



Select Victims' Rights – North Carolina

This resource is intended to provide a base of knowledge regarding the crime victims' rights in North Carolina, and promising practices in ensuring compliance with and enforcement of those rights. To keep this *Guide* as user-friendly as possible in light of the breadth, complexity and evolving nature of law, the *Guide* does not include all laws. The *Guide* is intended for informational purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice, nor does it substitute for legal advice. For more in-depth information about the laws governing privacy, confidentiality and privilege in North Carolina see the companion resource: *Law Enforcement-Based Victim Services in North Carolina: Privacy, Privilege and Confidentiality*.

The following icons are used throughout this resource to highlight key moments for the user.





= Promising Practices: As used in this *Guide*, things identified as “promising practices” are procedures, methods or techniques, grounded in victim-centered and trauma informed research and experience, which afford victims meaningful rights in the justice system.






= Take Note: As used in this *Guide*, the “take note” indicator provides context for the law cited or discussed. For example, if a law has a particularly narrow application or does not explicitly prohibit an action the “take note” indicator is used to highlight or provide clarity around the law.



SELECT DEFINITIONS	North Carolina Statutes
<p>(1) “Crime” means a felony or serious misdemeanor as determined in the sole discretion of the district attorney, except those included in Article 46 of this Chapter, or any act committed by a juvenile that, if committed by a competent adult, would constitute a felony or serious misdemeanor.</p> <p>(2) “Family member” means a spouse, child, parent or legal guardian, or the closest living relative.</p> <p>(3) “Victim” means a person against whom there is probable cause to believe a crime has been committed.</p> <p>(4) “Witness” means a person who has been or is expected to be summoned to testify for the prosecution in a criminal action concerning a felony, or who</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-824(1)–(4).</p>



<p>by reason of having relevant information is subject to being called or is likely to be called as a witness for the prosecution in such an action, whether or not an action or proceeding has been commenced.</p> <p> The above definitions explicitly apply to the provisions of Article 45, Fair Treatment for Certain Victims and Witnesses, N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. §§ 15A-825 - 15A-829.</p>	
<p>(1) Accused.--A person who has been arrested and charged with committing a crime covered by this Article.</p> <p>(2) Arresting law enforcement agency.--The law enforcement agency that makes the arrest of an accused.</p> <p>(3) Custodial agency.--The agency that has legal custody of an accused or defendant arising from a charge or conviction of a crime covered by this Article including, but not limited to, local jails or detention facilities, regional jails or detention facilities, facilities designated under G.S. 122C-252 for the custody and treatment of involuntary clients, or the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety.</p> <p>(4) Investigating law enforcement agency.--The law enforcement agency with primary responsibility for investigating the crime committed against the victim.</p> <p>(5) Law enforcement agency.--An arresting law enforcement agency, a custodial agency, or an investigating law enforcement agency.</p> <p>(6) Next of kin.--The victim's spouse, children, parents, siblings, or grandparents. The term does not include the accused unless the charges are dismissed or the person is found not guilty.</p> <p>(7) Victim.--A person against whom there is probable cause to believe one of the following crimes was committed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A Class A, B1, B2, C, D, or E felony. b. A Class F felony if it is a violation of one of the following: G.S. 14-16.6(b); 14-16.6(c); 14-18; 14-32.1(e); 14-32.2(b)(3); 14-32.3(a); 14-32.4; 14-34.2; 14-34.6(c); 14-41; 14-43.3; 14-43.11; 14-202.1; 14-277.3A; 14-288.9; 20-138.5; former G.S. 14-190.19; or former G.S. 14-277.3. c. A Class G felony if it is a violation of one of the following: G.S. 14-32.3(b); 14-51; 14-58; or 14-87.1. d. A Class H felony if it is a violation of one of the following: G.S. 14-32.3(a); 14-33.2; 14-34.6(b); 14-190.17A; 14-277.3A; former G.S. 14-32.3(c); or former G.S. 14-277.3. 	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-830(a)–(b).</p>



<p>e. A Class I felony if it is a violation of G.S. 14-32.3(b).</p> <p>f. An attempt of any of the felonies listed in this subdivision if the attempted felony is punishable as a felony.</p> <p>g. Any of the following misdemeanor offenses when the offense is committed between persons who have a personal relationship as defined in G.S. 50B-1(b); G.S. 14-33(c)(1); 14-33(c)(2); 14-33(a); 14-34; 14-134.3; 14-277.3A; or former G.S. 14-277.3.</p> <p>h. Any violation of a valid protective order under G.S. 50B-4.1.</p> <p>(b) If the victim is deceased, then the next of kin, in the order set forth in the definition contained in this section, is entitled to the victim's rights under this Article. However, the right contained in G.S. 15A-834 may only be exercised by the personal representative of the victim's estate. An individual entitled to exercise the victim's rights as a member of the class of next of kin may designate anyone in the class to act on behalf of the class.</p> <p> The above definitions explicitly apply to the provisions of Article 46, Crime Victims' Rights Act, N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. §§ 15A-831 - 15A-849.</p>	
<p>(a) Domestic violence means the commission of one or more of the following acts upon an aggrieved party or upon a minor child residing with or in the custody of the aggrieved party by a person with whom the aggrieved party has or has had a personal relationship, but does not include acts of self-defense:</p> <p>(1) Attempting to cause bodily injury, or intentionally causing bodily injury; or</p> <p>(2) Placing the aggrieved party or a member of the aggrieved party's family or household in fear of imminent serious bodily injury or continued harassment, as defined in G.S. 14-277.3A, that rises to such a level as to inflict substantial emotional distress; or</p> <p>(3) Committing any act defined in G.S. 14-27.21 through G.S. 14-27.33.</p> <p>(b) For purposes of this section, the term "personal relationship" means a relationship wherein the parties involved:</p> <p>(1) Are current or former spouses;</p> <p>(2) Are persons of opposite sex who live together or have lived together;</p> <p>(3) Are related as parents and children, including others acting in loco parentis to a minor child, or as grandparents and grandchildren. For purposes of this subdivision, an aggrieved party may not obtain an order of protection against a child or grandchild under the age of 16;</p> <p>(4) Have a child in common;</p> <p>(5) Are current or former household members;</p> <p>(6) Are persons of the opposite sex who are in a dating relationship or have been in a dating relationship. For purposes of this subdivision, a dating</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 50B-1(a)-(c).</p>


<p>relationship is one wherein the parties are romantically involved over time and on a continuous basis during the course of the relationship. A casual acquaintance or ordinary fraternization between persons in a business or social context is not a dating relationship.</p> <p>(c) As used in this Chapter, the term “protective order” includes any order entered pursuant to this Chapter upon hearing by the court or consent of the parties.</p> <p> The above definitions explicitly apply to the provisions of Chapter 50B, Domestic Violence, N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. §§ 50b-2 - 50b-9.</p>	
<p>(1) Permanent civil no-contact order.--A permanent injunction that prohibits any contact by a respondent with the victim of a sex offense for which the respondent is convicted.</p> <p>(2) Respondent.--The person who committed the sex offense.</p> <p>(3) Sex offense.--Any criminal offense that requires registration under Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes.</p> <p>(4) Victim.--The person against whom the sex offense was committed.</p> <p> The above definitions explicitly apply to the provisions of Chapter 50D. Permanent Civil NO-Contact Order Against Sex Offender on Behalf of Crime Victim, N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. §§ 50d-2 -50d-9.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 50D-1(1)-(4).</p>
<p>The following definitions apply in this Chapter:</p> <p>(1) Actual address or address.--A residential, work, or school street address as specified on the individual’s application to be a program participant under this Chapter.</p> <p>(2) Address Confidentiality Program or Program.--A program in the Office of the Attorney General to protect the confidentiality of the address of a relocated victim of domestic violence, sexual offense, or stalking to prevent the victim’s assailants or potential assailants from finding the victim through public records.</p> <p>(3) Agency of North Carolina or agency.--Includes every elected or appointed State or local public office, public officer, or official; institution, board, commission, bureau, council, department, authority, or other unit of government of the State or of any local government; or</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15C-2(1)-(13).</p>

<p>unit, special district, or other political subdivision of State or local government.</p> <p>(4) Application assistant.--An employee of an agency or nonprofit organization who provides counseling, referral, shelter, or other specialized services to victims of domestic violence, sexual offense, stalking, or human trafficking and who has been designated by the Attorney General to assist individuals with applications to participate in the Address Confidentiality Program.</p> <p>(5) Attorney General.--Office of the Attorney General.</p> <p>(6) Person.--Any individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust, estate, or other association or any state, the United States, or any subdivision thereof.</p> <p>(7) Program participant.--An individual accepted into the Address Confidentiality Program in accordance with this Chapter.</p> <p>(8) Public record.--A public record as defined in Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.</p> <p>(9) Substitute address.--An address designated by the Attorney General under the Address Confidentiality Program.</p> <p>(10) Victim of domestic violence.--An individual against whom domestic violence, as described in G.S. 50B-1, has been committed.</p> <p>(11) Victim of a sexual offense.--An individual against whom a sexual offense, as described in Article 7B of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes, has been committed.</p> <p>(12) Victim of stalking.--An individual against whom stalking, as described in former G.S. 14-277.3 for acts occurring before December 1, 2008, or G.S. 14-277.3A for acts occurring on or after December 1, 2008, has been committed.</p> <p>(13) Victim of human trafficking.--An individual against whom human trafficking, as described in G.S. 14-43.11, has been committed.</p> <p> The above definitions explicitly apply to the provisions of Chapter 15C. Address Confidentiality Program, N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. §§ 15c-1 – 15c-13.</p>	
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<p>SELECT CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS</p>	<p>North Carolina Constitutional Provisions and Statutes</p>
<p>Dignity And Respect.</p> <p>Victims of crime or acts of delinquency shall be treated with dignity and respect by the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>N.C. Const. art. I, § 37(1) (effective August 31, 2019).</p>
<p>Notice Of Court Proceedings.</p> <p>Enumerated rights. When the crime or act of delinquency is one against or involving the person of the victim or is equivalent to a felony property crime, the victim is entitled to the following rights:</p> <p>The right upon request to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of court proceedings of the accused.</p> <p> A promising practice is to have a policy and procedure in place to ensure that victims are aware at the earliest stages of a case that they must “request” the exercise of certain rights. Agencies should carefully maintain documentation of a victim’s request to exercise rights.</p>	<p>N.C. Const. art. I, § 37(1a)(a) (effective August 31, 2019).</p>
<p>Present At Court Proceedings.</p> <p>Enumerated rights. When the crime or act of delinquency is one against or involving the person of the victim or is equivalent to a felony property crime, the victim is entitled to the following rights:</p> <p>The right upon request to be present at court proceedings of the accused.</p> <p> A promising practice is to have a policy and procedure in place to ensure that victims are aware at the earliest stages of a case that they must “request” the exercise of certain rights. Agencies should carefully maintain documentation of a victim’s request to exercise rights.</p>	<p>N.C. Const. art. I, § 37(1a)(a1) (effective August 31, 2019).</p>

<p>Heard At Any Court Proceeding Involving Plea, Conviction, Adjudication, Sentencing Or Release.</p> <p>Enumerated rights. When the crime or act of delinquency is one against or involving the person of the victim or is equivalent to a felony property crime, the victim is entitled to the following rights:</p> <p>The right to be reasonably heard at any court proceeding involving the plea, conviction, adjudication, sentencing, or release of the accused.</p>	<p>N.C. Const. art. I, § 37(1a)(b) (effective August 31, 2019).</p>
<p>Restitution.</p> <p>Enumerated rights. When the crime or act of delinquency is one against or involving the person of the victim or is equivalent to a felony property crime, the victim is entitled to the following rights:</p> <p>The right to receive restitution in a reasonably timely manner, when ordered by the court.</p> <p> Victims should be informed that they are entitled to restitution upon the conviction of defendant for losses caused by defendant’s criminal conduct. Assisting victims with the documentation of their losses— including anticipated future expenses—is recommended from the earliest moments of the case.</p>	<p>N.C. Const. art. I, § 37(1a)(c) (effective August 31, 2019).</p>
<p>Information About The Crime/Act Of Delinquency, How The Criminal Justice System Works, Crime Victims’ Rights And Available Services.</p> <p>Enumerated rights. When the crime or act of delinquency is one against or involving the person of the victim or is equivalent to a felony property crime, the victim is entitled to the following rights:</p> <p>The right to be given information about the crime or act of delinquency, how the criminal justice system works, the rights of victims, and the availability of services for victims.</p> <p> The best practice is to have a policy and procedure ensuring that victims receive all required information at the earliest possible time after initial contact with law enforcement. Consideration should be given to providing written notice in the primary language of the victim, as well as in a form accessible to those with vision impairment.</p>	<p>N.C. Const. art. I, § 37(1a)(d) (effective August 31, 2019).</p>

<p>Information About The Conviction, Adjudication Or Final Disposition And Sentence.</p> <p>Enumerated rights. When the crime or act of delinquency is one against or involving the person of the victim or is equivalent to a felony property crime, the victim is entitled to the following rights:</p> <p>The right upon request to receive information about the conviction, adjudication, or final disposition and sentence of the accused.</p> <p> A promising practice is to have a policy and procedure in place to ensure that victims are aware at the earliest stages of a case that they must “request” the exercise of certain rights. Agencies should carefully maintain documentation of a victim’s request to exercise rights.</p>	<p>N.C. Const. art. I, § 37(1a)(e) (effective August 31, 2019).</p>
<p>Notification Of Escape, Release, Proposed Parole Or Pardon Or Reprive Or Commutation Of Sentence.</p> <p>Enumerated rights. When the crime or act of delinquency is one against or involving the person of the victim or is equivalent to a felony property crime, the victim is entitled to the following rights:</p> <p>The right upon request to receive notification of escape, release, proposed parole or pardon of the accused, or notice of a reprieve or commutation of the accused’s sentence.</p> <p> A promising practice is to have a policy and procedure in place to ensure that victims are aware at the earliest stages of a case that they must “request” the exercise of certain rights. Agencies should carefully maintain documentation of a victim’s request to exercise rights.</p>	<p>N.C. Const. art. I, § 37(1a)(f) (effective August 31, 2019).</p>
<p>Present Views And Concerns To Governor Or Agency Prior To Release.</p> <p>Enumerated rights. When the crime or act of delinquency is one against or involving the person of the victim or is equivalent to a felony property crime, the victim is entitled to the following rights:</p> <p>The right to present the victim’s views and concerns to the Governor or agency considering any action that could result in the release of the accused, prior to such action becoming effective.</p>	<p>N.C. Const. art. I, § 37(1a)(g) (effective August 31, 2019).</p>

<p>Conferral.</p> <p>Enumerated rights. When the crime or act of delinquency is one against or involving the person of the victim or is equivalent to a felony property crime, the victim is entitled to the following rights:</p> <p>The right to reasonably confer with the prosecution.</p>	<p>N.C. Const. art. I, § 37(1a)(h) (effective August 31, 2019).</p>
<p>Victim May Assert Rights By Motion; Right To Counsel.</p> <p>Enforcement of rights. Except as otherwise provided herein, the General Assembly shall further provide, by general law, the procedure whereby a victim may assert the rights provided in this section. The victim or, if the victim is a minor, is legally incapacitated, or deceased, a family member, guardian, or legal custodian may assert the rights provided in this section. The procedure shall be by motion to the court of jurisdiction within the same criminal or juvenile proceeding giving rise to the rights. The victim, family member, guardian, or legal custodian have the right to counsel at this hearing but do not have the right to counsel provided by the State. If the matter involves an allegation that the district attorney failed to comply with the rights of a victim when obligated to so do by law, the victim must first afford the district attorney with jurisdiction over the criminal action an opportunity to resolve any issue in a timely manner.</p> <p> A promising practice is that when notifying victims that they have standing to enforce their rights in court, to let them know that they may do so personally or with the assistance of an attorney. This notice should include an explanation of the different roles of a prosecuting attorney vs. an attorney hired by the victim to represent their interests and assert their rights.</p>	<p>N.C. Const. art. I, § 37(1b) (effective August 31, 2019).</p>
<p>Employees Of Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Judicial System And Correctional System To Make Reasonable Efforts To Ensure Victims Are Accorded Rights.</p> <p>To the extent reasonably possible and subject to available resources, the employees of law-enforcement agencies, the prosecutorial system, the judicial system, and the correctional system should make a reasonable effort to assure that each victim and witness within their jurisdiction:</p> <p>(1) Is provided information regarding immediate medical assistance when needed and is not detained for an unreasonable length of time before having such assistance administered.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-825(1)–(13).</p>

<p>(2) Is provided information about available protection from harm and threats of harm arising out of cooperation with law-enforcement prosecution efforts, and receives such protection.</p> <p>(2a) Is provided information that testimony as to one's home address is not relevant in every case, and that the victim or witness may request the district attorney to raise an objection should he/she deem it appropriate to this line of questioning in the case at hand.</p> <p>(3) Has any stolen or other personal property expeditiously returned by law-enforcement agencies when it is no longer needed as evidence, and its return would not impede an investigation or prosecution of the case. When feasible, all such property, except weapons, currency, contraband, property subject to evidentiary analysis, and property whose ownership is disputed, should be photographed and returned to the owner within a reasonable period of time of being recovered by law-enforcement officials.</p> <p>(4) Is provided appropriate employer intercession services to seek the employer's cooperation with the criminal justice system and minimize the employee's loss of pay and other benefits resulting from such cooperation whenever possible.</p> <p>(5) Is provided, whenever practical, a secure waiting area during court proceedings that does not place the victim or witness in close proximity to defendants and families or friends of defendants.</p> <p>(6) Is informed of the procedures to be followed to apply for and receive any appropriate witness fees or victim compensation.</p> <p>(6a) Is informed of the right to be present throughout the entire trial of the defendant, subject to the right of the court to sequester witnesses.</p> <p>(7) Is given the opportunity to be present during the final disposition of the case or is informed of the final disposition of the case, if he has requested to be present or be informed.</p> <p>(8) Is notified, whenever possible, that a court proceeding to which he has been subpoenaed will not occur as scheduled.</p> <p>(9) Has a victim impact statement prepared for consideration by the court.</p> <p>(9a) Prior to trial, is provided information about plea bargaining procedures and is told that the district attorney may recommend a plea bargain to the court.</p>	
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<p>(10) Is informed that civil remedies may be available and that statutes of limitation apply in civil cases.</p> <p>(11) Upon the victim's written request, is notified before a proceeding is held at which the release of the offender from custody is considered, if the crime for which the offender was placed in custody is a Class G or more serious felony.</p> <p>(12) Upon the victim's written request, is notified if the offender escapes from custody or is released from custody, if the crime for which the offender was placed in custody is a Class G or more serious felony.</p> <p>(13) Has family members of a homicide victim offered all the guarantees in this section, except those in subdivision (1).</p>	
<p>District Attorney Legal Assistants To Coordinate Efforts Within The Law Enforcement And Judicial Systems To Ensure Victims Are Accorded Their Rights.</p> <p>In addition to providing administrative and legal support to the district attorney's office, district attorney legal assistants are responsible for coordinating efforts within the law-enforcement and judicial systems to assure that each victim and witness is treated in accordance with this Article.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-826.</p>
<p>Law Enforcement To Provide Information To Victim Within 72 Hours Of Identifying The Victim And After Arrest.</p> <p>(a) As soon as practicable but within 72 hours after identifying a victim covered by this Article, the investigating law enforcement agency shall provide the victim with the following information:</p> <p>(1) The availability of medical services, if needed.</p> <p>(2) The availability of crime victims' compensation funds under Chapter 15B of the General Statutes and the address and telephone number of the agency responsible for dispensing the funds.</p> <p>(3) The address and telephone number of the district attorney's office that will be responsible for prosecuting the victim's case.</p> <p>(4) The name and telephone number of an investigating law enforcement agency employee whom the victim may contact if the victim has not been notified of an arrest in the victim's case within six months after the crime was reported to the law enforcement agency.</p> <p>(5) Information about an accused's opportunity for pretrial release.</p> <p>(6) The name and telephone number of an investigating law enforcement agency employee whom the victim may contact to find out whether the accused has been released from custody.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-831(a)-(d).</p>

(7) The informational sheet described in G.S. 50B-3(c1), if there was a personal relationship, as defined in G.S. 50B-1(b), with the accused.

(b) As soon as practicable but within 72 hours after the arrest of a person believed to have committed a crime covered by this Article, the arresting law enforcement agency shall inform the investigating law enforcement agency of the arrest. As soon as practicable but within 72 hours of being notified of the arrest, the investigating law enforcement agency shall notify the victim of the arrest.

(c) As soon as practicable but within 72 hours after receiving notification from the arresting law enforcement agency that the accused has been arrested, the investigating law enforcement agency shall forward to the district attorney's office that will be responsible for prosecuting the case the defendant's name and the victim's name, address, date of birth, social security number, race, sex, and telephone number, unless the victim refuses to disclose any or all of the information, in which case, the investigating law enforcement agency shall so inform the district attorney's office.

(d) Upon receiving the information in subsection (a) of this section, the victim shall, on a form provided by the investigating law enforcement agency, indicate whether the victim wishes to receive any further notices from the investigating law enforcement agency on the status of the accused during the pretrial process. If the victim elects to receive further notices during the pretrial process, the victim shall be responsible for notifying the investigating law enforcement agency of any changes in the victim's name, address, and telephone number.







A promising practice is to have a policy and procedure determining who is responsible for providing victims notice of their rights and when. If the timing of notice is not otherwise specified, consideration should be given to providing written notice at or promptly after the victims' initial contact with law enforcement. The notice—if written—should be provided in the primary language of the victim when possible, as well as in a form accessible to those with vision impairment.





A promising practice is to have a policy and procedure in place to ensure that victims are aware at the earliest stages of a case that they must “request” the exercise of certain rights. Agencies should carefully maintain documentation of a victim's request to exercise rights.

<p>Victims Of Sexual Assault Shall Not Be Required By Criminal Or Juvenile Justice Agencies To Submit To A Polygraph As A Precondition To Conducting An Investigation.</p> <p>(a) A criminal or juvenile justice agency shall not require a person claiming to be a victim of sexual assault or claiming to be a witness regarding the sexual assault of another person to submit to a polygraph or similar examination as a precondition to the agency conducting an investigation into the matter.</p> <p>(b) An agency wishing to perform a polygraph examination of a person claiming to be a victim or witness of sexual assault shall inform the person of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) That taking the polygraph examination is voluntary. (2) That the results of the examination are not admissible in court. (3) That the person's decision to submit to or refuse a polygraph examination will not be the sole basis for a decision by the agency not to investigate the matter. <p>(c) An agency which declines to investigate an alleged case of sexual assault following a decision by a person claiming to be a victim not to submit to a polygraph examination shall provide to that person, in writing, the reasons why the agency did not pursue the investigation at the request of the person.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-831.1(a)-(c).</p>
<p>Prosecutor To Provide Written Notice Of Rights, Eligibility For Compensation, Duties Of The Prosecutor And Contact Information; Victims' Requests For Notice Of Proceedings.</p> <p>(a) Within 21 days after the arrest of the accused, but not less than 24 hours before the accused's first scheduled probable-cause hearing, the district attorney's office shall provide to the victim a pamphlet or other written material that explains in a clear and concise manner the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The victim's rights under this Article, including the right to confer with the attorney prosecuting the case about the disposition of the case and the right to provide a victim impact statement. (2) The responsibilities of the district attorney's office under this Article. (3) The victim's eligibility for compensation under the Crime Victims Compensation Act and the deadlines by which the victim must file a claim for compensation. (4) The steps generally taken by the district attorney's office when prosecuting a felony case. (5) Suggestions on what the victim should do if threatened or intimidated by the accused or someone acting on the accused's behalf. 	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-832(a)-(b).</p>

<p>(6) The name and telephone number of a victim and witness assistant in the district attorney's office whom the victim may contact for further information.</p> <p>(b) Upon receiving the information in subsection (a) of this section, the victim shall, on a form provided by the district attorney's office, indicate whether the victim wishes to receive notices of some, all, or none of the trial and posttrial proceedings involving the accused. If the victim elects to receive notices, the victim shall be responsible for notifying the district attorney's office or any other department or agency that has a responsibility under this Article of any changes in the victim's address and telephone number. The victim may alter the request for notification at any time by notifying the district attorney's office and completing the form provided by the district attorney's office.</p> <p> A promising practice is to have a policy and procedure determining who at the district attorney's office is responsible for providing victims written notice of their rights and when. Consideration should be given to providing written notice at or promptly after arrest. The notice should be provided in the primary language of the victim when possible, as well as in a form accessible to those with vision impairment.</p> <p> A promising practice is to have a policy and procedure in place to ensure that victims are aware at the earliest stages of a case that they must "request" the exercise of certain rights. Agencies should carefully maintain documentation of a victim's request to exercise rights.</p>	
<p>Prosecutor To Provide Prior Notice Of Proceedings Per Victims' Request.</p> <p>The district attorney's office shall notify a victim of the date, time, and place of all trial court proceedings of the type that the victim has elected to receive notice. All notices required to be given by the district attorney's office shall be given in a manner that is reasonably calculated to be received by the victim prior to the date of the court proceeding.</p> <p> A promising practice is to have a policy and procedure in place to ensure that victims are aware at the earliest stages of a case that they must "request" the exercise of certain rights. Agencies should carefully maintain documentation of a victim's request to exercise rights.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-832(c).</p>

<p>Prosecutor To Provide Secure Waiting Area For Victims.</p> <p>Whenever practical, the district attorney’s office shall provide a secure waiting area during court proceedings that does not place the victim in close proximity to the defendant or the defendant’s family.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-832(d).</p>
<p>Court to Ensure Victims’ Fullest Attendance at Trial.</p> <p>When the victim is to be called as a witness in a court proceeding, the court shall make every effort to permit the fullest attendance possible by the victim in the proceedings. This subsection shall not be construed to interfere with the defendant’s right to a fair trial.</p> <p> Victims’ constitutional right to be present at court proceedings, including trial, and the court’s duty to ensure the victims’ fullest attendance at trial, should provide for the victims’ presence during the entirety of the trial. Even if the victim is to be a witness and the court concludes that the victim’s testimony would be materially altered if the victim hears other testimony, consider discussing with the prosecutor the possibility of the victim testifying first to best ensure the victim’s right to be present during the entirety of the trial.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-832(e).</p>
<p>Conferral.</p> <p>Prior to the disposition of the case, the district attorney’s office shall offer the victim the opportunity to consult with the prosecuting attorney to obtain the views of the victim about the disposition of the case, including the victim’s views about dismissal, plea or negotiations, sentencing, and any pretrial diversion programs.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-832(f).</p>
<p>Victims’ Identifying Information On Notice Form To Be Maintained As Confidential File.</p> <p>At the sentencing hearing, the prosecuting attorney shall submit to the court a copy of a form containing the identifying information set forth in G.S. 15A-831(c) about any victim’s electing to receive further notices under this Article. The clerk of superior court shall include the form with the final judgment and commitment, or judgment suspending sentence, transmitted to the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety or other agency receiving custody of the defendant and shall be maintained by the custodial agency as a confidential file.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-832(g).</p>


<p>Prosecutor To Notify Office Of The Attorney General And Legal Aid Of Victim Of Human Trafficking Who Is Entitled To Benefits; Victims Of Human Trafficking Who Are Not Legal Residents Eligible For Public Benefits And Services.</p> <p>When a person is a victim of a human trafficking offense and is entitled to benefits and services pursuant to G.S. 14-43.11(d), the district attorney's office shall so notify the Office of the Attorney General and Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc., in addition to providing services under this Article.</p> <p>A person who is not a legal resident of North Carolina, and would consequently be ineligible for State public benefits or services, shall be eligible for the public benefits and services of any State agency if the person is otherwise eligible for the public benefit and is a victim of an offense charged under this section. Eligibility for public benefits and services shall terminate at such time as the victim's eligibility to remain in the United States is terminated under federal law.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-832(h); N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 14-43.11(d).</p>
<p>Victims' Right To Offer Victim Impact Evidence To Be Considered By The Court Or Jury In Sentencing Defendant.</p> <p>(a) A victim has the right to offer admissible evidence of the impact of the crime, which shall be considered by the court or jury in sentencing the defendant. The evidence may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A description of the nature and extent of any physical, psychological, or emotional injury suffered by the victim as a result of the offense committed by the defendant. (2) An explanation of any economic or property loss suffered by the victim as a result of the offense committed by the defendant. (3) A request for restitution and an indication of whether the victim has applied for or received compensation under the Crime Victims Compensation Act. <p>(b) No victim shall be required to offer evidence of the impact of the crime. No inference or conclusion shall be drawn from a victim's decision not to offer evidence of the impact of the crime. At the victim's request and with the consent of the defendant, a representative of the district attorney's office or a law enforcement officer may proffer evidence of the impact of the crime to the court.</p> <p> A promising practice is to be familiar with the acceptable formats for victim impact statements so that victims can be informed about all of their options. Depending on your jurisdiction's law, victims may choose to: (1) read or speak their impact statement aloud at the sentencing proceeding, or</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-833(a)-(b).</p>

<p>have another person do it for them; (2) submit a written victim impact statement to the court in advance of sentencing; (3) provide an impact statement using technology to facilitate remote attendance; and/or (4) play or submit an impact statement that was created using audio and video technology.</p>	
<p>Restitution.</p> <p>A victim has the right to receive restitution as ordered by the court pursuant to Article 81C of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes.</p> <p> A promising practice is to assist victims with the documentation of their losses—including anticipated future expenses—from the earliest moments of the case.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-834.</p>
<p>Court Shall Require Defendant To Make Restitution To The Victim For Any Injuries Or Damages Arising Out Of Offense Committed By Defendant; Restitution Shall Be Ordered To Be Condition Of Probation Or Post-Release Supervision.</p> <p>(a) When sentencing a defendant convicted of a criminal offense, the court shall determine whether the defendant shall be ordered to make restitution to any victim of the offense in question. For purposes of this Article, the term “victim” means a person directly and proximately harmed as a result of the defendant’s commission of the criminal offense.</p> <p>(b) If the defendant is being sentenced for an offense for which the victim is entitled to restitution under Article 46 of this Chapter, the court shall, in addition to any penalty authorized by law, require that the defendant make restitution to the victim or the victim’s estate for any injuries or damages arising directly and proximately out of the offense committed by the defendant. If the defendant is placed on probation or post-release supervision, any restitution ordered under this subsection shall be a condition of probation as provided in G.S. 15A-1343(d) or a condition of post-release supervision as provided in G.S. 148-57.1.</p> <p>(c) When subsection (b) of this section does not apply, the court may, in addition to any other penalty authorized by law, require that the defendant make restitution to the victim or the victim’s estate for any injuries or damages arising directly and proximately out of the offense committed by the defendant.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-1340.34(a)-(c).</p>


<p>Court Shall Consider Specific Costs Such As Lost Income, Property Value and Funeral Expenses In Determining Restitution.</p> <p>(a) In determining the amount of restitution, the court shall consider the following:</p> <p>(1) In the case of an offense resulting in bodily injury to a victim:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The cost of necessary medical and related professional services and devices or equipment relating to physical, psychiatric, and psychological care required by the victim; b. The cost of necessary physical and occupational therapy and rehabilitation required by the victim; and c. Income lost by the victim as a result of the offense. <p>(2) In the case of an offense resulting in the damage, loss, or destruction of property of a victim of the offense:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Return of the property to the owner of the property or someone designated by the owner; or b. If return of the property under sub-subdivision (2)a. of this subsection is impossible, impracticable, or inadequate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The value of the property on the date of the damage, loss, or destruction; or 2. The value of the property on the date of sentencing, less the value of any part of the property that is returned. <p>(3) Any measure of restitution specifically provided by law for the offense committed by the defendant.</p> <p>(4) In the case of an offense resulting in bodily injury that results in the death of the victim, the cost of the victim's necessary funeral and related services, in addition to the items set out in subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection.</p> <p>(b) The court may require that the victim or the victim's estate provide admissible evidence that documents the costs claimed by the victim or the victim's estate under this section. Any such documentation shall be shared with the defendant before the sentencing hearing.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-1340.35(a)-(b).</p>
<p>Victims Must Be Provided Notice And An Opportunity To Be Heard Before Court Remits An Order Of Restitution.</p> <p>(a) Notice and Hearing Required.--No court may remit all or part of an order of restitution entered pursuant to G.S. 15A-1340.34 without providing notice and an opportunity to be heard to the district attorney and the victim, victim's estate, or any other entity to which the order directs restitution to be paid. The court shall provide notice to the district attorney and the victim, the victim's estate, or other entity of (i) the date and time of the hearing and (ii) the right to be heard and make an objection to the remission of all or part</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-1340.39(a)-(c).</p>


<p>of the order of restitution, at least 15 days prior to hearing. Notice shall be made to the victim, victim's estate, or other entity by first-class mail to the address provided for receipt of funds paid pursuant to the order of restitution.</p> <p>(b) Ruling; Criteria.--If the court finds that the remission of the order is warranted and serves the interests of justice, the court may remit the order of restitution.</p> <p>(c) Civil Action Not Abridged.--The remission of an order of restitution, pursuant to this section, does not abridge the right of a victim or the victim's estate to bring a civil action against the defendant for damages arising out of the offense committed by the defendant.</p>	
<p>Prosecutor To Provide Notice Of Final Disposition, Crimes Of Conviction, Defendant's Right To Appeal, Contact Information In Case Of Non-Payment Of Restitution; If Notice Of Appeal Is Filed By Defendant, Attorney General's Office To Provide Information About The Appellate Process, Prior Notice Of Appellate Proceedings, Final Disposition Of Appeal; Notice Of Release Pending Outcome Of The Appeal; Victims Retain Rights Upon Remand.</p> <p>(a) Within 30 days after the final trial court proceeding in the case, the district attorney's office shall notify the victim, in writing, of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The final disposition of the case. (2) The crimes of which the defendant was convicted. (3) The defendant's right to appeal, if any. (4) The telephone number of offices to contact in the event of nonpayment of restitution by the defendant. <p>(b) Upon a defendant's giving notice of appeal to the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court, the district attorney's office shall forward to the Attorney General's office the defendant's name and the victim's name, address, and telephone number. Upon receipt of this information, and thereafter as the circumstances require, the Attorney General's office shall provide the victim with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A clear and concise explanation of how the appellate process works, including information about possible actions that may be taken by the appellate court. (2) Notice of the date, time, and place of any appellate proceedings involving the defendant. Notice shall be given in a manner that is reasonably calculated to be received by the victim prior to the date of the proceedings. (3) The final disposition of an appeal. <p>(c) If the defendant has been released on bail pending the outcome of the appeal, the agency that has custody of the defendant shall notify the</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-835(a)-(d).</p>

<p>investigating law enforcement agency as soon as practicable, and within 72 hours of receipt of the notification the investigating law enforcement agency shall notify the victim that the defendant has been released.</p> <p>(d) If the defendant's conviction is overturned, and the district attorney's office decides to retry the case or the case is remanded to superior court for a new trial, the victim shall be entitled to the same rights under this Article as if the first trial did not take place.</p>	
<p>Notice Of Release, Inmate's Assignment To Minimum Custody Unit, Right To Submit Concerns To The Custodial Agency, Escape, Capture And Death; Timelines.</p> <p>(a) When a form is included with the final judgment and commitment pursuant to G.S. 15A-832(g), or when the victim has otherwise filed a written request for notification with the custodial agency, the custodial agency shall notify the victim of:</p> <p>(1) The projected date by which the defendant can be released from custody. The calculation of the release date shall be as exact as possible, including earned time and disciplinary credits if the sentence of imprisonment exceeds 90 days.</p> <p>(2) An inmate's assignment to a minimum custody unit and the address of the unit. This notification shall include notice that the inmate's minimum custody status may lead to the inmate's participation in one or more community-based programs such as work release or supervised leaves in the community.</p> <p>(3) The victim's right to submit any concerns to the agency with custody and the procedure for submitting such concerns.</p> <p>(4) The defendant's escape from custody, within 72 hours, except that if a victim has notified the agency in writing that the defendant has issued a specific threat against the victim, the agency shall notify the victim as soon as possible and within 24 hours at the latest.</p> <p>(5) The defendant's capture, within 24 hours.</p> <p>(6) The date the defendant is scheduled to be released from the facility. Whenever practical, notice shall be given 60 days before release. In no event shall notice be given less than seven days before release.</p> <p>(7) The defendant's death.</p> <p>(b) Notifications required in this section shall be provided within 60 days of the date the custodial agency takes custody of the defendant or within 60 days of the event requiring notification, or as otherwise specified in subsection (a) of this section.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-836(a)-(b).</p>

 <p>A promising practice is to have a policy and procedure in place to ensure that victims are aware at the earliest stages of a case that they must “request” the exercise of certain rights. Agencies should carefully maintain documentation of a victim’s request to exercise rights.</p>	
<p>Corrections And Juvenile Justice To Provide Notice Of Defendant’s Conditions Of Probation Or Post-Release Supervision And Any Changes To The Conditions; Notice Of Hearings To Determine Revocation, Continuation, Modification Or Termination Of Supervision And Final Disposition; Notice Of Any Restitution Modification; Notice Of Intermediate Sanctions And Defendant’s Absconding Supervision And Capture; Notice Of Defendant’s Termination, Discharge And Death; Timelines.</p> <p>(a) The Section of Community Corrections of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice shall notify the victim of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The defendant’s regular conditions of probation or post-release supervision, special or added conditions, supervision requirements, and any subsequent changes. (2) The date and location of any hearing to determine whether the defendant’s supervision should be revoked, continued, modified, or terminated. (3) The final disposition of any hearing referred to in subdivision (2) of this subsection. (4) Any restitution modification. (5) The defendant’s movement into or out of any intermediate sanction as defined in G.S. 15A-1340.11(6). (6) The defendant’s absconding supervision, within 72 hours. (7) The capture of a defendant described in subdivision (6) of this subsection, within 72 hours. (8) The date when the defendant is terminated or discharged. (9) The defendant’s death. <p>(b) Notifications required in this section shall be provided within 30 days of the event requiring notification, or as otherwise specified in subsection (a) of this section.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-837(a)-(b).</p>
<p>Governor’s Clemency Office To Notify Victim When Considering Commutation Or Pardon; Notice Of Victims’ Right To Present Written Statement To Be Considered Before Decision; Notice Of Decision.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-838.</p>

<p>The Governor’s Clemency Office shall notify a victim when it is considering commuting the defendant’s sentence or pardoning the defendant. The Governor’s Clemency Office shall also give notice that the victim has the right to present a written statement to be considered by the Office before the defendant’s sentence is commuted or the defendant is pardoned. The Governor’s Clemency Office shall notify the victim of its decision. Notice shall be given in a manner that is reasonably calculated to allow for a timely response to the commutation or pardon decision.</p>	
<p>Victim’s Next Of Kin Or Legal Representative May Exercise Victim’s Rights When Victim Is A Minor Or Is Physically Or Mentally Incompetent.</p> <p>When a victim is mentally or physically incompetent or when the victim is a minor, the victim’s rights under this Article, other than the rights provided by G.S. 15A-834, may be exercised by the victim’s next of kin or legal guardian.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15A-841.</p>
<p>Employment Protections For Victims Of Domestic Violence.</p> <p>(a) No employer shall discharge, demote, deny a promotion, or discipline an employee because the employee took reasonable time off from work to obtain or attempt to obtain relief under this Chapter. An employee who is absent from the workplace shall follow the employer’s usual time-off policy or procedure, including advance notice to the employer, when required by the employer’s usual procedures, unless an emergency prevents the employee from doing so. An employer may require documentation of any emergency that prevented the employee from complying in advance with the employer’s usual time-off policy or procedure, or any other information available to the employee which supports the employee’s reason for being absent from the workplace.</p> <p>(b) The Commissioner of Labor shall enforce the provisions of this section according to Article 21 of Chapter 95 of the General Statutes, including the rules and regulations issued pursuant to the Article.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 50B-5.5(a)-(b).</p>
<p>Domestic Violence Protection Orders; No Costs, Attorneys’ Fees To Be Assessed.</p> <p>(a) Any person residing in this State may seek relief under this Chapter by filing a civil action or by filing a motion in any existing action filed under Chapter 50 of the General Statutes alleging acts of domestic violence against himself or herself or a minor child who resides with or is in the custody of</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 50B-2(a).</p>

<p>such person. Any aggrieved party entitled to relief under this Chapter may file a civil action and proceed pro se, without the assistance of legal counsel. The district court division of the General Court of Justice shall have original jurisdiction over actions instituted under this Chapter. Any action for a domestic violence protective order requires that a summons be issued and served. The summons issued pursuant to this Chapter shall require the defendant to answer within 10 days of the date of service. Attachments to the summons shall include the complaint, notice of hearing, any temporary or ex parte order that has been issued, and other papers through the appropriate law enforcement agency where the defendant is to be served. In compliance with the federal Violence Against Women Act, no court costs or attorneys' fees shall be assessed for the filing, issuance, registration, or service of a protective order or petition for a protective order or witness subpoena, except as provided in G.S. 1A-1, Rule 11.</p> <p>.....</p>  <p>Victims of domestic violence may file for protection orders with no costs or attorney fees charged to them for the filing, issuance, registration, or service of the protective order or petition for a protective order or witness subpoena except as provided in G.S. 1A-1, Rule 11.</p>	
<p>Permanent Civil No-Contact Order Against Sex Offender; No Costs, Attorneys' Fees To Be Assessed; Victim May Designate Alternate Address To Receive Notice Of Pleadings/Motions Filed By Offender.</p> <p>(a) An action is commenced under this Chapter by filing a verified complaint for a permanent civil no-contact order in district court or by filing a motion in any existing civil action, by any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A person who is the victim of a sex offense that occurs in this State. (2) A competent adult who resides in this State on behalf of a minor child who is the victim of a sex offense that occurs in this State. (3) A competent adult who resides in this State on behalf of an incompetent adult who is the victim of a sex offense that occurs in this State. <p>(b) No court costs or attorneys' fees shall be assessed for the filing or service of the complaint, or the service of any orders, except as provided in G.S. 1A-1, Rule 11.</p> <p>(c) An action commenced under this Chapter may be filed in any county permitted under G.S. 1-82 or where the respondent was convicted of the sex offense.</p> <p>(d) If the victim states that disclosure of the victim's address would place the victim or any member of the victim's family or household at risk for further unlawful conduct, the victim's address may be omitted from all</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 50D-2(a)-(d).</p>

<p>documents filed with the court. If the victim has not disclosed an address under this subsection, the victim shall designate an alternative address to receive notice of any motions or pleadings from the opposing party.</p> <p> Victims of sex offenses may file for civil no-contact orders with no court costs or attorneys' fees charged to them for the filing or service of the complaint, or the service of any orders, except as provided in G.S. 1A-1, Rule 11.</p>	
<p>Compensation Claims To Be Filed With The Director Of The Crime Victims Compensation Commission.</p> <p>(a) A claim for an award of compensation is commenced by filing an application for an award with the Director. The application shall be in a form prescribed by the Commission and shall contain the following information:</p> <p>(1) The name and address of the victim of the criminally injurious conduct, the name and address of the claimant, and the relationship of the claimant to the victim;</p> <p>(2) If the victim is deceased, the name and address of each dependent of the victim and the extent to which each is dependent upon the victim for care and support;</p> <p>(3) The nature of the criminally injurious conduct that is the basis for the claim and the date on which the conduct occurred;</p> <p>(4) The law-enforcement agency or officer to whom the criminally injurious conduct was reported and the date on which it was reported;</p> <p>(5) The nature and extent of the injuries that the victim sustained from the criminally injurious conduct for which compensation is sought, the name and address of any person who gave medical treatment to the victim for the injuries, the name and address of any hospital or similar institution where the victim received medical treatment for the injuries, and whether the victim died as a result of the injuries;</p> <p>(6) The total amount of the economic loss that the victim, a dependent, or the claimant sustained as a result of the criminally injurious conduct, without regard to the financial limitations set forth in G.S. 15B-11(f) and (g).</p> <p>(7) The amount of benefits or advantages that the victim, a dependent, or other claimant has received or is entitled to receive from any collateral source for economic loss that resulted from the criminally injurious conduct, and the name of each collateral source;</p> <p>(8) Whether the claimant is the spouse, parent, child, brother, or sister of the offender, or is similarly related to an accomplice of the offender who committed the criminally injurious conduct;</p> <p>(9) A release authorizing the Commission and the Commission's staff to obtain any report, document, or information that relates to the determination of the claim for an award of compensation;</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15B-7(a)(1)-(10).</p>

<p>(10) Any additional relevant information that the Commission may require. The Commission may require the claimant to submit, with the application, materials to substantiate the facts that are stated in the application. </p>	
<p>Purpose Of Address Confidentiality Program Is To Prevent Disclosure By The State Of Locating Information Of Victims Of Domestic Violence, Sexual Offenses, Stalking And Human Trafficking; Prevent Victim's Assailants Or Potential Assailants From Finding Them Through Public Records; Attorney General To Designate A Substitute Address For Program Participants.</p> <p>The purpose of this Chapter is to enable the State and the agencies of North Carolina to respond to requests for public records without disclosing the location of a victim of domestic violence, sexual offense, stalking, or human trafficking; to enable interagency cooperation in providing address confidentiality for victims of domestic violence, sexual offense, stalking, or human trafficking; and to enable the State and its agencies to accept a program participant's use of an address designated by the Office of the Attorney General as a substitute address.</p> <p>The General Assembly establishes the Address Confidentiality Program in the Office of the Attorney General to protect the confidentiality of the address of a relocated victim of domestic violence, sexual offense, stalking, or human trafficking to prevent the victim's assailants or potential assailants from finding the victim through public records. Under this Program, the Attorney General shall designate a substitute address for a program participant and act as the agent of the program participant for purposes of service of process and receiving and forwarding first-class mail or certified or registered mail. The Attorney General shall not be required to forward any mail other than first-class mail or certified or registered mail to the program participant. The Attorney General shall not be required to track or otherwise maintain records of any mail received on behalf of a program participant unless the mail is certified or registered mail.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15C-1; N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15C-3.</p>
<p>Address Confidentiality Program Application Assistants To Help Victims; Contents Of Application.</p> <p>(a) An individual who wants to participate in the Address Confidentiality Program shall file an application with the Attorney General with the assistance of an application assistant. Any of the following individuals may apply to the Attorney General to have an address designated by the Attorney General to serve as the substitute address of the individual: (1) An adult individual.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15C-4(a)-(e).</p>

<p>(2) A parent or guardian acting on behalf of a minor when the minor resides with the individual.</p> <p>(3) A guardian acting on behalf of an incapacitated individual.</p> <p>(b) The application shall be dated, signed, and verified by the applicant and shall be signed by the application assistant who assisted in the preparation of the application.</p> <p>(c) The application shall contain all of the following:</p> <p>(1) A statement by the applicant that the applicant is a victim of domestic violence, sexual offense, stalking, or human trafficking and that the applicant fears for the applicant's safety or the safety of the applicant's child.</p> <p>(2) Evidence that the applicant is a victim of domestic violence, sexual offense, stalking, or human trafficking. This evidence may include any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Law enforcement, court, or other federal or state agency records or files. b. Documentation from a domestic violence program if the applicant is alleged to be a victim of domestic violence. c. Documentation from a religious, medical, or other professional from whom the applicant has sought assistance in dealing with the alleged domestic violence, sexual offense, or stalking. d. Documentation submitted to support a victim of human trafficking's application for federal assistance or benefits under federal human trafficking laws. <p>(3) A statement by the applicant that disclosure of the applicant's address would endanger the applicant's safety or the safety of the applicant's child.</p> <p>(4) A statement by the applicant that the applicant has or will confidentially relocate in North Carolina.</p> <p>(5) A designation of the Attorney General as an agent for the applicant for purposes of service of process and the receipt of first-class mail or certified or registered mail.</p> <p>(6) The mailing address and telephone number where the applicant can be contacted by the Attorney General.</p> <p>(7) The address that the applicant requests not to be disclosed by the Attorney General that directly relates to the increased risk of domestic violence, sexual offense, or stalking.</p> <p>(8) A statement as to whether there is any existing court order or court action involving the applicant related to divorce proceedings, child support, child custody, or child visitation and the court that issued the order or has jurisdiction over the action.</p> <p>(9) A statement by the applicant that to the best of the applicant's knowledge, the information contained in the application is true.</p> <p>(10) A recommendation of an application assistant that the applicant have an address designated by the Attorney General to serve as the substitute address of the applicant.</p>	
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<p>(d) Upon the filing of a properly completed application, the Attorney General shall certify the applicant as a program participant. Upon certification, the Attorney General shall issue an Address Confidentiality Program authorization card to the program participant. The Address Confidentiality Program authorization card shall remain valid for so long as the program participant remains certified under the Program.</p> <p>(e) Applicants shall be certified for four years following the date of filing unless the certification is withdrawn or canceled prior to the end of the four-year period. A program participant may withdraw the certification by filing a request for withdrawal acknowledged before a notary with the Attorney General. A certification may be renewed by filing an application containing the information required by G.S. 15C-3 with the Attorney General at least 30 days prior to expiration of the current certification.</p>	
<p>Disclosure Of Address Or Telephone Number Of Program Participants Prohibited; Exceptions.</p> <p>(a) The Attorney General is prohibited from disclosing any address or telephone number of a program participant other than the substitute address designated by the Attorney General, except under the following circumstances:</p> <p>(1) The information is requested by a federal, state, or local law enforcement agency for official use only.</p> <p>(2) The information is required by direction of a court order. However, any person to whom a program participant's address or telephone number has been disclosed shall not disclose the address or telephone number to any other person unless permitted to do so by order of the court.</p> <p>(3) Upon request by an agency to verify the participation of a specific program participant when the verification is for official use only.</p> <p>(4) Upon request by an agency, in the manner provided for by G.S. 15C-8.</p> <p>(5) The program participant is required to disclose the program participant's actual address as part of a registration required by Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes.</p> <p>(b) The Attorney General shall provide immediate notification of disclosure to a program participant when disclosure is made pursuant to subdivision (2) or (4) of subsection (a) of this section.</p> <p>(c) If, at the time of application, an applicant is subject to a court order related to divorce proceedings, child support, child custody, or child visitation, the Attorney General shall notify the court that issued the order of the certification of the program participant in the Address Confidentiality Program and the substitute address designated by the Attorney General. If, at the time of application, an applicant is involved in a court action related</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15C-9(a)-(c).</p>

<p>to divorce proceedings, child support, child custody, or child visitation, the Attorney General shall notify the court having jurisdiction over the action of the certification of the applicant in the Address Confidentiality Program and the substitute address designated by the Attorney General.</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>Attorney General To Designate Agencies And Nonprofits That Provide Counseling And Shelter Services To Victims Of Domestic Violence, Sexual Offenses, Stalking Or Human Trafficking; Victims To Receive Notice Of Eligibility To Access State Benefits And Services.</p> <p>(a) The Attorney General shall designate agencies of North Carolina and nonprofit organizations that provide counseling and shelter services to victims of domestic violence, sexual offense, stalking, or human trafficking to assist individuals applying to be program participants. Any assistance and counseling rendered by the Office of the Attorney General or its designee to applicants shall in no way be construed as legal advice.</p> <p>(b) The Attorney General, upon receiving notification pursuant to G.S. 15A-832(h), shall, within 96 hours of receiving the notification, issue the victim a letter of certification of eligibility or other relevant document entitling the person to have access to State benefits and services.</p>	<p>N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 15C-10(a), (b).</p>

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