



## Protecting Crime Victims

### Summary

This message contains a series of proposals aimed to provide enhanced protection for crime victims in Michigan, including:

- Allowing victims to get e-notification of rights, court hearings, etc.
- A call to the Legislature to enact a law that would require law enforcement agencies to provide service of personal protection orders (PPOs) free of charge
- A call to the Legislature to pass pending bills that would permit a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, or stalking to apply to have an address designated by the Attorney General to serve as the victim's address for receiving mail
- Announcement of intent to hold a campus sexual assault prevention summit
- Directing MSP and DTMB to work together to address cyber crimes
- Tasking MDOC to take steps to ensure that we are successfully collecting restitution from probationers, prison inmates, and parolees.

### Why It Matters

The Criminal Justice system is, first and foremost, responsible for delivering justice and protecting crime victims. While we do a great deal to achieve this, we can always do more. It is important that our services for crime victims are person-centered, easily accessed and respectful of the personal challenges that often accompany victimization. This is particularly important as it relates to domestic violence and sexual assault. Today, survivors can struggle with easily accessing information about their case, having a personal protection order served by law enforcement, protecting their identity while still being able to receive mails and receiving the restitution owed to them by their offender. By working to raise awareness of these matters and providing enhanced tools to prevent and address these crimes, we can make Michigan a safer place to live.

### Background and Statistics

The Michigan State Police data indicates that 93,572 domestic violence victims and 4,350 sexual assault/abuse victims were reported.<sup>1</sup>

When a victim has been harmed we should make the system easy to navigate by using new technology and ensure them that the State of Michigan is committed to seeing their restitution paid.

In addition, more than half of states in this country have adopted an address confidentiality law. This is done to provide victims protection and peace of mind once they have fled their abuser, which we know is often the most dangerous time for victims. Enacting an address confidentiality law, in partnership with the Attorney General, will ensure that Michigan residents have the same important protections as many of their peers across the nation.

Further, we shouldn't wait until a victim has fled to offer them protection. As they are fleeing, it is important that victims are able to access Personal Protection Orders at no cost and that law enforcement delivers PPOs to ensure no additional civilians are putting themselves in dangerous situations.

---

<sup>1</sup> Michigan Incident Crime Reporting in 2013 (latest complete data available)