

# Children

are Victims and Witnesses



## of Crime

Sometimes, children become victims or witnesses of crime. From witnessing domestic violence to being the primary targets of abuse and neglect, to experiencing other crimes, our children witness thousands of crimes each year. Washington State has established the following rights to help protect child victims and witnesses in the criminal and/or juvenile court system.

Adopted from the Revised Code of Washington 7.69A.030

## Know Children's Rights



Office of Crime Victims Advocacy

**OCVA Hotline**

**1- (800) 822-1067**

- ✓ To have all legal proceedings and/or police investigations in which the child may be involved explained in language they can easily understand.
- ✓ With respect to the child victims of violent or sex crimes, to have a crime victim advocate or other support person present at any prosecutorial or defense interviews.
- ✓ To be provided a secure waiting area whenever possible during court proceedings and to have an advocate or support person remain with the child prior to and during court proceedings.
- ✓ To not have names, addresses, or photographs disclosed to anyone outside the criminal justice system without the permission of the child or guardian.
- ✓ To allow an advocate to make recommendations to the prosecuting attorney about the ability of the child to cooperate with prosecution and the potential effect of the proceedings on the child.
- ✓ To allow an advocate to provide information to the court concerning the child's ability to understand the nature of the proceedings.
- ✓ To be provided information or referrals to appropriate social service agencies.
- ✓ To allow an advocate to be present in court while the child testifies in order to provide emotional support to the child.
- ✓ To provide information to the court as to the need for the presence of other supportive persons at the court proceedings while the child testifies in order to promote the child's feelings of security and safety.
- ✓ To allow law enforcement agencies the opportunity to enlist the assistance of other professional personnel such as child protection services, victim advocates or prosecutorial staff trained in the interviewing of the child victim.