

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1309**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Stanley, Assemblywoman Park, Assemblyman Conaway  
and Assemblywoman Murphy**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires law enforcement agency to provide copy of certain police reports to crime victims.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee with technical review.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/24/2022)**

1 AN ACT concerning access to certain police reports and amending  
2 P.L.1985, c.404.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 6 of P.L.1985, c.404 (C.52:4B-44) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 6. a. The Attorney General shall, through the Office of Victim-  
10 Witness Advocacy in the Division of Criminal Justice in the  
11 Department of Law and Public Safety and in consultation with the  
12 county prosecutors, promulgate standards for law enforcement  
13 agencies to ensure that the rights of crime victims are enforced.

14 b. The standards shall require that the Office of Victim-  
15 Witness Advocacy in the Division of Criminal Justice and each  
16 county prosecutor's office provide the following services upon  
17 request for victims and witnesses involved in the prosecution of a  
18 case:

19 (1) Orientation information about the criminal justice system  
20 and the victim's and witness's role in the criminal justice process;

21 (2) Notification of any change in the case status and of final  
22 disposition;

23 (3) Information on crime prevention and on available responses  
24 to witness intimidation;

25 (4) Information about available services to meet needs resulting  
26 from the crime and referrals to service agencies, where appropriate;

27 (5) Advance notice of the date, time and place of the defendant's  
28 initial appearance before a judicial officer, submission to the court  
29 of any plea agreement, the trial and sentencing;

30 (6) Advance notice of when presence in court is not needed;

31 (7) Advice about available compensation, restitution and other  
32 forms of recovery and assistance in applying for government  
33 compensation;

34 (8) A waiting or reception area separate from the defendant for  
35 use during court proceedings;

36 (9) An escort or accompaniment for intimidated victims or  
37 witnesses during court appearances;

38 (10) Information about directions, parking, courthouse and  
39 courtroom locations, transportation services and witness fees, in  
40 advance of court appearances;

41 (11) Assistance for victims and witnesses in meeting special  
42 needs when required to make court appearances, such as  
43 transportation and child care arrangements;

44 (12) Assistance in making travel and lodging arrangements for  
45 out-of-State witnesses;

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

- 1       (13) Notification to employers of victims and witnesses, if  
2 cooperation in the investigation or prosecution causes absence from  
3 work;
- 4       (14) Notification of the case disposition, including the trial and  
5 sentencing;
- 6       (15) Assistance to victims in submitting a written statement to a  
7 representative of the county prosecutor's office about the impact of  
8 the crime prior to the prosecutor's final decision concerning whether  
9 formal charges will be filed;
- 10      (16) Advice to victims about their right to make a statement  
11 about the impact of the crime for inclusion in the presentence report  
12 or at time of parole consideration, if applicable;
- 13      (17) Notification to victims of the right to make an in-person  
14 statement, prior to sentencing, directly to the sentencing court  
15 concerning the impact of the crime;
- 16      (18) Expediting the return of property when no longer needed as  
17 evidence;
- 18      (19) Advise and counsel, or refer for advice or counseling,  
19 victims of sexual assault, or other criminal acts involving a risk of  
20 transmission of disease, concerning available medical testing and  
21 assist such victims, or refer such victims for assistance, in obtaining  
22 appropriate testing, counseling and medical care and in making  
23 application to the Victims of Crime Compensation Office for  
24 compensation for the costs of such testing, counseling and care;
- 25      (20) Assistance to victims in submitting a written impact  
26 statement to a representative of the county prosecutor's office  
27 concerning the impact of the crime which shall be considered prior  
28 to the prosecutor's accepting a negotiated plea agreement containing  
29 recommendations as to sentence and assistance to victims in  
30 securing an explanation of the terms of any such agreement and the  
31 reasons for the agreement;
- 32      (21) Notification to the victim of the defendant's release from  
33 custody which shall include:
  - 34       (a) notice of the defendant's escape from custody and return to  
35 custody following escape;
  - 36       (b) notice of any other release from custody, including  
37 placement in an Intensive Supervision Program or other alternative  
38 disposition, and any associated conditions of release;
  - 39       (c) notice of the filing by an inmate of an application for  
40 commutation of sentence pursuant to N.J.S.2A:167-4 and its  
41 disposition;
  - 42       (d) notice of parole consideration pursuant to provisions of  
43 P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.45 et seq.); and
  - 44       (e) notice of the pending release of an inmate due to expiration  
45 of sentence;
- 46      (22) Interpreting services for victims and witnesses when  
47 necessary to assist a victim or witness who is hearing impaired or

- 1 developmentally disabled as defined in section 3 of P.L.1977, c.82  
2 (C.30:6D-3) to understand questions and frame answers; and
- 3 (23) Providing any applicable assistance to victims of sexual  
4 assault or sexual misconduct who are incarcerated in a State  
5 correctional facility that is available to other victims or witnesses.
- 6 c. In a case involving a victim of aggravated sexual assault or  
7 sexual assault as defined in subsection a. or c. of N.J.S.2C:14-2, the  
8 Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy or the county prosecutor's  
9 office involved in the case shall:
- 10 (1) Notify the victim of the victim's right to obtain an approved  
11 serological test for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)  
12 or infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or any  
13 other related virus identified as a probable causative agent of AIDS,  
14 and assist the victim, or refer the victim for assistance, in obtaining  
15 a test and appropriate counseling and medical care;
- 16 (2) Notify the victim of the victim's right to obtain a court order  
17 pursuant to subsection a. of section 4 of P.L.1993, c.364 (C.2C:43-  
18 2.2) requiring the offender to submit to an approved serological test  
19 for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or infection with  
20 the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or any other related virus  
21 identified as a probable causative agent of AIDS in the event that  
22 the offender is indicted, formally charged, convicted or adjudicated  
23 delinquent;
- 24 (3) Communicate the request of a victim who agrees to seek an  
25 order pursuant to subsection a. of section 4 of P.L.1993, c.364  
26 (C.2C:43-2.2) to the prosecutor handling the case and notify the  
27 victim or arrange for the victim to be notified of the test result; and
- 28 (4) Assist the victim in applying to the Victims of Crime  
29 Compensation Office for compensation for the costs of testing,  
30 counseling and medical care.
- 31 d. The Attorney General shall, through the Office of Victim-  
32 Witness Advocacy and in consultation with the Commissioner of  
33 Health, the Superintendent of State Police and representatives of  
34 providers of sexual assault services, to be designated by the  
35 Director of the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, coordinate the  
36 establishment of standard protocols for the provision of information  
37 and services to victims of sexual assault, and shall make such  
38 protocols available to victims upon request, except that the  
39 provision of information and services with regard to emergency  
40 contraception and sexually transmitted diseases shall be in  
41 accordance with P.L.2005, c.50 (C.26:2H-12.6b et al.).
- 42 e. In a case involving a victim of human trafficking as defined  
43 in section 1 of P.L.2005, c.77 (C.2C:13-8), the Office of Victim-  
44 Witness Advocacy or the county prosecutor's office involved in the  
45 case shall ensure that the victim of human trafficking obtains  
46 assistance in receiving any available benefits or services, including  
47 assistance in receiving any necessary certifications or endorsements  
48 needed to be recognized as having federal T non-immigrant status

1 for the purpose of receiving any federal benefits or services  
2 available pursuant to the "Trafficking Victims Protection  
3 Reauthorization Act of 2003," 22 U.S.C. s. 7101 et seq.

4 f. The Attorney General shall, through the Office of Victim-  
5 Witness Advocacy and in consultation with the Commissioner of  
6 Health, the Superintendent of State Police and representatives of  
7 providers of services to victims of human trafficking, to be  
8 designated by the Director of the Office of Victim-Witness  
9 Advocacy, coordinate the establishment of standard protocols for  
10 the provision of information and services to victims of human  
11 trafficking, including coordination of efforts with the appropriate  
12 federal authorities pursuant to the "Trafficking Victims Protection  
13 Reauthorization Act of 2003," 22 U.S.C. s. 7101 et seq. and shall  
14 make such protocols available to victims upon request.

15 g. The Attorney General, shall, through the Office of Victim-  
16 Witness Advocacy and in consultation with the Commissioner of  
17 Corrections, promulgate standards to ensure that the rights of  
18 female crime victims incarcerated in State correctional facilities are  
19 enforced. The standards shall include a requirement that  
20 unannounced visits be made to the facilities housing female inmates  
21 and random surveys be conducted for the purpose of identifying  
22 inmates who are the victims of sexual assault or sexual misconduct;  
23 an inmate who is determined to be a victim shall be informed of the  
24 available services set forth in subsection b. of this section and, upon  
25 request, be provided with any of these services. An inmate chosen  
26 by inmates in a housing unit as the liaison between the correctional  
27 facility administration and the inmate population shall be provided  
28 with a copy of this section of law. The liaison also shall be  
29 provided with a summary of the assistance and services available  
30 pursuant to subsection b. of this section for dissemination to the  
31 inmates in the housing unit.

32 h. Upon the request of a victim, or the victim's next-of-kin if  
33 the victim is deceased or unable to make the request, every law  
34 enforcement agency in this State shall provide electronically or in  
35 hard copy the police report concerning or in connection with the  
36 crime against the victim at no charge to the victim or victim's next-  
37 of-kin. The law enforcement agency shall not require a victim or  
38 victim's next-of-kin to complete a formal written request pursuant  
39 to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), commonly known as the open  
40 public records act, to receive a copy of a police report pursuant to  
41 this subsection.

42 A police report provided to a victim or victim's next-of-kin  
43 pursuant to this subsection shall be accompanied by written  
44 information, to be supplied by the Victims of Crime Compensation  
45 Office, relating to the availability of crime victims' compensation.  
46 (cf: P.L.2019, c.308, s.1)

47  
48 2. This act shall take effect immediately.