

# Victims Rights Amendment

# The Victim Advocate

I. Crime victims, as defined by law, shall have the following rights, as provided by law:

A. The right to be treated with fairness and respect for their dignity and privacy throughout the criminal justice process.

B. The right to notification of court proceedings.

C. The right to confer with the prosecution.

D. The right to make a statement to the court at sentencing.

E. The right to information about the conviction, sentence, imprisonment, and release of the accused.

F. The right to timely disposition of the case following arrest of the accused.

G. The right to be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice process.

H. The right to attend trial and all other court proceedings the accused has the right to attend.

I. The right to restitution.

II. The legislature may provide by law for the enforcement of this section.

III. The legislature may provide for an assessment against convicted defendants to pay for crime victims' rights.

\* *We are her to listen.*

\* *We are here to help people discover what they are feeling...  
Not to make the feelings go away.*

\* *We are here to help people identify options...  
Not to decide for them what they should do.*

\* *We are here to discuss steps with people...  
Not to take steps for them.*

\* *We are here to help people discover their own strength...  
Not to rescue them and leave them still vulnerable.*

\* *We are here to help people discover how they can help themselves...  
Not to take responsibility for them.*

\* *We are here to help people learn to choose...  
Not to make it necessary for them to make difficult choices.*

\* *We are here to provide support.*

# Victim Services



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## About AAIM

The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) is an Illinois-based, statewide citizen's action group which, since 1982, has gained a high degree of credibility in Illinois political, law enforcement, civic and business circles. Two Illinois citizens, Carol Golin and Glenn Kalin, both of whom lost family members because of drunk drivers, founded AAIM. Others quickly joined, and today the organization has more than 5,000 members and contributors throughout Illinois.

AAIM's rational approach has helped to reduce the impaired and reckless driving upheaval present on Illinois highways. AAIM's services include: advocacy for victims, financial aid to victims, working on legislation, collaborating with judges and prosecutors to uphold victims rights, educating adults and children and assisting law enforcement. AAIM was the first grassroots citizen's group incorporated in Illinois to fight drunk and drugged driving. AAIM's strategy is to work with Illinois political and civic leaders to make Illinois positive example to the rest of the country.

### Speaker's Bureau

AAIM speakers are well received at high schools, colleges, middle schools, before civic groups, and at law enforcement agencies to encourage prevention, create awareness and illustrate the consequences of impaired driving. AAIM also conducts Victim Impact Panels (VIP) for courts with victims and defendants telling their stories to DUI offenders who have been ordered to attend as part of their sentence. Currently, AAIM presents panels in several different counties. Victims are offered the opportunity to speak and share their stories at AAIM's Victim Impact Panels. Those who choose to speak may find it healing to inspire change by sharing how an impaired driver devastated their life.

### Events for Victim's Families

Throughout the year, AAIM hosts multiple different events for victim's families to attend. We host an annual pizza party at a local restaurant and a picnic at a local park. These events are a wonderful opportunity for families to relax, and share stories and fellowship.

## Victim Advocate Services

AAIM's Victim Advocates are available to crash victims and their families. Victims can receive emotional support, informal legal guidance, information regarding counseling, and financial help. AAIM's Victim Advocates regularly accompany victims to court, track case dispositions, and help ensure that justice is done. They act on behalf of the victims to ensure that victims' rights are respected and acknowledged throughout the criminal process. If needed, additional assistance is also given to victims in preparing their Victim Impact Statements for the final court disposition. Victim Services are offered free of charge.

AAIM Advocates recognize that many people are impacted by multi-victimization, so we partner with many other local organizations to provide referrals for all services needed by those impacted by impaired and reckless driving crashes. These resources include, but are not limited to: locating appropriate medical equipment, therapy, and local food pantries.

Financial help to victims comes by way of AAIM's Victim Assistance Fund, established in 1991, to aid those families that face financial devastation due to death or serious injury caused by an impaired or reckless driver. AAIM's annual fall benefit raises money to support this fund. This fund also receives donations from organized walks, golf outings, a motorcycle ride, and other events. AAIM is the only organization in the state of Illinois, and possibly the nation to provide financial assistance directly to crash victims suffering financial hardship.

### Contact AAIM Victim Advocates

Anyone interested in our services, you can reach out to us in a few different ways. To get in touch with an AAIM Victim Advocate:

- Contact the AAIM office in Schaumburg by emailing [info@aaim1.org](mailto:info@aaim1.org) or calling 847-240-0027.
- Reach out to our Director of Victim Services, by emailing [aaimgriefgroup@gmail.com](mailto:aaimgriefgroup@gmail.com).
- Contact the courthouse's Victim Witness Assistant where the criminal court case is currently being heard, and they can help you get in touch with AAIM's Victim Advocates.

## AAIM Grief Support Group

The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists invites anyone who has experienced loss or injury due to the actions of an impaired driver to attend our self-help group. AAIM hosts two separate virtual Grief Support Groups: one for all who have been impacted by impaired or reckless drivers, and another specifically for those injured in impaired/reckless driving crashes. The Grief Support Groups both meet on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM CT, via Zoom. Since 2020, AAIM has also implemented a private Facebook Group for clients. For more information or to be a part of the Grief Support Group, contact the AAIM office at 847-240-0027.

AAIM's Grief Support Groups are a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Our group is led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help you through the healing process.

We cannot change what happened, but we want to learn how to live, love, laugh and have peace in our lives again. Our primary purpose is to live a peaceful life remembering the happy times. We do not want to forget the crash, but we don't want to dwell on the pain. We hope to bond with others who understand our pain and support each other through our grief and recovery.

In these meetings we avoid cross talk, giving advice and private conversations. We share our experiences, strengths and hope to help others and ourselves. We are not professional counselors, nor do we claim to be. We are a self-help group and we only share our stories with one another.

Grief Support Group topics change from month to month. Some of the topics we have covered are: surviving the holidays, how our grieving has affected our loved ones, journaling, coping skills, dealing with our anger, and how do we keep memories of our loved ones alive. At the end of each meeting time is allowed for individuals or families to share stories with one another. We also host an annual pizza party at a local restaurant and a picnic at a local park. These events are a wonderful opportunity for families to relax, and share stories and fellowship.