

A RESOLUTION to propose an Amendment to Article I, of the Constitution of Tennessee, for the exclusive purpose of establishing certain constitutional rights to which victims of crime are entitled and authorizing the general assembly to enact legislation to define, enforce, implement and protect such rights.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That a majority of all the members of each house concurring, as shown by the yeas and nays entered on their journals, that it is proposed that the Constitution of Tennessee be amended as follows:

By adding the following language to Article 1 as a new section:

Victims of crime shall be entitled to the following basic rights:

1. The right to justice and due process.
2. The right to confer with the prosecution.
3. The right to be free from intimidation, harassment and abuse throughout the criminal justice system.
4. The right to be present at all proceedings where the defendant has the right to be present.
5. The right to be heard at all critical stages of the case.
6. The right to be informed of all proceedings, and of the release, transfer or escape of the accused or convicted person.
7. The right to a speedy trial or disposition and a prompt and final conclusion of the case after the conviction or sentence.
8. The right to receive full restitution from the offender.
9. The right to be informed of each of the rights established for victims.

The general assembly has the authority to enact substantive and procedural laws to define, implement, preserve and protect the rights guaranteed to victims by this section.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing amendment be referred to the One-Hundredth General Assembly and that this resolution proposing such amendment be published in accordance with Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution of Tennessee.

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