

Anywhere... Anytime... Anyone... can become a victim of violent crime!

Victims' Rights, Services

Wyoming crime victims have rights provided under the Victims Bill of Rights, Wyo. Stat. Sec. 1-40-201.

In Wyoming, a crime victim has a legal right to:

Be treated with compassion, respect, and sensitivity within the criminal justice system.

Know the whereabouts of the offender and the current status of the case.

Receive restitution from offenders.

Know about victim compensation.

Reasonable protection and safety.

A prompt return of property.

Preservation of employment while participating in the criminal justice process.

Be informed about the opportunity to make a victim impact statement at sentencing and parole hearings.

The right to be present at trial.

Things you can do.....

Support a crime victim's participation in court proceedings.

Minimize an employee's loss of pay and other benefits resulting from court appearances .

Promote health and wellness programs that increase awareness of the problem of crime and inform employees of available sources of assistance.

Never inquire about an applicant's current or past victimization.

Take special care to consider all aspects of the employee's situation in resolving any performance problems.

Special thanks to Catherine Busch as this brochure was adapted from her article in Business Weekly April 2006.

Crime Victims' Rights & Services



What Employers Need to Know

Wyoming Office of the Attorney General, Division of Victim Services

Herschler Building, 1st Floor West

122 West 25th Street, Cheyenne, WY 82002

Toll Free 888-996-8816 V/TTY

Phone: 307-777-7200, Fax: 307-777-6683

Web Site: <http://victimservices.wyoming.gov>

VINE 1-866-WY-4-VINE

What you can do if one of your employees becomes a victim of a crime.



Most employers have regular contact with crime victims, whether they know it or not.

Statistics indicate that eight out of 12 Americans will become victims of crime at least once in their lifetime. It is very likely that, at some point, someone you know will tell you that s/he has been assaulted, raped, robbed or victimized by some type of violent crime.

When it happens, will you know what to say to help?

We believe you need to

"Know Before You Need To."

Not only do some businesses have to handle the impact of a workplace crime, but employees are also affected by crimes that occur off the job and to family members.

Employers can prepare by learning what to say, what to do and what rights and services are available to crime victims.

What to Say

Just as when any tragic event occurs, use your common sense to say the things that most victims find helpful.

"I'm so sorry that happened."

"Are you OK?"

"Do you need anything right now?"

"What can I do to help you?"

The best thing you can do is to listen and offer your support.

Don't ask questions to satisfy your curiosity about exactly what happened or why the crime occurred.

This won't help the victim and may make him or her feel blamed or not believed.

What to Do

If circumstances require the victim's absence from work, ask what explanation or statement he would like you to make on his behalf.

Don't assume the victim will want everyone or no one to know - it's an individual decision you should respect.

If the victim chooses to have you share information with co-workers, offer to be a conduit for updates, if appropriate, in order to shield the victim from well-meaning curiosity-seekers. This also has the benefit of limiting work disruption and controlling rumors.

Be aware that victims of violent crime may be unable to perform their job as well as they had previously while coping with the aftermath and will require time to recover.

Depending on the extent of physical and psychological injury, it may be necessary to provide accommodations for a temporary or permanent disability resulting from the crime.

See that the employee gets the professional help s/he needs to recover.

Be as flexible as you can in allowing crime victims to use leave or adjust their hours to attend counseling and to fully participate in the criminal justice process.

Counseling and psychotherapy will speed the healing process. Victims will also need time to meet with investigators, prosecutors and to appear in court .