

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

National Crime Victims' Rights Week ceremonies often include proclamations from public officials - governors, mayors, or county council presidents - to inspire the community, raise awareness of victims' rights, and address unmet needs. Officials may hold public signings of these proclamations and invite sponsoring agencies and the local media to attend. Increase the likelihood that officials will issue a proclamation by providing them with a sample; they will appreciate having an example to guide their own proclamations and public statements. Contact your officials well in advance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) to invite them to speak at your ceremony or to issue an NCVRW proclamation.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 7-13, 2019

Whereas, in 1982, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime envisioned a national commitment to a more equitable and supportive response to victims;

Whereas, this commemorative week celebrates the energy, perseverance and commitment that launched the victims' rights movement, inspired its progress, and continues to advance the cause of justice for crime victims;

Whereas, crime can leave a lasting impact on any person, regardless of age, national origin, race, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, immigration, or economic status;

Whereas, incorporating communities' existing experts and trusted sources of support into efforts to fully serve survivors will develop a criminal justice system response that is truly accessible and appropriate for all victims of crime;

Whereas, with the unwavering support of their communities and victim service providers behind them, survivors will be empowered to face their grief, loss, fear, anger, and hope without fear of judgment, and will feel understood, heard, and respected;

Whereas, serving victims and rebuilding their trust restores hope to victims and survivors, as well as supports thriving communities;

Whereas, engaging a broader array of healthcare providers, community leaders, faith organizations, educators and businesses can provide new links between victims and services that improve their safety, healing, and access to justice;

Whereas, honoring the rights of victims, including the rights to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, and working to meet their needs rebuilds their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems;

Whereas, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that all victims of crime - especially those who are challenging to reach or serve - are offered culturally and linguistically accessible and appropriate services in the aftermath of crime; and

Whereas, *[Your organization]* is hereby dedicated to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities and our victim responders, and working for a better future for all victims and survivors.

Now, therefore, I, as *[Governor/County Executive/Mayor, Other Title]* of *[City/County/Parish/Tribe/State]*, do hereby proclaim the week of April 7-13, 2019, as

Crime Victims' Rights Week

And reaffirm this *[City/County/Parish/Tribe/State's]* commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice, and peace.

_____ *[Signature]*, _____ *[Date]*

