

Landmarks in Victims' Rights and Services



Crime Victims' Rights in America: A Historical Overview

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) creates an opportunity for communities to come together and reflect on the history of crime victims' rights. The landmarks in victims' rights and services outline this progress from 1965 to the present by highlighting— the creation and growth of local, state, and national victim service organizations;

- the passage of key federal and state legislation;
- notable court decisions;
- groundbreaking reports and studies; and
- advances in victim assistance approaches.

This section of the NCVRW Resource Guide tells the story of our Nation's capacity to help crime victims rebuild their lives. Use these milestones to inform your speeches, op-ed columns, media interviews, and other education efforts.

Key Federal Victims' Rights Legislation

1974: Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act	1996: Mandatory Victims' Restitution Act
1980: Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act	1997: Victims' Rights Clarification Act
1982: Victim and Witness Protection Act	1998: Identity Theft and Deterrence Act
1982: Missing Children's Act	2000: Trafficking Victims Protection Act
1984: Victims of Crime Act	2001: Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (established the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund)
1984: Justice Assistance Act	2003: PROTECT Act (Amber Alert Law)
1984: Missing Children's Assistance Act	2003: Prison Rape Elimination Act
1984: Family Violence Prevention and Services Act	2003: Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act
1985: Children's Justice Act	2004: Justice For All Act (including Title I: The Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Louarna Gillis, and Nila Lynn Crime Victims' Rights Act)
1988: Drunk Driving Prevention Act	2006: Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act
1990: Hate Crime Statistics Act	2010: Tribal Law and Order Act
1990: Victims of Child Abuse Act	2015: Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act
1990: Victims' Rights and Restitution Act	2016: Native American Children's Safety Act
1990: National Child Search Assistance Act	2021: VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021
1992: Battered Women's Testimony Act	2022: Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022
1993: Child Sexual Abuse Registry Act	
1994: Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act	
1994: Violence Against Women Act	
1996: Community Notification Act (Megan's Law)	
1996: Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act	

