

FOR the purpose of adding a new subtitle "Crime Victims and Witnesses" to the criminal code; establishing ~~a-crime-victim and-witness-bill-of-rights-that-provides~~ guidelines for the treatment of and assistance to crime victims and witnesses that provide notice to victims and witnesses of certain rights and proceedings and requires certain information, assistance, and services to witnesses and victims of crime under certain conditions; specifying that failure to enforce this Act does not create a cause of action against certain persons; providing for printing and distribution of the ~~bill of-rights~~ guidelines; defining certain terms; and generally relating to rights treatment of and services for crime victims and witnesses.

BY adding to

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
 Section 760, 761, 762, and 763 to be under the new title
 "VI. Crime Victims and Witnesses"
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (1982 Replacement Volume and 1985 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

PART VI. CRIME VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

760. DEFINITIONS.

(A) IN THIS PART, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "CRIME" MEANS CONDUCT THAT IS A CRIME UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE OR FEDERAL LAW OR WOULD BE CONSIDERED A CRIME EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT THE PERPETRATOR WAS FOUND TO BE NOT CRIMINALLY RESPONSIBLE OR NOT COMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL.

(C) "CRIME VICTIM" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO SUFFERS DIRECT OR THREATENED PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, OR FINANCIAL HARM AS A RESULT OF A CRIME ~~OR-ATTEMPTED-CRIME~~ AND INCLUDES FAMILY MEMBERS OF A MINOR, INCOMPETENT, OR A HOMICIDE VICTIM.

(D) (1) "DISPOSITION" MEANS THE SENTENCING OR DETERMINATION OF PENALTY OR PUNISHMENT TO BE IMPOSED ON A PERSON CONVICTED OF A CRIME OR AGAINST WHOM A FINDING OF SUFFICIENT FACTS FOR CONVICTION IS MADE.

(2) "DISPOSITION" INCLUDES DISMISSAL OF CHARGES, ~~OR PLEA-OF-GUILTY-TO--A--CRIME--CHARGED--IN--ANOTHER--INDICTMENT~~ OR ANOTHER ANY OTHER DISPOSITION UNDER A PLEA BARGAIN AGREEMENT.

(E) "FAMILY MEMBER" MEANS SPOUSE, CHILD, SIBLING, PARENT, OR LEGAL GUARDIAN.