76; 1989 c 190 s 3; 1992 c 571 art 5 s 4

611A.031 VICTIM INPUT REGARDING PRETRIAL DIVERSION.

A prosecutor shall make every reasonable effort to notify and seek input from the victim prior to referring a person into a pretrial diversion program in lieu of prosecution for a violation of sections 609.185, 609.19, 609.195, 609.20, 609.205, 609.221, 609.222, 609.223, 609.224, 609.24, 609.245, 609.25, 609.255, 609.342, 609.343, 609.344, 609.345, 609.365, 609.498, 609.561, 609.582, subdivision 1, and 609.687.

History: 1986 c 463 s 6; 1987 c 331 s 10

611A.0311 DOMESTIC ABUSE PROSECUTIONS PLAN AND PROCEDURES; PILOT PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) "Domestic abuse" has the meaning given in section 518B.01, subdivision 2.

(b) "Domestic abuse case" means a prosecution for: (1) a crime that involves domestic abuse; (2) violation of a condition of release following an arrest for a crime that involves domestic abuse; or (3) violation of a domestic abuse order for protection.

Subd. 2. Contents of plan. Each county and city attorney shall develop and implement a written plan to expedite and improve the efficiency and just disposition of domestic abuse cases brought to the prosecuting authority. Domestic abuse advocates, law enforcement officials, and other interested members of the public must have an opportunity to assist in the development or adaptation of the plans in each jurisdiction. The commissioner shall make the model and related training and technical assistance available to all city and county attorneys. All plans must state goals and contain policies and procedures to address the following matters:

(1) early assignment of a trial prosecutor who has the responsibility of handling the domestic abuse case through disposition, whenever feasible, or, where applicable, probation revocation; and early contact between the trial prosecutor and the victim;

(2) procedures to facilitate the earliest possible contact between the prosecutor's office and the victim for the purpose of acquainting the victim with the criminal justice process, the use of subpoenas, the victim's role as a witness in the prosecution, and the domestic abuse or victim services that are available;

(3) procedures to coordinate the trial prosecutor's efforts with those of the domestic abuse advocate or victim advocate, where available, and to facilitate the early provision of advocacy services to the victim;

(4) procedures to encourage the prosecution of all domestic abuse cases where a crime can be proven;

(5) methods that will be used to identify, gather, and preserve evidence in addition to the victim's in-court testimony that will enhance the ability to prosecute a case when

a victim is reluctant to assist, including but not limited to physical evidence of the victim's injury, evidence relating to the scene of the crime, eyewitness testimony, and statements of the victim made at or near the time of the injury;

(6) procedures for educating local law enforcement agencies about the contents of the plan and their role in assisting with its implementation;

(7) the use for subpoenas to victims and witnesses, where appropriate;

(8) procedures for annual review of the plan to evaluate whether it is meeting its goals effectively and whether improvements are needed; and

(9) a timetable for implementation.

Subd. 3. **Notice filed with department of public safety.** Each city and county attorney shall file a notice that a prosecution plan has been adopted with the commissioner of public safety by June 1, 1994.

History: 1990 c 583 s 5; 1992 c 571 art 6 s 18,19

611A.0315 VICTIM NOTIFICATION; DOMESTIC ASSAULT.

Subdivision 1. **Notice of decision not to prosecute.** (a) A prosecutor shall make every reasonable effort to notify a domestic assault victim that the prosecutor has decided to decline prosecution of the case or to dismiss the criminal charges filed against the defendant. Efforts to notify the victim should include, in order of priority: (1) contacting the victim or a person designated by the victim by telephone; and (2) contacting the victim by mail. If a suspect is still in custody, the notification attempt shall be made before the suspect is released from custody.

(b) Whenever a prosecutor dismisses criminal charges against a person accused of domestic assault, a record shall be made of the specific reasons for the dismissal. If the dismissal is due to the unavailability of the witness, the prosecutor shall indicate the specific reason that the witness is unavailable.

Subd. 2. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given them.

(a) "Assault" has the meaning given it in section 609.02, subdivision 10.

(b) "Domestic assault" means an assault committed by the actor against a family or household member.

(c) "Family or household member" has the meaning given it in section 518B.01, subdivision 2.

History: 1988 c 638 s 4; 1990 c 583 s 6

611A.032 SPEEDY TRIAL; NOTICE OF SCHEDULE CHANGE.

A prosecutor shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notice of any change in the schedule of the court proceedings to a victim who has been subpoenaed or requested to testify.

History: 1986 c 463 s 7

611A.033 SPEEDY TRIAL; NOTICE OF SCHEDULE CHANGE.

(a) A victim has the right to request that the prosecutor make a demand under rule 11.10 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure that the trial be commenced within 60 days of the demand. The prosecutor shall make reasonable efforts to comply with the victim's request.

(b) A prosecutor shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notice of any change in the schedule of the court proceedings to a victim who has been subpoenaed or requested to testify.

History: 1986 c 435 s 12

611A.034 SEPARATE WAITING AREAS IN COURTHOUSE.

The court shall provide a waiting area for victims during court proceedings which

is separate from the waiting area used by the defendant, the defendant's relatives, and defense witnesses, if such a waiting area is available and its use is practical. If a separate waiting area for victims is not available or practical, the court shall provide other safeguards to minimize the victim's contact with the defendant, the defendant's relatives, and defense witnesses during court proceedings, such as increased bailiff surveillance and victim escorts.

History: 1986 c 435 s 13; 1992 c 571 art 5 s 5

611A.035 CONFIDENTIALITY OF VICTIM'S ADDRESS.

No victim or witness providing testimony in court proceedings may be compelled to state a home or employment address on the record in open court unless the court finds that the testimony would be relevant evidence.

History: 1986 c 444; 1986 c 463 s 8; 1987 c 331 s 11

611A.036 PROHIBITION AGAINST EMPLOYER RETALIATION.

An employer or employer's agent who threatens to discharge or discipline a victim, or who discharges, disciplines, or causes a victim to be discharged from employment or disciplined because the victim is subpoenaed or requested by the prosecutor to attend court for the purpose of giving testimony, is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished for contempt of court. In addition, the court shall order the employer to offer job reinstatement to any victim discharged from employment in violation of this section, and to pay the victim back wages as appropriate.

History: 1986 c 463 s 9

611A.037 PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION; VICTIM IMPACT; NOTICE.

Subdivision 1. **Victim impact statement.** A presentence investigation report prepared under section 609.115 shall include the following information relating to victims:

- (a) a summary of the damages or harm and any other problems generated by the criminal occurrence;
- (b) a concise statement of what disposition the victim deems appropriate for the defendant or juvenile court respondent, including reasons given, if any, by the victim in support of the victim's opinion; and
- (c) an attachment to the report, consisting of the victim's written objections, if any, to the proposed disposition if the victim provides the officer conducting the presentence investigation with this written material within a reasonable time prior to the disposition.

Subd. 2. **Notice to victim.** The officer conducting a presentence or predispositional investigation shall make reasonable and good faith efforts to contact the victim of that crime and to provide that victim with the following information: (i) the charge or juvenile court petition to which the defendant has been convicted or pleaded guilty, or the juvenile respondent has admitted in court or has been found to have committed by the juvenile court, and of any plea agreement between the prosecution and the defense counsel; (ii) the victim's right to request restitution pursuant to section 611A.04; (iii) the time and place of the sentencing or juvenile court disposition and the victim's right to be present; and (iv) the victim's right to object in writing to the court, prior to the time of sentencing or juvenile court disposition, to the proposed sentence or juvenile dispositional alternative, or to the terms of the proposed plea agreement. To assist the victim in making a recommendation under clause (iv), the officer shall provide the victim with information about the court's options for sentencing and other dispositions. Failure of the officer to comply with this subdivision does not give any rights or grounds for postconviction or postjuvenile disposition relief to the defendant or juvenile court respondent, nor does it entitle a defendant or a juvenile court respondent to withdraw a plea of guilty.

History: 1987 c 331 s 12

611A.038 RIGHT TO SUBMIT STATEMENT AT SENTENCING.

A victim has the right to submit an impact statement to the court at the time of sentencing or disposition hearing. The impact statement may be presented to the court orally or in writing, at the victim's option. If the victim requests, the prosecutor must orally present the statement to the court.

Statements may include the following, subject to reasonable limitations as to time and length:

- (1) a summary of the harm or trauma suffered by the victim as a result of the crime;
- (2) a summary of the economic loss or damage suffered by the victim as a result of the crime; and
- (3) a victim's reaction to the proposed sentence or disposition.

History: 1988 c 649 s 3; 1989 c 290 art 2 s 16

611A.039 RIGHT TO NOTICE OF FINAL DISPOSITION OF CRIMINAL CASE.

Subdivision 1. Notice required. Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 2, within 15 working days after a conviction, acquittal, or dismissal in a criminal case in which there is an identifiable crime victim, the prosecutor shall make reasonable good faith efforts to provide to each affected crime victim oral or written notice of the final disposition of the case.

Subd. 2. Exception. If a prosecutor contacts an identifiable crime victim in advance of the final case disposition, either orally or in writing, and notifies the victim of the victim's right to request information on the final disposition of the case, the prosecutor shall only be required to provide the notice described in subdivision 1 to those victims who have indicated in advance their desire to be notified of the final case disposition.

History: 1991 c 170 s 4

611A.04 ORDER OF RESTITUTION.

Subdivision 1. Request; decision. (a) A victim of a crime has the right to receive restitution as part of the disposition of a criminal charge or juvenile delinquency proceeding against the offender if the offender is convicted or found delinquent. The court, or a person or agency designated by the court, shall request information from the victim to determine the amount of restitution owed. The court or its designee shall obtain the information from the victim in affidavit form. Information submitted relating to restitution must describe the items or elements of loss, itemize the total dollar amounts of restitution claimed, and specify the reasons justifying these amounts, if restitution is in the form of money or property. A request for restitution may include, but is not limited to, any out-of-pocket losses resulting from the crime, including medical and therapy costs, replacement of wages and services, and funeral expenses. In order to be considered at the sentencing or dispositional hearing, all information regarding restitution must be received by the court administrator of the appropriate court and must also be provided to the offender at least three business days before the sentencing or dispositional hearing. If the victim's noncooperation prevents the court or its designee from obtaining competent evidence regarding restitution, the court is not obligated to consider information regarding restitution in the sentencing or dispositional hearing. At the sentencing or dispositional hearing, the court shall give the offender an opportunity to respond to specific items of restitution and their dollar amounts.

(b) The court may amend or issue an order of restitution after the sentencing or dispositional hearing if:

- (1) the offender is on probation or supervised release;
- (2) information regarding restitution was submitted as required under paragraph (a); and
- (3) the true extent of the victim's loss was not known at the time of the sentencing or dispositional hearing.

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If the court holds a hearing on the restitution request, the court must notify the offender, the offender's attorney, the victim, and the prosecutor at least five business days before the hearing. The court's restitution decision is governed by this section and section 611A.045.

(c) The court shall grant or deny restitution or partial restitution and shall state on the record its reasons for its decision on restitution if information relating to restitution has been presented. If the court grants partial restitution it shall also specify the full amount of restitution that may be docketed as a civil judgment under subdivision 3. The court may not require that the victim waive or otherwise forfeit any rights or causes of action as a condition of granting restitution or partial restitution.

Subd. 1a. Crime board request. The crime victims reparations board may request restitution on behalf of a victim by filing a copy of a claim for reparations submitted under sections 611A.52 to 611A.67, along with orders of the board, if any, which detail any amounts paid by the board to the victim. The board may file the claim with the court administrator or with the person or agency the court has designated to obtain information relating to restitution. In either event, the board shall submit the claim not less than three business days before the sentencing or dispositional hearing. If the board submits the claim directly to the court administrator, it shall also provide a copy to the offender. The filing of a claim for reparations with the court administrator shall also serve as a request for restitution by the victim. The restitution requested by the board may be considered to be both on its own behalf and on behalf of the victim. If the board has not paid reparations to the victim, restitution may be made directly to the victim. If the board has paid reparations to the victim, the court shall order restitution payments to be made directly to the board.

Subd. 1b. Affidavit of disclosure. An offender who has been ordered by the court to make restitution in an amount of \$500 or more shall file an affidavit of financial disclosure with the correctional agency responsible for investigating the financial resources of the offender on request of the agency. The commissioner of corrections shall prescribe what financial information the affidavit must contain.

Subd. 2. Procedures. The offender shall make restitution payments to the court administrator of the county, municipal, or district court of the county in which the restitution is to be paid. The court administrator shall disburse restitution in incremental payments and may not keep a restitution payment for longer than 30 days; except that the court administrator is not required to disburse a restitution payment that is under \$10 unless the payment would fulfill the offender's restitution obligation. The court administrator shall keep records of the amount of restitution ordered in each case, any change made to the restitution order, and the amount of restitution actually paid by the offender. The court administrator shall forward the data collected to the state court administrator who shall compile the data and make it available to the supreme court and the legislature upon request.

Subd. 3. Effect of order for restitution. An order of restitution may be enforced by any person named in the order to receive the restitution in the same manner as a judgment in a civil action. An order of restitution shall be docketed as a civil judgment by the court administrator of the district court in the county in which the order of restitution was entered. A juvenile court is not required to appoint a guardian ad litem for a juvenile offender before docketing a restitution order. Interest shall accrue on the unpaid balance of the judgment as provided in section 549.09. A decision for or against restitution in any criminal or juvenile proceeding is not a bar to any civil action by the victim or by the state pursuant to section 611A.61 against the offender. The offender shall be given credit, in any order for judgment in favor of a victim in a civil action, for any restitution paid to the victim for the same injuries for which the judgment is awarded.

History: 1983 c 262 art 1 s 4,6; 1985 c 110 s 1; 1986 c 463 s 10; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 82; 1987 c 244 s 2; 1987 c 254 s 11; 1989 c 21 s 4-6; 1990 c 579 s 8; 1991 c 211 s 1; 1992 c 571 art 5 s 6,7

611A.045 PROCEDURE FOR ISSUING ORDER OF RESTITUTION.

Subdivision 1. **Criteria.** The court, in determining whether to order restitution and the amount of the restitution, shall consider the following factors:

- (1) the amount of economic loss sustained by the victim as a result of the offense; and
- (2) the income, resources, and obligations of the defendant.

Subd. 2. **Presentence investigation.** The presentence investigation report made pursuant to section 609.115, subdivision 1, must contain information pertaining to the factors set forth in subdivision 1.

Subd. 2a. **Payment structure.** The court shall include in every restitution order a provision requiring a payment schedule or structure. The court may assign the responsibility for developing the schedule or structure to the court administrator, a probation officer, or another designated person. The person who develops the payment schedule or structure shall consider relevant information supplied by the defendant. If the defendant is placed on supervised probation, the payment schedule or structure must be incorporated into the probation agreement and must provide that the obligation to pay restitution continues throughout the term of probation. If the defendant is not placed on probation, the structure or schedule must provide that the obligation to pay restitution begins no later than 60 days after the restitution order is issued.

Subd. 3. **Dispute; evidentiary burden.** A dispute as to the proper amount or type of restitution must be resolved by the court by the preponderance of the evidence. The burden of demonstrating the amount of loss sustained by a victim as a result of the offense and the appropriateness of a particular type of restitution is on the prosecution.

History: 1985 c 110 s 2; 1989 c 21 s 7

611A.046 VICTIM'S RIGHT TO REQUEST PROBATION REVIEW HEARING.

A victim has the right to ask the offender's probation officer to request a probation review hearing if the offender fails to pay restitution as required in a restitution order.

History: 1989 c 21 s 8

611A.05 PENALTIES NO BAR TO CIVIL REMEDIES.

The provision in any law for a penalty or forfeiture for its violation shall not be construed to deprive an injured person of the right to recover from the offender damages sustained by reason of the violation of such law.

History: 1941 c 492 s 23; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

611A.06 RIGHT TO NOTICE OF RELEASE.

Subdivision 1. **Notice of release required.** The commissioner of corrections or other custodial authority shall make a good faith effort to notify the victim that the offender is to be released from imprisonment or incarceration, including release on extended furlough and for work release; released from a juvenile correctional facility; released from a facility in which the offender was confined due to incompetency, mental illness, or mental deficiency, or commitment under section 253B.18; or transferred from one correctional facility to another when the correctional program involves less security, if the victim has mailed to the commissioner of corrections or to the head of the facility in which the offender is confined a written request for this notice. The good faith effort to notify the victim must occur prior to the release, transfer, or change in security status. For a victim of a felony crime against the person for which the offender was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of more than 18 months, the good faith effort to notify the victim must occur 60 days before the offender's release, transfer, or change in security status.

Subd. 2. **Contents of notice.** The notice given to a victim of a crime against a person must include the conditions governing the offender's release, and either the identity of the corrections agent who will be supervising the offender's release or a means to iden-

tify the court services agency that will be supervising the offender's release. The commissioner or other custodial authority complies with this section upon mailing the notice of impending release to the victim at the address which the victim has most recently provided to the commissioner or authority in writing.

Subd. 3. Notice of escape. If an offender escapes from imprisonment or incarceration, including from release on extended furlough or work release, or from any facility described in subdivision 1, the commissioner or other custodial authority shall make all reasonable efforts to notify a victim who has requested notice of the offender's release under subdivision 1 within six hours after discovering the escape and shall also make reasonable efforts to notify the victim within 24 hours after the offender is apprehended.

Subd. 4. Private data. All identifying information regarding the victim, including the victim's request and the notice provided by the commissioner or custodial authority, is classified as private data on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12, and is accessible only to the victim.

Subd. 5. Definition. As used in this section, "crime against the person" means a crime listed in section 611A.031.

History: 1983 c 262 art 1 s 5; 1986 c 444; 1986 c 445 s 4; 1986 c 463 s 11; 1987 c 224 s 3; 1988 c 649 s 4; 1989 c 190 s 4; 1990 c 579 s 9; 1991 c 170 s 5

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

611A.07 ELECTRONIC MONITORING TO PROTECT DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS; STANDARDS.

Subdivision 1. Generally. The commissioner of corrections, after considering the recommendations of the battered women advisory council and the sexual assault advisory council, and in collaboration with the commissioner of public safety, shall adopt standards governing electronic monitoring devices used to protect victims of domestic abuse. In developing proposed standards, the commissioner shall consider the experience of the courts in the tenth judicial district in the use of the devices to protect victims of domestic abuse. These standards shall promote the safety of the victim and shall include measures to avoid the disparate use of the device with communities of color, product standards, monitoring agency standards, and victim disclosure standards.

Subd. 2. Report to legislature. By January 1, 1993, the commissioner of corrections shall report to the legislature on the proposed standards for electronic monitoring devices used to protect victims of domestic abuse.

History: 1992 c 571 art 6 s 20

SEX OFFENDER HIV TESTING

611A.19 TESTING OF SEX OFFENDER FOR HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS.

Subdivision 1. Testing on request of victim. (a) The sentencing court may issue an order requiring a person convicted of violating section 609.342, 609.343, 609.344, or 609.345, to submit to testing to determine the presence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) antibody if:

- (1) the prosecutor moves for the test order in camera;
- (2) the victim requests the test; and

(3) evidence exists that the broken skin or mucous membrane of the victim was exposed to or had contact with the offender's semen or blood during commission of the crime.

(b) If the court grants the prosecutor's motion, the court shall order that the test be performed by an appropriate health professional and that no reference to the test, the motion requesting the test, the test order, or the test results may appear in the criminal record or be maintained in any record of the court or court services.

Subd. 2. **Disclosure of test results.** The date and results of any test performed under subdivision 1 are private data as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12, when maintained by a person subject to chapter 13, or may be released only with the subject's consent, if maintained by a person not subject to chapter 13. The results are available, on request, to the victim or, if the victim is a minor, to the victim's parent or guardian and positive test results shall be reported to the commissioner of health. Any test results given to a victim or victim's parent or guardian shall be provided by a health professional who is trained to provide the counseling described in section 144.763. Data regarding administration and results of the test are not accessible to any other person for any purpose and shall not be maintained in any record of the court or court services or any other record. After the test results are given to the victim or the victim's parent or guardian, data on the test must be removed from any medical data or health records maintained under section 13.42 or 144.335 and destroyed.

History: 1992 c 569 s 27

NOTICE OF RISK OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE

611A.20 NOTICE OF RISK OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE.

Subdivision 1. **Notice required.** A hospital shall give a written notice about sexually transmitted diseases to a person receiving medical services in the hospital who reports or evidences a sexual assault or other unwanted sexual contact or sexual penetration. When appropriate, the notice must be given to the parent or guardian of the victim.

Subd. 2. **Contents of notice.** The commissioners of public safety and corrections, in consultation with sexual assault victim advocates and health care professionals, shall develop the notice required by subdivision 1. The notice must inform the victim of:

- (1) the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases as a result of a sexual assault;
- (2) the symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases;
- (3) recommendations for periodic testing for the diseases, where appropriate;
- (4) locations where confidential testing is done and the extent of the confidentiality provided;
- (5) information necessary to make an informed decision whether to request a test of the offender under section 611A.19; and
- (6) other medically relevant information.

History: 1990 c 436 s 1; 1992 c 569 s 28

PROGRAM TO AID VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ATTACKS

611A.21 DEVELOPMENT OF STATEWIDE PROGRAM; DEFINITION; SERVICES.

Subdivision 1. The commissioner of corrections shall develop a community based, statewide program to aid victims of reported sexual attacks.

Subd. 2. As used in sections 611A.21 to 611A.23, a "sexual attack" means any nonconsensual act of rape, sodomy, or indecent liberties.

Subd. 3. The program developed by the commissioner of corrections may include, but not be limited to, provision of the following services:

- (a) Voluntary counseling by trained personnel to begin as soon as possible after a sexual attack is reported. The counselor shall be of the same sex as the victim and shall, if requested, accompany the victim to the hospital and to other proceedings concerning the alleged attack, including police questioning, police investigation, and court proceedings. The counselor shall also inform the victim of hospital procedures, police and court procedures, the possibility of contracting venereal disease, the possibility of

pregnancy, expected emotional reactions and any other relevant information; and shall make appropriate referrals for any assistance desired by the victim.

(b) Payment of all costs of any medical examinations and medical treatment which the victim may require as a result of the sexual attack if the victim is not otherwise reimbursed for these expenses or is ineligible to receive compensation under any other law of this state or of the United States.

History: 1974 c 578 s 1; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

611A.22 POWERS OF COMMISSIONER.

In addition to developing the statewide program, the commissioner of corrections may:

(a) Assist and encourage county attorneys to assign prosecuting attorneys trained in sensitivity and understanding of victims of sexual attacks;

(b) Assist the peace officers training board and municipal police forces to develop programs to provide peace officers training in sensitivity and understanding of victims of sexual attacks; and encourage the assignment of trained peace officers of the same sex as the victim to conduct all necessary questioning of the victim;

(c) Encourage hospital administrators to place a high priority on the expeditious treatment of victims of sexual attacks; and to retain personnel trained in sensitivity and understanding of victims of sexual attacks.

History: 1974 c 578 s 2; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

611A.221 ADDITIONAL POWER.

The department of correction's victim service unit is authorized to accept and expend funds received from other state agencies, other units of governments and other agencies, that result from the distribution of resource materials.

History: 1Sp1985 c 4 s 22

611A.23 FUNDING; PILOT PROGRAMS.

The commissioner of corrections shall seek funding from the governor's commission on crime prevention and control at the earliest possible date for purposes of sections 611A.21 to 611A.23. In addition, the commissioner of corrections shall seek and utilize all other available funding resources to establish pilot community programs to aid victims of sexual attacks before December 1, 1974.

History: 1974 c 578 s 3; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

611A.24 [Repealed, 1985 c 262 s 7]

611A.25 SEXUAL ASSAULT ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Subdivision 1. Creation. The commissioner of corrections shall appoint a 12-member advisory council on sexual assault to advise the commissioner on the implementation and continued operation of sections 611A.21 to 611A.23. The sexual assault advisory council shall also serve as a liaison between the commissioner and organizations that provide services to victims of sexual assault, and as an advocate within the department of corrections for the rights of sexual assault victims.

Subd. 2. Membership. No more than six of the members of the sexual assault advisory council may be representatives of community or governmental organizations that provide services to sexual assault victims. One-half of the council's members shall reside in the metropolitan area, composed of Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Dakota, Scott, Washington, and Carver counties, and one-half of the members shall reside in the nonmetropolitan area. To the extent possible, nonmetropolitan members must be representative of all nonmetropolitan regions of the state.

Subd. 3. Terms; vacancies; expenses. Section 15.059 governs the filling of vacancies and removal of members of the sexual assault advisory council. The terms of the

members of the advisory council shall be two years. No member may serve on the advisory council for more than two consecutive terms. Council members shall not receive per diem or expense reimbursement.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1991 c 272 s 20]

History: 1991 c 272 s 7

BATTERED WOMEN

611A.31 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. For the purposes of sections 611A.31 to 611A.36, the following terms have the meanings given.

Subd. 2. "Battered woman" means a woman who is being or has been victimized by domestic abuse as defined in section 518B.01, subdivision 2, except that "family or household members" includes persons with whom the woman has had a continuing relationship.

Subd. 3. "Emergency shelter services" include, but are not limited to, secure crisis shelters for battered women and housing networks for battered women.

Subd. 4. "Support services" include, but are not limited to, advocacy services, legal services, counseling services, transportation services, child care services, and 24 hour information and referral services.

Subd. 5. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of corrections or a designee.

History: 1977 c 428 s 1; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1986 c 444; 1991 c 272 s 8

611A.32 GENERAL CRIME VICTIM PROGRAMS.

Subdivision 1. **Grants awarded.** The commissioner shall award grants to programs which provide emergency shelter services and support services to battered women and their children. The commissioner shall also award grants for training, technical assistance, and for the development and implementation of education programs to increase public awareness of the causes of battering, the solutions to preventing and ending domestic violence, and the problems faced by battered women. Grants shall be awarded in a manner that ensures that they are equitably distributed to programs serving metropolitan and nonmetropolitan populations. By July 1, 1995, community-based domestic abuse advocacy and support services programs must be established in every judicial assignment district.

Subd. 1a. **Program for American Indian women.** The commissioner shall establish at least one program under this section to provide emergency shelter services and support services to battered American Indian women. The commissioner shall grant continuing operating expenses to the program established under this subdivision in the same manner as operating expenses are granted to programs established under subdivision 1.

Subd. 2. **Applications.** Any public or private nonprofit agency may apply to the commissioner for a grant to provide emergency shelter services, support services, or both, to battered women and their children. The application shall be submitted in a form approved by the commissioner by rule adopted under chapter 14, after consultation with the advisory council, and shall include:

(1) a proposal for the provision of emergency shelter services, support services, or both, for battered women and their children;

(2) a proposed budget;

(3) evidence of an ability to integrate into the proposed program the uniform method of data collection and program evaluation established under sections 611A.33 and 611A.34;

(4) evidence of an ability to represent the interests of battered women and their children to local law enforcement agencies and courts, county welfare agencies, and local boards or departments of health;

(5) evidence of an ability to do outreach to unserved and underserved populations and to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services; and

(6) any other content the commissioner may require by rule adopted under chapter 14, after considering the recommendations of the advisory council.

Programs which have been approved for grants in prior years may submit materials which indicate changes in items listed in clauses (1) to (6), in order to qualify for renewal funding. Nothing in this subdivision may be construed to require programs to submit complete applications for each year of renewal funding.

Subd. 3. Duties of grantees. Every public or private nonprofit agency which receives a grant to provide emergency shelter services and support services to battered women shall comply with all rules of the commissioner related to the administration of the pilot programs.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1991 c 272 s 20]

Subd. 5. Classification of data collected by grantees. Personal history information and other information collected, used or maintained by a grantee from which the identity of any battered woman may be determined is private data on individuals, as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12, and the grantee shall maintain the data in accordance with the provisions of chapter 13.

History: 1977 c 428 s 2; 1978 c 732 s 1-3; 1981 c 311 s 39; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 14; 1982 c 545 s 24; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 237; 1991 c 272 s 9,10; 1992 c 571 art 6 s 21

611A.33 DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER.

The commissioner shall:

(1) Review applications for and award grants to a program pursuant to section 611A.32, subdivision 1, after considering the recommendation of the advisory council;

(2) Appoint the members of the advisory council created under section 611A.34, and provide consultative staff and other administrative services to the advisory council;

(3) After considering the recommendation of the advisory council, appoint a program director to perform the duties set forth in section 611A.35;

(4) Design and implement a uniform method of collecting data on battered women to be used to evaluate the programs funded under section 611A.32;

(5) Provide technical aid to applicants in the development of grant requests and provide technical aid to programs in meeting the data collection requirements established by the commissioner; and

(6) Adopt, under chapter 14, all rules necessary to implement the provisions of sections 611A.31 to 611A.36.

History: 1977 c 428 s 3; 1978 c 732 s 4; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1991 c 272 s 11

611A.34 BATTERED WOMEN ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Subdivision 1. Generally. The commissioner shall appoint a 12-member advisory council to advise the commissioner on the implementation and continued operation of sections 611A.31 to 611A.36. The battered women's advisory council shall also serve as a liaison between the commissioner and organizations that provide services to battered women. Section 15.059 governs the filling of vacancies and removal of members of the advisory council. The terms of the members of the advisory council shall be two years. No member may serve on the advisory council for more than two consecutive terms. Notwithstanding section 15.059, the council shall not expire. Council members shall not receive per diem, but shall receive expenses in the same manner and amount as state employees.

Subd. 2. Membership. Persons appointed shall be knowledgeable about and have experience or interest in issues concerning battered women, including the need for effective advocacy services. The membership of the council shall broadly represent the interests of battered women in Minnesota. No more than six of the members of the bat-

tered women's advisory council may be representatives of community or governmental organizations that provide services to battered women. One-half of the council's members shall reside in the metropolitan area, composed of Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Dakota, Scott, Washington, and Carver counties, and one-half of the members shall reside in the nonmetropolitan area. To the extent possible, nonmetropolitan members must be representative of all nonmetropolitan regions of the state.

Subd. 3. Duties. The advisory council shall:

(1) advise the commissioner on all planning, development, data collection, rule-making, funding, and evaluation of programs and services for battered women that are funded under section 611A.32, other than matters of a purely administrative nature;

(2) advise the commissioner on the adoption of rules under chapter 14 governing the award of grants to ensure that funded programs are consistent with section 611A.32, subdivision 1;

(3) recommend to the commissioner the names of five applicants for the position of battered women's program director;

(4) advise the commissioner on the rules adopted under chapter 14 pursuant to section 611A.33;

(5) review applications received by the commissioner for grants under section 611A.32 and make recommendations on the awarding of grants; and

(6) advise the program director in the performance of duties in the administration and coordination of the programs funded under section 611A.32.

Subd. 4. Conflicts of interest. A member of the advisory council shall be excluded from participating in review and recommendations concerning a grant application if the member:

(1) serves or has served at any time during the past three years as an employee, volunteer, or governing board member of an organization whose application is being reviewed; or

(2) has a financial interest in the funding of the applicant organization.

History: 1977 c 428 s 4; 1983 c 260 s 50; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1984 c 655 art 1 s 36,37; 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 97; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 629 s 60; 1991 c 272 s 12

611A.345 ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS.

The commissioner shall consider the advisory council's recommendations before awarding grants or adopting policies regarding the planning, development, data collection, rulemaking, funding or evaluation of programs and services for battered women funded under section 611A.32. Before taking action on matters related to programs and services for battered women and their children, except day-to-day administrative operations, the commissioner shall notify the advisory council of the intended action. Notification of grant award decisions shall be given to the advisory council in time to allow the council to request reconsideration.

History: 1991 c 272 s 13

611A.35 BATTERED WOMEN'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR.

The commissioner shall appoint a program director. In appointing the program director the commissioner shall give due consideration to the list of applicants submitted to the commissioner pursuant to section 611A.34, subdivision 3, clause (3). The program director shall administer the funds appropriated for sections 611A.31 to 611A.36, consult with and provide staff to the advisory council, and perform other duties related to battered women's programs as the commissioner may assign. The program director shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner in the unclassified service.

History: 1977 c 428 s 5; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1986 c 444; 1991 c 272 s 14

611A.36 DATA COLLECTION.

Subdivision 1. Form prescribed. The commissioner shall, by rule adopted under

chapter 14, after considering the recommendations of the advisory council, prescribe a uniform form and method for the collection of data on battered women. The method and form of data collection shall be designed to document the incidence of assault on battered women as defined in section 611A.31, subdivision 2. All data collected by the commissioner pursuant to this section shall be summary data within the meaning of section 13.02, subdivision 19.

Subd. 2. Mandatory data collection. Every local law enforcement agency shall collect data related to battered women in the form required by the commissioner. The data shall be collected and transmitted to the commissioner at such times as the commissioner shall, by rule, require.

Subd. 3. Immunity from liability. Any person participating in good faith and exercising due care in the collection and transmission of data pursuant to this section shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that otherwise might result by reason of the person's action.

History: 1977 c 428 s 6; 1978 c 732 s 5,6; 1981 c 311 s 39; 1982 c 545 s 24; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 17; 1986 c 444; 1991 c 272 s 15

611A.361 GENERAL CRIME VICTIMS ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Subdivision 1. Creation. The commissioner of corrections shall appoint a 12-member advisory council on general crime victims to advise the commissioner on the implementation and continued operation of chapter 611A with respect to victims of crimes other than sexual assault and domestic abuse. The general crime victims advisory council shall also serve as a liaison between the commissioner and organizations that provide services to victims of crime, and as an advocate within the department of corrections for the rights of general crime victims.

Subd. 2. Membership. No more than six of the members of the general crime victims advisory council may be representatives of community or governmental organizations that provide services to crime victims. One-half of the council's members shall reside in the metropolitan area, composed of Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Dakota, Scott, Washington, and Carver counties, and one-half of the members shall reside in the nonmetropolitan area. To the extent possible, nonmetropolitan members must be representative of all nonmetropolitan regions of the state.

Subd. 3. Terms; vacancies; expenses. Section 15.059 governs the filling of vacancies and removal of members of the general crime victims advisory council. The terms of the members of the advisory council shall be two years. No member may serve on the advisory council for more than two consecutive terms. Council members shall not receive per diem or expense reimbursement.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1991 c 272 s 20]

History: 1991 c 272 s 16

CRIME VICTIM CRISIS CENTER

611A.41 CRIME VICTIM CRISIS CENTER.

Subdivision 1. For the purposes of sections 611A.41 to 611A.41, "center" means a crime victim crisis center providing services to victims of crime.

Subd. 2. The commissioner of corrections, not later than January 1, 1978, shall establish at least two operational centers. The commissioner of corrections may contract with a public or private agency for the purposes of planning, implementing and evaluating the centers established herein.

History: 1977 c 314 s 1; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

611A.42 PLANNING.

The commissioner of corrections, while developing the center plan as provided in section 611A.41, shall evaluate and determine factors relating to the procedural and substantive needs of the centers.

History: 1977 c 314 s 2; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

611A.43 FUNCTIONS.

The centers shall:

- (a) Provide direct crisis intervention to crime victims;
- (b) Provide transportation for crime victims to assist them in obtaining necessary emergency services;
- (c) Investigate the availability of insurance or other financial resources available to the crime victims;
- (d) Refer crime victims to public or private agencies providing existing needed services;
- (e) Encourage the development of services which are not already being provided by existing agencies;
- (f) Coordinate the services which are already being provided by various agencies;
- (g) Facilitate the general education of crime victims about the criminal justice process;
- (h) Educate the public as to program availability;
- (i) Encourage educational programs which will serve to reduce victimization and which will diminish the extent of trauma where victimization occurs;
- (j) Other appropriate services.

History: 1977 c 314 s 3; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

611A.44 EVALUATION.

Within three years of May 28, 1977, the commissioner of corrections shall evaluate the operation of the centers. This evaluation shall determine the centers impact in assisting crime victims, its impact on the criminal justice system, the nature of community attitudes generated by the centers, the necessity for maintaining the two existing centers, the desirability of establishing additional centers and propose alternative means to accomplish the purposes of sections 611A.41 to 611A.44 in all areas of the state.

History: 1977 c 314 s 4; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

CRIME VICTIMS REPARATIONS**611A.51 TITLE.**

Sections 611A.51 to 611A.67 shall be known as the Minnesota crime victims reparations act.

History: 1974 c 463 s 1; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

611A.52 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Terms.** For the purposes of sections 611A.51 to 611A.67 the following terms shall have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **Accomplice.** "Accomplice" means any person who would be held criminally liable for the crime of another pursuant to section 609.05.

Subd. 3. **Board.** "Board" means the crime victims reparations board established by section 611A.55.

Subd. 4. **Claimant.** "Claimant" means a person entitled to apply for reparations pursuant to sections 611A.51 to 611A.67.

Subd. 5. **Collateral source.** "Collateral source" means a source of benefits or advantages for economic loss otherwise reparable under sections 611A.51 to 611A.67 which the victim or claimant has received, or which is readily available to the victim, from:

- (1) the offender;
- (2) the government of the United States or any agency thereof, a state or any of its political subdivisions, or an instrumentality of two or more states, unless the law

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providing for the benefits or advantages makes them excess or secondary to benefits under sections 611A.51 to 611A.67;

- (3) social security, medicare, and medicaid;
- (4) state required temporary nonoccupational disability insurance;
- (5) workers' compensation;
- (6) wage continuation programs of any employer;
- (7) proceeds of a contract of insurance payable to the victim for economic loss sustained because of the crime;
- (8) a contract providing prepaid hospital and other health care services, or benefits for disability; or
- (9) any private source as a voluntary donation or gift.

The term does not include a life insurance contract.

Subd. 6. Crime. (a) "Crime" means conduct that:

- (1) occurs or is attempted anywhere within the geographical boundaries of this state, including Indian reservations and other trust lands;
- (2) poses a substantial threat of personal injury or death; and
- (3) is included within the definition of "crime" in section 609.02, subdivision 1, or would be included within that definition but for the fact that (i) the person engaging in the conduct lacked capacity to commit the crime under the laws of this state; or (ii) the act was alleged or found to have been committed by a juvenile.

(b) A crime occurs whether or not any person is prosecuted or convicted but the conviction of a person whose acts give rise to the claim is conclusive evidence that a crime was committed unless an application for rehearing, appeal, or petition for certiorari is pending or a new trial or rehearing has been ordered.

(c) "Crime" does not include an act involving the operation of a motor vehicle, aircraft, or watercraft that results in injury or death, except that a crime includes any of the following:

- (1) injury or death intentionally inflicted through the use of a motor vehicle, aircraft, or watercraft;
- (2) injury or death caused by a driver in violation of section 169.09, subdivision 1; 169.121; or 609.21; and
- (3) injury or death caused by a driver of a motor vehicle in the immediate act of fleeing the scene of a crime in which the driver knowingly and willingly participated.

Subd. 7. Dependent. "Dependent" means any person who was dependent upon a deceased victim for support at the time of the crime.

Subd. 8. Economic loss. "Economic loss" means actual economic detriment incurred as a direct result of injury or death.

(a) In the case of injury the term is limited to:

- (1) reasonable expenses incurred for necessary medical, chiropractic, hospital, rehabilitative, and dental products, services, or accommodations, including ambulance services, drugs, appliances, and prosthetic devices;
- (2) reasonable expenses associated with recreational therapy where a claimant has suffered amputation of a limb;
- (3) reasonable expenses incurred for psychological or psychiatric products, services, or accommodations where the nature of the injury or the circumstances of the crime are such that the treatment is necessary to the rehabilitation of the victim, subject to the following limitations:

(i) if treatment is likely to continue longer than six months after the date the claim is filed and the cost of the additional treatment will exceed \$1,500, or if the total cost of treatment in any case will exceed \$4,000, the provider shall first submit to the board a plan which includes the measurable treatment goals, the estimated cost of the treatment, and the estimated date of completion of the treatment. Claims submitted for treatment that was provided more than 30 days after the estimated date of completion

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may be paid only after advance approval by the board of an extension of treatment; and

(ii) the board may, in its discretion, elect to pay claims under this clause on a quarterly basis;

(4) loss of income that the victim would have earned had the victim not been injured;

(5) reasonable expenses incurred for substitute child care or household services to replace those the victim would have performed had the victim not been injured. As used in this clause, "child care services" means services provided by facilities licensed under and in compliance with either Minnesota Rules, parts 9502.0315 to 9502.0445, or 9545.0510 to 9545.0670, or exempted from licensing requirements pursuant to section 245A.03. Licensed facilities must be paid at a rate not to exceed their standard rate of payment. Facilities exempted from licensing requirements must be paid at a rate not to exceed \$3 an hour per child for daytime child care or \$4 an hour per child for evening child care; and

(6) reasonable expenses actually incurred to return a child who was a victim of a crime under section 609.25 or 609.26 to the child's parents or lawful custodian. These expenses are limited to transportation costs, meals, and lodging from the time the child was located until the child was returned home.

(b) In the case of death the term is limited to:

(1) reasonable expenses actually incurred for funeral, burial, or cremation, not to exceed an amount to be determined by the board on the first day of each fiscal year;

(2) reasonable expenses for medical, chiropractic, hospital, rehabilitative, psychological and psychiatric services, products or accommodations which were incurred prior to the victim's death and for which the victim's survivors or estate are liable;

(3) loss of support, including contributions of money, products or goods, but excluding services which the victim would have supplied to dependents if the victim had lived; and

(4) reasonable expenses incurred for substitute child care and household services to replace those which the victim would have performed for the benefit of dependents if the victim had lived.

Claims for loss of support for minor children made under clause (3) must be paid for three years or until the child reaches 18 years old, whichever is the shorter period. After three years, if the child is less than 18 years old a claim for loss of support may be resubmitted to the board, and the board shall evaluate the claim giving consideration to the child's financial need and to the availability of funds to the board.

Claims for substitute child care services made under clause (4) must be limited to the actual care that the deceased victim would have provided to enable surviving family members to pursue economic, educational, and other activities other than recreational activities.

Subd. 9. **Injury.** "Injury" means actual bodily harm including pregnancy and mental or nervous shock.

Subd. 10. **Victim.** "Victim" means a person who suffers personal injury or death as a direct result of:

(1) a crime;

(2) the good faith effort of any person to prevent a crime; or

(3) the good faith effort of any person to apprehend a person suspected of engaging in a crime.

History: 1974 c 463 s 2; 1975 c 359 s 23; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1Sp1985 c 4 s 10; 1986 c 444; 1986 c 463 s 12; 1987 c 244 s 3; 1987 c 333 s 22; 1988 c 638 s 5; 1989 c 264 s 3; 1990 c 371 s 1; 1990 c 579 s 10; 1992 c 571 art 5 s 8

611A.53 ELIGIBILITY FOR REPARATIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** Except as provided in subdivisions 1a and 2, the follow-

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ing persons shall be entitled to reparations upon a showing by a preponderance of the evidence that the requirements for reparations have been met:

- (a) a victim who has incurred economic loss;
- (b) a dependent who has incurred economic loss;
- (c) the estate of a deceased victim if the estate has incurred economic loss;
- (d) any other person who has incurred economic loss by purchasing any of the products, services, and accommodations described in section 611A.52, subdivision 8, for a victim;
- (e) the guardian, guardian ad litem, conservator or authorized agent of any of these persons.

Subd. 1a. Providers; limitations. No hospital, medical organization, health care provider, or other entity that is not an individual may qualify for reparations under subdivision 1, clause (d). If a hospital, medical organization, health care provider, or other entity that is not an individual qualifies for reparations under subdivision 1, clause (e) because it is a guardian, guardian ad litem, conservator, or authorized agent, any reparations to which it is entitled must be made payable solely or jointly to the victim, if alive, or to the victim's estate or successors, if the victim is deceased.

Subd. 1b. Minnesota residents injured elsewhere. A Minnesota resident who is the victim of a crime committed outside the geographical boundaries of this state but who otherwise meets the requirements of this section shall have the same rights under this chapter as if the crime had occurred within this state upon a showing that the state, territory, or United States possession in which the crime occurred does not have a crime victim reparations law covering the resident's injury or death.

Subd. 2. No reparations shall be awarded to a claimant otherwise eligible if:

- (a) the crime was not reported to the police within five days of its occurrence or, if it could not reasonably have been reported within that period, within five days of the time when a report could reasonably have been made. A victim of criminal sexual conduct in the first, second, third, or fourth degree who does not report the crime within five days of its occurrence is deemed to have been unable to have reported it within that period;
- (b) the victim or claimant failed or refused to cooperate fully with the police and other law enforcement officials;
- (c) the victim or claimant was the offender or an accomplice of the offender or an award to the claimant would unjustly benefit the offender or an accomplice;
- (d) the victim or claimant was in the act of committing a crime at the time the injury occurred;
- (e) no claim was filed with the board within one year of victim's injury or death; except that (1) if the claimant was unable to file a claim within that period, then the claim can be made within one year of the time when a claim could have been filed; and (2) if the victim's injury or death was not reasonably discoverable within one year of the injury or death, then the claim can be made within one year of the time when the injury or death is reasonably discoverable. The following circumstances do not render a claimant unable to file a claim for the purposes of this clause: (1) lack of knowledge of the existence of the Minnesota crime victims reparations act, (2) the failure of a law enforcement agency to provide information or assistance to a potential claimant under section 611A.66, (3) the incompetency of the claimant if the claimant's affairs were being managed during that period by a guardian, guardian ad litem, conservator, authorized agent, or parent, or (4) the fact that the claimant is not of the age of majority; or
- (f) the claim is less than \$50.

The limitations contained in clauses (a) and (e) do not apply to victims of domestic child abuse as defined in section 260.015, subdivision 24. In those cases the one year limitation period commences running with the report of the crime to the police; provided that no claim as a result of loss due to domestic child abuse may be paid when the claimant is 21 years of age or older at the time the claim is filed.

History: 1974 c 463 s 3; 1975 c 246 s 1; 1976 c 2 s 119; 1976 c 193 s 1; 1983 c 262

art 1 s 6; 1Sp1985 c 4 s 11; 1986 c 463 s 13-15; 1987 c 244 s 4; 1989 c 209 art 1 s 46; 1989 c 264 s 4; 1990 c 579 s 11

611A.54 AMOUNT OF REPARATIONS.

Reparations shall equal economic loss except that:

(1) reparations shall be reduced to the extent that economic loss is recouped from a collateral source or collateral sources. Where compensation is readily available to a claimant from a collateral source, the claimant must take reasonable steps to recoup from the collateral source before claiming reparations;

(2) reparations shall be denied or reduced to the extent, if any, that the board deems reasonable because of the contributory misconduct of the claimant or of a victim through whom the claimant claims; and

(3) reparations paid to all claimants suffering economic loss as the result of the injury or death of any one victim shall not exceed \$50,000.

No employer may deny an employee an award of benefits based on the employee's eligibility or potential eligibility for reparations.

History: *1974 c 463 s 4; 1977 c 356 s 1; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1Sp1985 c 4 s 12; 1986 c 444; 1986 c 463 s 16; 1989 c 264 s 5*

611A.55 CRIME VICTIMS REPARATIONS BOARD.

Subdivision 1. There is created in the department of public safety, for budgetary and administrative purposes, the crime victims reparations board, which shall consist of five members appointed by the commissioner of public safety and selected from among the membership of the crime victim and witness advisory council created in section 611A.71. One of the members shall be designated as chair by the commissioner of public safety and serve as such at the commissioner's pleasure. At least one member shall be a medical or osteopathic physician licensed to practice in this state, and at least one member shall be a victim, as defined in section 611A.01.

Subd. 2. The membership terms, compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies on the board shall be as provided in section 15.0575. Members of the board who are also members of the crime victim and witness advisory council created in section 611A.71 shall not be compensated while performing duties for the advisory council.

Subd. 3. Members of the board shall serve part time.

History: *1974 c 463 s 5; 1976 c 134 s 64,65; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1983 c 305 s 23; 1984 c 531 s 7; 1Sp1985 c 4 s 13,14; 1986 c 444*

611A.56 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD.

Subdivision 1. **Duties.** In addition to carrying out any duties specified elsewhere in sections 611A.51 to 611A.68 or in other law, the board shall:

(a) provide all claimants with an opportunity for hearing pursuant to chapter 14;

(b) adopt rules to implement and administer sections 611A.51 to 611A.68, including rules governing the method of practice and procedure before the board, prescribing the manner in which applications for reparations shall be made, and providing for discovery proceedings;

(c) publicize widely the availability of reparations and the method of making claims; and

(d) prepare and transmit annually to the governor, the commissioner of public safety, and the legislature a report of its activities including the number of claims awarded, a brief description of the facts in each case, the amount of reparation awarded, and a statistical summary of claims and awards made and denied.

Subd. 2. **Powers.** In addition to exercising any powers specified elsewhere in sections 611A.51 to 611A.68 or other law, the board upon its own motion or the motion of a claimant or the attorney general may:

(a) issue subpoenas for the appearance of witnesses and the production of books, records, and other documents;

(b) administer oaths and affirmations and cause to be taken affidavits and depositions within and without this state;

(c) take notice of judicially cognizable facts and general, technical, and scientific facts within their specialized knowledge;

(d) order a mental or physical examination of a victim or an autopsy of a deceased victim provided that notice is given to the person to be examined and that the claimant and the attorney general receive copies of any resulting report;

(e) suspend or postpone the proceedings on a claim if a criminal prosecution arising out of the incident which is the basis of the claim has been commenced or is imminent;

(f) request from prosecuting attorneys and law enforcement officers investigations and data to enable the board to perform its duties under sections 611A.51 to 611A.68;

(g) grant emergency reparations pending the final determination of a claim if it is one with respect to which an award will probably be made and undue hardship will result to the claimant if immediate payment is not made; and

(h) reconsider any decision granting or denying reparations or determining their amount.

History: 1974 c 463 s 6; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1Sp1985 c 4 s 15; 1986 c 463 s 17; 1988 c 638 s 6

611A.57 DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS.

Subdivision 1. A claim, when accepted for filing, shall be assigned by the chair to a member of the board.

Subd. 2. The board member to whom the claim is assigned shall examine the papers filed in support of the claim and cause an investigation to be conducted into the validity of the claim to the extent that an investigation is necessary.

Subd. 3. The board member to whom a claim is assigned may decide the claim in favor of a claimant in the amount claimed on the basis of the papers filed in support of it and the report of the investigation of such claim. If unable to decide the claim upon the basis of the papers and any report of investigation, the board member shall discuss the matter with other members of the board present at a board meeting. After discussion the board shall vote on whether to grant or deny the claim or whether further investigation is necessary. A decision granting or denying the claim shall then be issued by the executive director or the board member to whom the claim was assigned.

Subd. 4. The written decision granting or denying a claim shall be filed with the board, and a copy shall be provided to the claimant.

Subd. 5. The claimant may, within 30 days after receiving the decision of the board, apply for reconsideration before the entire board. Upon request for reconsideration, the board shall reexamine all information filed by the claimant, including any new information the claimant provides, and all information obtained by investigation. The board may also conduct additional examination into the validity of the claim. Upon reconsideration, the board may affirm, modify, or reverse its prior ruling. A claimant denied reparations upon reconsideration is entitled to a contested case hearing within the meaning of chapter 14.

Subd. 6. Claims for reparations and supporting documents and reports are investigative data and subject to the provisions of section 13.39 until the claim is paid, denied, withdrawn, or abandoned. Following the payment, denial, withdrawal, or abandonment of a claim, the claim and supporting documents and reports are private data on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12; provided that the board may forward any reparations claim forms, supporting documents, and reports to local law enforcement authorities for purposes of implementing section 611A.67.

History: 1974 c 463 s 7; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1986 c 444; 1986 c 463 s 18; 1987 c 244 s 5; 1990 c 579 s 12

611A.58 ATTORNEYS FEES; LIMITATION FOR REPRESENTATION BEFORE BOARD.

The board may limit the fee charged by any attorney for representing a claimant before the board.

History: 1975 c 246 s 2; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

611A.59 [Repealed, 1987 c 244 s 8]**611A.60 REPARATIONS; HOW PAID.**

Reparations may be awarded in a lump sum or in installments in the discretion of the board. The amount of any emergency award shall be deducted from the final award, if a lump sum, or prorated over a period of time if the final award is made in installments. Reparations are exempt from execution or attachment except by persons who have supplied services, products or accommodations to the victim as a result of the injury or death which is the basis of the claim. The board, in its discretion may order that all or part of the reparations awarded be paid directly to these suppliers.

History: 1974 c 463 s 9; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

611A.61 SUBROGATION.

Subdivision 1. **Subrogation rights of state.** The state shall be subrogated, to the extent of reparations awarded, to all the claimant's rights to recover benefits or advantages for economic loss from a source which is or, if readily available to the victim or claimant would be, a collateral source. Nothing in this section shall limit the claimant's right to bring a cause of action to recover for other damages.

Subd. 2. **Duty of claimant to assist.** A claimant who receives reparations must agree to assist the state in pursuing any subrogation rights arising out of the claim. The board may require a claimant to agree to represent the state's subrogation interests if the claimant brings a cause of action for damages arising out of the crime or occurrence for which the board has awarded reparations. An attorney who represents the state's subrogation interests pursuant to the client's agreement with the board is entitled to reasonable attorney's fees not to exceed one-third of the amount recovered on behalf of the state.

Subd. 3. **Deposit of revenue to fund.** Amounts collected under this section in each year of the biennium must be deposited into the general fund.

History: 1974 c 463 s 10; 1979 c 173 s 1; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1986 c 463 s 19; 1987 c 358 s 127; 1989 c 335 art 4 s 101

611A.62 MEDICAL PRIVILEGE.

There is no privilege as to communication or records relevant to an issue of the physical, mental, or emotional condition of the claimant or victim in a proceeding under sections 611A.51 to 611A.56 in which that condition is an issue. Nothing contained in this section shall be interpreted to abridge the attorney-client privilege.

History: 1974 c 463 s 11; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

611A.63 ENFORCEMENT OF BOARD'S ORDERS.

If a person refuses to comply with an order of the board or asserts a privilege to withhold or suppress evidence relevant to a claim, the board may make any just order including denial of the claim, but may not find the person in contempt. If necessary to carry out any of its powers and duties, the board may petition the district court for an appropriate order, but the court may not find a person in contempt for refusal to submit to a mental or physical examination.

History: 1974 c 463 s 12; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

611A.64 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; RESTITUTION.

The department of corrections may, as a means of assisting in the rehabilitation of persons committed to their care, establish programs and procedures whereby such persons may contribute toward restitution of those persons injured as a consequence of their criminal acts.

History: 1974 c 463 s 13; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

611A.65 USE OF RECORD OF CLAIM; EVIDENCE.

Neither a record of the proceedings on a claim, a decision of the board, nor the fact that an award has been made or denied shall be admissible as evidence in any criminal or civil action against the alleged offender, except an action by the state on its subrogation claim.

History: 1974 c 463 s 14; 1979 c 173 s 2; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6

611A.66 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES; DUTY TO INFORM VICTIMS OF RIGHT TO FILE CLAIM.

All law enforcement agencies investigating crimes shall provide forms to each person who may be eligible to file a claim pursuant to sections 611A.51 to 611A.67 and to inform them of their rights hereunder. All law enforcement agencies shall obtain from the board and maintain a supply of all forms necessary for the preparation and presentation of claims.

Law enforcement agencies shall assist the board in performing its duties under sections 611A.51 to 611A.67. Law enforcement agencies within ten days after receiving a request from the board shall supply the board with requested reports, notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in chapter 13, and including reports otherwise maintained as confidential or not open to inspection under section 260.161. All data released to the board retains the data classification that it had in the possession of the law enforcement agency.

History: 1974 c 463 s 15; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1987 c 244 s 6

611A.67 FRAUDULENT CLAIMS; PENALTY.

Any person who knowingly makes a false claim under sections 611A.51 to 611A.68 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

History: 1974 c 463 s 16; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1988 c 638 s 7

611A.68 LIMITING COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF CRIMES; PAYMENT OF VICTIMS.

Subdivision 1. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given them in this subdivision.

(a) "Contract" means an agreement regarding, in whole or in part, (1) the reenactment of an offender's crime by way of a movie, book, newspaper or magazine article, radio or television presentation, or live or recorded entertainment of any kind, or (2) the expression of the offender's thoughts, feelings, opinions, or emotions about the crime.

(b) "Crime" means an offense which is a felony under the laws of Minnesota or that would have been a felony if committed in Minnesota, and includes an offense committed or attempted on an Indian reservation or other trust land.

(c) "Offender" means a person convicted of a crime or found not guilty of a crime by reason of insanity.

(d) "Person" includes persons, corporations, partnerships, and other legal entities.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1988 c 638 s 17]

Subd. 2a. **Notice and payment of proceeds to board required.** A person that enters into a contract with an offender convicted in this state, and a person that enters into

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a contract in this state with an offender convicted in this state or elsewhere within the United States, must comply with this section if the person enters into the contract during the ten years after the offender is convicted of a crime or found not guilty by reason of insanity. If an offender is imprisoned or committed to an institution following the conviction or finding of not guilty by reason of insanity, the ten-year period begins on the date of the offender's release. A person subject to this section must notify the crime victims reparations board of the existence of the contract immediately upon its formation, and pay over to the board money owed to the offender or the offender's representatives by virtue of the contract according to the following proportions:

(a) if the crime occurred in this state, the person shall pay to the board 100 percent of the money owed under the contract;

(b) if the crime occurred in another jurisdiction having a law applicable to the contract which is substantially similar to this section, this section does not apply, and the person must not pay to the board any of the money owed under the contract; and

(c) in all other cases, the person shall pay to the board that percentage of money owed under the contract which can fairly be attributed to commerce in this state with respect to the subject matter of the contract.

Subd. 3. When the board receives a payment pursuant to this section, it shall attempt to notify any known victims of the crime and shall publish a notice of that fact in a newspaper having general circulation in the county where the crime was committed. The expenses of notification shall be paid from the amount received for that case.

Subd. 4. When the board has made reparations payments to or on behalf of a victim of the offender's crime pursuant to sections 611A.51 to 611A.67, it shall deduct the amount of the reparations award from any payment received under this section by virtue of the offender's contract unless the board has already been reimbursed for the reparations award from another collateral source.

Subd. 4a. **Offender's minor dependent claims.** Immediately after money is deposited with the board under this section, the board may allocate up to ten percent of any money remaining after a deduction is made under subdivision 4 for the benefit of the offender's dependent minor children. The board shall then retain the funds allocated until a claim is made by the dependent minor children or their representative. Upon receiving a claim, the board shall disburse the allocated funds to the dependent minor children if it is shown by clear and convincing evidence that the funds will not be used in a way that benefits the offender.

Subd. 4b. **Claims by victims of offender's crime.** A victim of a crime committed by the offender and the estate of a deceased victim of a crime committed by the offender may submit the following claims for reparations and damages to the board to be paid from money received by virtue of the offender's contract:

(1) claims for reparations to which the victim is entitled under sections 611A.51 to 611A.67 and for which the victim has not yet received an award from the board;

(2) claims for reparations to which the victim would have been entitled under sections 611A.51 to 611A.67, but for the \$50,000 maximum limit contained in section 611A.54, clause (3); and

(3) claims for other uncompensated damages suffered by the victim as a result of the offender's crime including, but not limited to, damages for pain and suffering.

The victim must file the claim within five years of the date on which the board received payment under this section. The board shall determine the victim's claim in accordance with the procedures contained in sections 611A.57 to 611A.63. An award made by the board under this subdivision must be paid from the money received by virtue of the offender's contract that remains after a deduction or allocation, if any, has been made under subdivision 4 or 4a.

Subd. 4c. **Claims by other crime victims.** The board may use money received by virtue of an offender's contract for the purpose of paying reparations awarded to victims of other crimes pursuant to sections 611A.51 to 611A.67 under the following circumstances:

(1) money remain after deductions and allocations have been made under subdivisions 4 and 4a, and claims have been paid under subdivision 4b; or

(2) no claim is filed under subdivision 4b within five years of the date on which the board received payment under this section.

None of these moneys may be used for purposes other than the payment of reparations.

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1988 c 638 s 17]

Subd. 6. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the board shall make payments to an offender from the account of amounts received with reference to that offender upon the order of a court of competent jurisdiction after a showing by that offender that the money shall be used for the reasonable costs of defense in the appeal of a criminal conviction or in proceedings pursuant to this section.

Subd. 7. All moneys received by the board pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the state treasury, credited to a special account, and are appropriated to the board for the purposes of this section. Money in the special account may be invested pursuant to section 11A.25. When so invested, any interest or profit shall accrue to, and any loss be borne by, the special account. The board shall allocate money in the special account to each case pursuant to this section.

Subd. 8. (a) A person who willfully fails to notify the board of the existence of a contract as required by this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a), any person or offender who takes any action, whether by way of execution of a power of attorney, creation of corporate or trust entities or otherwise, to defeat the purpose of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: 1979 c 234 s 1; 1980 c 607 art 14 s 46; 1983 c 262 art 1 s 6; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 638 s 8-15

MINNESOTA CRIME VICTIM AND WITNESS ADVISORY COUNCIL ACT

611A.70 CITATION.

This section and section 611A.71 may be cited as the "Minnesota crime victim and witness advisory council act."

History: 1Sp1985 c 4 s 16

611A.71 COUNCIL; ESTABLISHMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Creation.** The Minnesota crime victim and witness advisory council is established and shall consist of 15 members.

Subd. 2. **Membership.** (a) The crime victim and witness advisory council shall consist of the following members, appointed by the commissioner of public safety after consulting with the commissioner of corrections:

(1) one district court judge appointed upon recommendation of the chief justice of the supreme court;

(2) one county attorney appointed upon recommendation of the Minnesota county attorneys association;

(3) one public defender appointed upon recommendation of the state public defender;

(4) one peace officer;

(5) one medical or osteopathic physician licensed to practice in this state;

(6) five members who are crime victims or crime victim assistance representatives;
and

(7) three public members.

The appointments should take into account sex, race, and geographic distribution.

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One of the nonlegislative members must be designated by the commissioner of public safety as chair of the council.

(b) Two members of the council shall be members of the legislature who have demonstrated expertise and interest in crime victims issues, one senator appointed under rules of the senate and one member of the house of representatives appointed under rules of the house of representatives.

Subd. 3. Terms of office. Each appointed member must be appointed for a four-year term coterminous with the governor's term of office, and shall continue to serve during that time as long as the member occupies the position which made that member eligible for the appointment. Each member shall continue in office until that member's successor is duly appointed. Members are eligible for reappointment and appointment may be made to fill an unexpired term. The members of the council shall elect any additional officers necessary for the efficient discharge of their duties.

Subd. 4. Compensation. Each member of the council shall serve without compensation. However, members of the council shall receive expenses in the same manner and amount as provided in the commissioner's plan under section 43A.18, subdivision 2; provided that payments for expenses incurred must be paid from the existing appropriation for the administrative portion of the operating budget for the crime victims reparations activity.

Subd. 5. Duties. The council shall:

(1) review on a regular basis the treatment of victims by the criminal justice system and the need and availability of services to victims;

(2) advise the agency designated by the governor to apply for victim assistance program grants under chapter 14 of Public Law Number 98-473, in the coordination and allocation of federal funds for crime victims assistance programs;

(3) advocate necessary changes and monitor victim-related legislation;

(4) provide information, training, and technical assistance to state and local agencies and groups involved in victim and witness assistance;

(5) serve as a clearinghouse for information concerning victim and witness programs;

(6) develop guidelines for the implementation of victim and witness assistance programs and aid in the creation and development of programs;

(7) coordinate the development and implementation of policies and guidelines for the treatment of victims and witnesses, and the delivery of services to them; and

(8) develop ongoing public awareness efforts and programs to assist victims.

Subd. 6. Executive director. The commissioner of public safety shall, with the advice of the advisory council, select and employ an executive director for the council who shall serve in the unclassified service at the pleasure of the commissioner and shall aid the council in the performance of its duties under subdivision 5 and supervise the administration of the crime victims reparations act.

Subd. 7. Expiration. The council expires as provided in section 15.059, subdivision 5.

History: *1Sp1985 c 4 s 17; 1986 c 463 s 20; 1988 c 629 s 61; 1988 c 684 art 1 s 21,22; 1990 c 583 s 7; 1991 c 170 s 6*

NOTE: Subdivision 2, as amended by Laws 1991, chapter 170, section 6, is effective for appointments occurring after January 1, 1993. See Laws 1991, chapter 170, section 7.

CRIME VICTIM OMBUDSMAN ACT

611A.72 CITATION.

Sections 611A.72 to 611A.74 may be cited as the "crime victim ombudsman act."

History: *1Sp1985 c 4 s 18*

611A.73 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply to this section and section 611A.74.

Subd. 2. **Appropriate authority.** "Appropriate authority" includes anyone who is the subject of a complaint to the crime victim ombudsman or anyone within the agency who is in a supervisory position with regard to one who is the subject of a complaint.

Subd. 3. **Elements of the criminal justice system.** "Elements of the criminal justice system" refers to county attorneys and members of their staff; peace officers; probation and corrections officers; state officials involved in the criminal justice system; and does not include the judiciary.

Subd. 4. **Victim.** "Victim" refers to anyone or the next of kin of anyone who has been or purports to have been subjected to a criminal act, whether a felony, a gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor.

Subd. 5. **Victim assistance program.** "Victim assistance program" refers to any entity which provides or claims to provide services and assistance to victims on a regular, ongoing basis.

History: 1Sp1985 c 4 s 19

611A.74 CRIME VICTIM OMBUDSMAN; CREATION.

Subdivision 1. **Creation.** The office of crime victim ombudsman for Minnesota is created. The ombudsman shall be appointed by the commissioner of public safety with the advice of the advisory council, and shall serve in the unclassified service at the pleasure of the commissioner. The ombudsman is directly accountable to the commissioner of public safety.

Subd. 2. **Duties.** The crime victim ombudsman may investigate complaints concerning possible violation of the rights of crime victims or witnesses provided under this chapter, the delivery of victim services by victim assistance programs, the administration of the crime victims reparations act, and other complaints of mistreatment by elements of the criminal justice system or victim assistance programs. The ombudsman shall act as a liaison, when the ombudsman deems necessary, between agencies, either in the criminal justice system or in victim assistance programs, and victims and witnesses. The ombudsman must be made available through the use of a toll free telephone number and shall answer questions concerning the criminal justice system and victim services put to the ombudsman by victims and witnesses in accordance with the ombudsman's knowledge of the facts or law, unless the information is otherwise restricted. The ombudsman shall establish a procedure for referral to the crime victim crisis centers, the crime victims reparations board, and other victim assistance programs when services are requested by crime victims or deemed necessary by the ombudsman.

The ombudsman's files are confidential data as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 3, during the course of an investigation or while the files are active. Upon completion of the investigation or when the files are placed on inactive status, they are private data on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12.

Subd. 3. **Powers.** The crime victim ombudsman has those powers necessary to carry out the duties set out in subdivision 1, including:

(a) The ombudsman may investigate, with or without a complaint, any action of an element of the criminal justice system or a victim assistance program included in subdivision 2.

(b) The ombudsman may request and shall be given access to information pertaining to a complaint. The ombudsman may request and shall be given access to police reports pertaining to juveniles and juvenile delinquency petitions, notwithstanding section 260.161. Any information received by the ombudsman retains its data classification under chapter 13 while in the ombudsman's possession. Juvenile records obtained under this subdivision may not be released to any person.

(c) After completing investigation of a complaint, the ombudsman shall inform in writing the complainant, the investigated person or entity, and other appropriate authorities, including the attorney general, of the action taken. If the complaint involved the conduct of an element of the criminal justice system in relation to a criminal or civil proceeding, the ombudsman's findings shall be forwarded to the court in which the proceeding occurred.

Subd. 4. **No compelled testimony.** Neither the ombudsman nor any member of the ombudsman's staff may be compelled to testify in any court with respect to matters involving the exercise of official duties except as may be necessary to enforce the provisions of this section.

Subd. 5. **Recommendations.** (a) On finding a complaint valid after duly considering the complaint and whatever material the ombudsman deems pertinent, the ombudsman may recommend action to the appropriate authority.

(b) If the ombudsman makes a recommendation to an appropriate authority for action, the authority shall, within a reasonable time period, inform the ombudsman about the action taken or the reasons for not complying with the recommendation.

History: *1Sp1985 c 4 s 20; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 244 s 7; 1988 c 638 s 16; 1990 c 583 s 8,9*

611A.75 REPORT TO LEGISLATURE.

The commissioner of public safety shall report to the legislature biennially on the activities of crime victim programs under chapter 611A.

History: *1Sp1985 c 4 s 21; 1990 c 583 s 10*

VICTIM SERVICES TELEPHONE LINE

611A.76 CRIME VICTIM SERVICES TELEPHONE LINE.

The commissioner of public safety shall operate at least one statewide toll-free 24-hour telephone line for the purpose of providing crime victims with referrals for victim services and resources.

History: *1992 c 571 art 5 s 9*

MEDIATION PROGRAMS

611A.77 MEDIATION PROGRAMS FOR CRIME VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS.

Subdivision 1. **Grants.** The state court administrator shall award grants to non-profit organizations to create or expand mediation programs for crime victims and offenders. For purposes of this section, "offender" means an adult charged with a nonviolent crime or a juvenile with respect to whom a petition for delinquency has been filed in connection with a nonviolent offense, and "nonviolent crime" and "nonviolent offense" exclude any offense in which the victim is a family or household member, as defined in section 518B.01, subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. **Programs.** The state court administrator shall award grants to further the following goals:

- (1) to expand existing mediation programs for crime victims and juvenile offenders to also include adult offenders;
- (2) to initiate victim-offender mediation programs in areas that have no victim-offender mediation programs;
- (3) to expand the opportunities for crime victims to be involved in the criminal justice process;
- (4) to evaluate the effectiveness of victim-offender mediation programs in reducing recidivism and encouraging the payment of court-ordered restitution; and
- (5) to evaluate the satisfaction of victims who participate in the mediation programs.

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Subd. 3. **Mediator qualifications.** The state court administrator shall establish criteria to ensure that mediators participating in the program are qualified.

Subd. 4. **Match required.** A nonprofit organization may not receive a grant under this section unless the group has raised a matching amount from other sources.

History: 1992 c 571 art 5 s 10