



## MARSY'S LAW

Crime Victims Bill of Rights Act 2008

On November 4, 2008, the People of the State of California approved Proposition 9, the Victims' Bill of Rights act of 2008: Marsy's

who suffers direct or threatened physical, psychological, or financial harm due to the commission or attempted commission of a crime or delinquent act. The term 'victim' also includes the person's spouse, parents, children, siblings, or guardian and includes a lawful representative of a crime victim who is deceased, a minor, or physically or psychologically incapacitated. The term 'victim' does not include a person in custody for an offense, the accused, or someone the court finds would not act in the best interests of a minor victim." (Cal. Const., art. I § 28(e).)

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## The California Constitution, Article 1, section 28, confers certain rights to victims of crime as they are defined by law. Those rights include:

**1.** To be treated with fairness and respect for his or her privacy and dignity, and to be free from intimidation, harassment, and abuse, throughout the criminal or juvenile justice process.

**2**. To be reasonably protected from the defendant and persons acting on behalf of the defendant.

**3.** To have the safety of the victim and the victim's family considered in fixing the amount of bail and release conditions for the defendant.

4. To prevent the disclosure of confidential information or records to the defendant's attorney, or any other person acting on behalf of the defendant, which could be used to locate or harass the victim or the victim's family or which disclose confidential communications made in the course of medical or counseling treatment, or which are otherwise privileged or confidential by law.

5. To refuse an interview, deposition, or discovery request by the defendant's attorney, or any other person acting on behalf of the defendant if known by the prosecutor, and to set reasonable conditions on the conduct of any such interview to which the victim consents.

**6.** To reasonable notice of and to reasonably confer with the prosecuting agency, upon request, regarding, the arrest of the defendant if known by the prosecutor, the charges filed, the determination whether to extradite the defendant, and, upon request to be notified of and informed before any pretrial disposition of the case.

**7**. To reasonable notice of all public proceedings, including delinquency proceedings, upon request, at which the defendant and the prosecutor are entitled to be present and of all parole or other post-conviction release proceedings, and to be present at all such proceedings.

**8**. To be heard, upon request, at any proceeding, including any delinquency proceeding, involving a post-arrest release decision, plea, sentencing, post-conviction release decision, or any proceeding in which a right of the victim is at issue.

9. To a speedy trail and a prompt and final conclusion of the case and any