

## Minnesota Alliance on Crime Victims' Rights Policy Agenda 2009

The Mission of the Minnesota Alliance on Crime is to provide a statewide alliance for crime victims programs, while promoting the advancement of services in Minnesota through education, resources and legislation.

Our Vision is to put victims' rights at the forefront of the criminal justice system by changing Minnesota's response to crime.

The Minnesota Alliance on Crime is a statewide coalition of victim service providers from all crime areas. We currently have nearly 60 program and individual members and many other statewide and local programs with whom we collaborate. *Together, we strive to provide a unified voice for victims of crime in Minnesota.* This Policy Agenda is not an exhaustive list of all the policy related issues facing advocates and victims of crime. This Agenda is a listing of what we would like to address, raise awareness about and change during the next legislative sessions.

### Victim Legislation

We believe in full compliance with all victim related legislation, in particular § 611.A, which holds paramount the rights of crime victims in Minnesota.

We believe Minnesota should have a Crime Victim Bill of Rights to compliment and enhance § 611A.

We believe in developing clear, comprehensive definitions under Minnesota Statute § 611.A.

We believe in establishing an expanded definition of "reasonable notice" under § 611.A

We believe in establishing an expanded definition of "victim" under § 611.A

We believe in establishing an expanded definition of "loss and harm" under § 611.A

We believe in establishing an expanded definition of "restitution" under § 611.A

We believe it is critical to continue existing funding for crime victim services and expand those resources where none exist so victim services can be offered in all 87 counties in Minnesota.

We believe in expanding the statute of limitations for criminal and civil sexual assault cases.

We believe that legislation should require that if an offender is mentally ill that the statute of limitations for any crime should be expanded for a reasonable time.

We believe that strangulation needs to be listed under enhancements on the predatory offender statute § 609.3455.

We believe that there needs to be a criminal enhancement for child endangerment when a driver is arrested for a DUI involving a child passenger.

## Victim Restitution

We believe in creating enforcement strategies to ensure restitution compliance for all levels of crime, such as wage garnishment.

We believe that offenders should be ordered to pay a victim service fee when sentenced; the amount of which should be based on the severity of their crime. These fees would be standardized across the state they would directly benefit victim service providers who serve the type of victims harmed in the offense.

## Avoiding Further Victimization

We believe in the importance of secondary prevention, or preventing victims from continuing to be harmed. Therefore, we believe that victim emergency funds should be provided to victims to pay for towing and impound costs for crimes, such a  
DUI (victim of, not perpetrators)  
Hit and Run

We believe in the importance primary prevention, or preventing crime before it is perpetrated. Therefore, it is important to research and establish primary prevention strategies that would keep the public safer, reduce crime and therefore prevent victimization.

We also believe in the importance of tertiary prevention, or preventing future crimes from happening once offenders have been identified. Hence, we support holding perpetrators of crime accountable for their actions.

## Offenders

We believe that sex offenders who do not participate in treatment programs during their incarceration should serve their full sentence.

## Sentencing

We recognize that our prisons are becoming burdened with more and more inmates. Therefore, we believe in researching and establishing creative punishments for offenders beyond just incarceration, for example, the expansion of house arrest.

We believe that sentencing should be expanded for criminal vehicular offenses resulting in death or serious bodily harm due to careless and inattentive driving.

For more information, please contact Leah Sweet, Executive Director, Minnesota Alliance on Crime at 612-940-8090, [leah@mnallianceoncrime.org](mailto:leah@mnallianceoncrime.org).

Or visit [www.mnallianceoncrime.org](http://www.mnallianceoncrime.org).