



# POLICY AND PROCEDURE

# NO.475

## Notification to Victims of Crimes

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### GENERAL CONSIDERATION AND GUIDELINES:

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 258A, Sec 7B Law enforcement officers are mandated to inform victims of crimes, their families or other dependent of their rights and services available and applicable under this specific chapter. In order to make this legislation work, it is incumbent on us to inform the victims of crime of these rights. This includes victims of any act which constitutes a crime which involves the application of force or violence or threat of force or violence by an offender upon the victim.

### PROCEDURE:

Officers should notify victims of these types of crimes that in order to receive appropriate services under this provision they must:

1. File a report with the Police Department within 48 hours unless the court finds that the report to the police has been delayed for good cause. The 48 hours report time does not apply to cases of the crime of rape.
2. File a claim in the District Court usually within one year of the crime (this can be extended to three years for good cause).
3. State in the claim the amount of money sought for lost earnings and unreimbursed expenses for medical, dental and psychological care and related services.
4. Where the victim dies as a result of the crime a dependent or other family member is allowed to file a claim.

### CURRENT LIMITS:

The maximum allowable payment under this law is \$25,000. Currently all residency requirements, deductible amounts and minimum loss requirements have been eliminated.

Per:

*Edward P. Gardella*  
Chief of Police  
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