



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY

**Secretary** /s/, Frank Peterman, Jr.

**Date:** 6/9/09

**Subject:** Victim Rights and Victim Notification Requirements

**Section:** FDJJ – 3400

**Originating Office:** Prevention and Victim Services

**Authority:** Chapter 960, F. S. Victim Assistance  
Chapter 985, F. S. Delinquency

**Related References:** Section 119.07, F. S., Public Records  
Section. 232.265, F. S., Compulsory School Attendance; Child Welfare

**Purpose:** This policy establishes the responsibilities of Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) staff and delinquency service providers to support the rights of victims of juvenile crime.

**Offices Affected by the Policy:** All offices within the Department and contracted delinquency service providers.

### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

- Victims of crime or their lawful representatives, including the next of kin of homicide victims, are entitled to be informed, to be present, and to be heard when relevant, at all crucial stages of criminal proceedings, to the extent that these rights do not interfere with the Constitutional rights of the accused. (Constitution of the State of Florida, Article I, Section 16(b) *Rights of Victims*)
- The Department or its contractors shall ensure that victims of juvenile crime are afforded all rights as enumerated in the Constitution of the State of Florida, and Florida Statutes Chapter 960, and Chapter 985. It is the intent of the Department that all victims be treated with respect and provided with all required information and notifications under the law.

### **PROCEDURES/MANUALS:**

Procedures for this policy are accessible at the Department Policies internet page.