

CHAPTER 480

(House Bill 506)

AN ACT concerning

Victims' Rights - Plea Agreement Notification

FOR the purpose of requiring the notification of certain victims about the terms and conditions of any plea agreement and judicial action under certain circumstances; ~~defining certain terms;~~ altering a certain definition; and generally relating to victims' notification procedures.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

Section 770

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1996 Replacement Volume and 1997 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

770.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Victim" means an individual who suffers direct or threatened physical, emotional, or financial harm as a direct result of a crime or delinquent act, including a family member or guardian of a minor, incompetent, or homicide victim.

(3) "Clerk" means the clerk of a circuit court or the clerk of a court sitting as the juvenile court, as the context requires.

(4) ~~"DEFENDANT" MEANS:~~

~~(i) A PERSON WHO IS CHARGED WITH A CRIME, OR~~

~~(ii) A CHILD WHO IS ALLEGED TO HAVE COMMITTED A DELINQUENT ACT.~~

(5) ~~"PLEA AGREEMENT" MEANS:~~

~~(i) AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEFENDANT OR THE DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY AND THE STATE'S ATTORNEY THAT THE DEFENDANT WILL ADMIT OR PLEAD GUILTY, NOT GUILTY ON STIPULATED FACTS, OR NOLO CONTENDERE ON ANY PROPER CONDITIONS, OR~~

~~(ii) THE COURT AGREEING TO IMPOSE A CERTAIN SENTENCE, DISPOSITION, OR OTHER JUDICIAL ACTION AS A CONSEQUENCE OF A PLEA.~~

~~{(4)}~~(6) "State's Attorney" includes: