

## Juvenile Justice System

### Victim Notification of Action or Proceeding

**NOTE:** On May 26, 2011 the Supreme Court adopted a series of procedural rule modifications which emphasized that the crime victim must receive notice of court proceedings and have the opportunity to be heard. The Juvenile Court Procedural Rules as per the Explanatory Report and noted in the Comments sections of the rules provide guidance to the Juvenile Court regarding victim notifications during the juvenile justice process. Please note that the Rules of Delinquency Procedure do not mandate notification to victims other than those specifically defined in the Rule or outlined in the Victim's Bill of Rights, 18 P.S. §11.201 et seq, however, efforts to notify all crime victims with regard to the juvenile court proceedings as outlined in the rules noted below is recommended as best practice.

**NOTE:** Effective April 1, 2022 the Pennsylvania Supreme Court made changes to the Pennsylvania Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure. Specifically, amendments were made to Juvenile Court Procedure Rules 515 and 610 that will impact victim notification regarding restitution.

ACTION OR PROCEEDING	NOTIFICATION PROVIDED TO VICTIM
Allegation Filed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone)</li> </ul>
Intake Conference (Rule 311)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone)</li> <li>• Opportunity for victim to offer prior comment on disposition of the case if informal adjustment or an alternative resolution of the is being considered</li> <li>• Accompaniment/VCAP Information</li> </ul>
Informal Adjustment (Rule 311)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone)</li> <li>• Opportunity for prior comment and Victim Impact Statement (oral and/or written)</li> <li>• Restitution owed to victim will be a condition of successful completion of an informal adjustment</li> <li>• If victim not present, notice of final outcome of hearing sent to victim</li> <li>• Accompaniment/VCAP Information</li> </ul>
Juvenile Petition Filed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial victim letter sent to victim (include Victim Impact Statement and Restitution forms)</li> </ul>
Consent Decree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone) include Victim Impact Statement and Restitution forms)</li> <li>• Opportunity for prior comment and Victim Impact Statement (oral and/or written)</li> <li>• Restitution owed to victim will be a condition of successful completion of an informal adjustment</li> <li>• If victim not present, notice of final outcome of hearing sent to victim</li> <li>• Accompaniment/VCAP Information</li> </ul>

If Adjudication Hearing Date is Set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone)</li> <li>• Victim may be present and offer prior comment</li> <li>• Accompaniment/VCAP Information</li> </ul>
Dispositional Hearing (RULE 500)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone)</li> </ul>
Dispositional Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice of Dispositional Outcome sent to victim (including Expungement)</li> </ul>
Transfer to Another Jurisdiction (County/State)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone)</li> <li>• Victim info. sent to county/state receiving transferred juvenile offender</li> </ul>
Transfer to Adult System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone)</li> <li>• Information about adult system shared with victim</li> </ul>
Commitment Review, Dispositional Review and Probation Revocation Hearing (RULE 600)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone)</li> </ul>
Dispositional Order (RULE 515)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone)</li> <li>• Includes notice of determination of restitution</li> </ul>
Dispositional Review Hearing (Held every six (6) months) (RULE 610)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone)</li> <li>• Victim may be present and offer prior comment</li> <li>• Accompaniment/VCAP Information</li> <li>• Includes notice of Restitution Review/Modification</li> </ul>
Detention Hearing (RULES 241 & 242)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone)</li> <li>• Victim may be present and offer prior comment</li> <li>• Accompaniment/VCAP Information</li> </ul>
Home Passes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone) prior to the offender being released</li> <li>• Accompaniment/VCAP Information</li> </ul>
Release from Placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone) prior to the offender being released</li> <li>• Accompaniment/VCAP Information</li> </ul>
Termination of Probation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone)</li> </ul>
Escape from Detention Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone)</li> </ul>
Re-Apprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice given to victim (mail/telephone)</li> </ul>