



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
ACT MEMO**

2011 Wisconsin Act 283 [2011 Assembly Bill 232]	Crime Victim Rights
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2011 Wisconsin Act 283 relates to rights afforded to crime victims and witnesses by the Wisconsin Constitution and the Wisconsin statutes.

Current Law

Crime victims and witnesses are guaranteed certain rights under state law. Article I, Section 9m of the Wisconsin Constitution provides that the state shall treat crime victims with fairness, dignity, and respect for their privacy. The section also provides that the state shall ensure victims have specified privileges and protections.

Chapter 950, Stats., contains a statement of legislative intent to ensure that all victims and witnesses of crime are treated with dignity, respect, courtesy, and sensitivity, and that rights extended to victims and witnesses be protected as vigorously as protections afforded to criminal defendants. The chapter also contains a “bill of rights for victims and witnesses,” which articulates specific rights possessed by crime victims and witnesses.

2011 Wisconsin Act 283

2011 Wisconsin Act 283 enumerates additional rights for crime victims and witnesses and creates standing for a crime victim to seek relief for a violation of his or her victim rights.

Additional Enumerated Rights

Act 283 enumerates several new rights for crime victims within ch. 950, Stats. First, the Act creates a specific right for victims to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect for his or her privacy by public officials, employees, or agencies. In addition, the Act creates a right for victims not to have

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

their personal identifiers or email addresses used or disclosed by a public official, employee, or agency for a purpose unrelated to the official responsibilities of that official, employee, or agency.

Act 283 also enumerates an additional right for witnesses. The Act creates a right for witnesses not to have their personal identifiers or email addresses used or disclosed by a public official, employee, or agency for a purpose that is unrelated to the official responsibilities of that official, employee, or agency.

Crime Victim Standing

Act 283 creates standing for a crime victim to assert his or her victim rights under the Wisconsin Constitution or the Wisconsin statutes. A victim may assert his or her rights in a court in the county where the alleged violation occurred. A victim's standing to assert his or her own rights does not preclude a district attorney from asserting the victim's rights in a criminal case or a proceeding or motion.

Effective date: Act 283 takes effect on April 27, 2012.

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