Public Law 97-291
97th Congress

An Act

Oct. 12, 1982
[S. 2420]

To provide additional protections and assistance to victims and witnesses in Federal cases.

Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982.
18 USC 1501 note.
18 USC 1512 note.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982".

FINDINGS AND PURPOSES

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds and declares that:

(1) Without the cooperation of victims and witnesses, the criminal justice system would cease to function; yet with few exceptions these individuals are either ignored by the criminal justice system or simply used as tools to identify and punish offenders.

(2) All too often the victim of a serious crime is forced to suffer physical, psychological, or financial hardship first as a result of the criminal act and then as a result of contact with a criminal justice system unresponsive to the real needs of such victim.

(3) Although the majority of serious crimes falls under the jurisdiction of State and local law enforcement agencies, the Federal Government, and in particular the Attorney General, has an important leadership role to assume in ensuring that victims of crime, whether at the Federal, State, or local level, are given proper treatment by agencies administering the criminal justice system.

(4) Under current law, law enforcement agencies must have cooperation from a victim of crime and yet neither the agencies nor the legal system can offer adequate protection or assistance when the victim, as a result of such cooperation, is threatened or intimidated.

(5) While the defendant is provided with counsel who can explain both the criminal justice process and the rights of the defendant, the victim or witness has no counterpart and is usually not even notified when the defendant is released on bail, the case is dismissed, a plea to a lesser charge is accepted, or a court date is changed.

(6) The victim and witness who cooperate with the prosecutor often find that the transportation, parking facilities, and child care services at the court are unsatisfactory and they must often share the pretrial waiting room with the defendant or his family and friends.

(7) The victim may lose valuable property to a criminal only to lose it again for long periods of time to Federal law enforcement officials, until the trial and sometimes and appeals are over; many times that property is damaged or lost, which is particularly stressful for the elderly or poor.

(b) The Congress declares that the purposes of this Act are—

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(1) to enhance and protect the necessary role of crime victims and witnesses in the criminal justice process;

(2) to ensure that the Federal Government does all that is possible within limits of available resources to assist victims and witnesses of crime without infringing on the constitutional rights of the defendant; and

(3) to provide a model for legislation for State and local governments.

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

SEC. 3. Paragraph (2) of rule 32(c) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure is amended to read as follows: 18 USC app.

"(2) REPORT.—The presentence report shall contain—

"(A) any prior criminal record of the defendant;

"(B) a statement of the circumstances of the commission of the offense and circumstances affecting the defendant's behavior;

"(C) information concerning any harm, including financial, social, psychological, and physical harm, done to or loss suffered by any victim of the offense; and

"(D) any other information that may aid the court in sentencing, including the restitution needs of any victim of the offense.".

PROTECTION OF VICTIMS AND WITNESSES FROM INTIMIDATION

SEC. 4. (a) Chapter 73 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

"§ 1512. Tampering with a witness, victim, or an informant 18 USC 1512.

"(a) Whoever knowingly uses intimidation or physical force, or threatens another person, or attempts to do so, or engages in misleading conduct toward another person, with intent to—

"(1) influence the testimony of any person in an official proceeding;

"(2) cause or induce any person to—

"(A) withhold testimony, or withhold a record, document, or other object, from an official proceeding;

"(B) alter, destroy, mutilate, or conceal an object with intent to impair the object's integrity or availability for use in an official proceeding;

"(C) evade legal process summoning that person to appear as a witness, or to produce a record, document, or other object, in an official proceeding; or

"(D) be absent from an official proceeding to which such person has been summoned by legal process; or

"(3) hinder, delay, or prevent the communication to a law enforcement officer or judge of the United States of information relating to the commission or possible commission of a Federal offense or a violation of conditions of probation, parole, or release pending judicial proceedings;

shall be fined not more than $250,000 or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both. Penalty.

"(b) Whoever intentionally harasses another person and thereby hinders, delays, prevents, or dissuades any person from—

"(1) attending or testifying in an official proceeding;

"(2) reporting to a law enforcement officer or judge of the United States the commission or possible commission of a Federal offense or a violation of conditions of probation, parole, or release pending judicial proceedings;

"(3) arresting or seeking the arrest of another person in connection with a Federal offense; or

"(4) causing a criminal prosecution, or a parole or probation revocation proceeding, to be sought or instituted, or assisting in such prosecution or proceeding;

Penalty.

or attempts to do so, shall be fined not more than $25,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

"(c) In a prosecution for an offense under this section, it is an affirmative defense, as to which the defendant has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence, that the conduct consisted solely of lawful conduct and that the defendant's sole intention was to encourage, induce, or cause the other person to testify truthfully.

"(d) For the purposes of this section—

"(1) an official proceeding need not be pending or about to be instituted at the time of the offense; and

"(2) the testimony, or the record, document, or other object need not be admissible in evidence or free of a claim of privilege.

"(e) In a prosecution for an offense under this section, no state of mind need be proved with respect to the circumstance—

"(1) that the official proceeding before a judge, court, magistrate, grand jury, or government agency is before a judge or court of the United States, a United States magistrate, a bankruptcy judge, a Federal grand jury, or a Federal Government agency; or

"(2) that the judge is a judge of the United States or that the law enforcement officer is an officer or employee of the Federal Government or a person authorized to act for or on behalf of the Federal Government or serving the Federal Government as an adviser or consultant.

"(f) There is extraterritorial Federal jurisdiction over an offense under this section.

18 USC 1513.

"§ 1513. Retaliating against a witness, victim, or an informant

"(a) Whoever knowingly engages in any conduct and thereby causes bodily injury to another person or damages the tangible property of another person, or threatens to do so, with intent to retaliate against any person for—

"(1) the attendance of a witness or party at an official proceeding, or any testimony given or any record, document, or other object produced by a witness in an official proceeding; or

"(2) any information relating to the commission or possible commission of a Federal offense or a violation of conditions of probation, parole, or release pending judicial proceedings given by a person to a law enforcement officer;

Penalty.

or attempts to do so, shall be fined not more than $250,000 or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.

"(b) There is extraterritorial Federal jurisdiction over an offense under this section.

18 USC 1514.

"§ 1514. Civil action to restrain harassment of a victim or witness

"(a)(1) A United States district court, upon application of the attorney for the Government, shall issue a temporary restraining

order prohibiting harassment of a victim or witness in a Federal criminal case if the court finds, from specific facts shown by affidavit or by verified complaint, that there are reasonable grounds to believe that harassment of an identified victim or witness in a Federal criminal case exists or that such order is necessary to prevent and restrain an offense under section 1512 of this title, other than an offense consisting of misleading conduct, or under section 1513 of this title.

Temporary restraining order.

"(2)(A) A temporary restraining order may be issued under this section without written or oral notice to the adverse party or such party's attorney in a civil action under this section if the court finds, upon written certification of facts by the attorney for the Government, that such notice should not be required and that there is a reasonable probability that the Government will prevail on the merits.

"(B) A temporary restraining order issued without notice under this section shall be endorsed with the date and hour of issuance and be filed forthwith in the office of the clerk of the court issuing the order.

Expiration.

"(C) A temporary restraining order issued under this section shall expire at such time, not to exceed 10 days from issuance, as the court directs; the court, for good cause shown before expiration of such order, may extend the expiration date of the order for up to 10 days or for such longer period agreed to by the adverse party.

Protective order.

"(D) When a temporary restraining order is issued without notice, the motion for a protective order shall be set down for hearing at the earliest possible time and takes precedence over all matters except older matters of the same character, and when such motion comes on for hearing, if the attorney for the Government does not proceed with the application for a protective order, the court shall dissolve the temporary restraining order.

"(E) If on two days notice to the attorney for the Government or on such shorter notice as the court may prescribe, the adverse party appears and moves to dissolve or modify the temporary restraining order, the court shall proceed to hear and determine such motion as expeditiously as the ends of justice require.

"(F) A temporary restraining order shall set forth the reasons for the issuance of such order, be specific in terms, and describe in reasonable detail (and not by reference to the complaint or other document) the act or acts being restrained.

"(b)(1) A United States district court, upon motion of the attorney for the Government, shall issue a protective order prohibiting harassment of a victim or witness in a Federal criminal case if the court, after a hearing, finds by a preponderance of the evidence that harassment of an identified victim or witness in a Federal criminal case exists or that such order is necessary to prevent and restrain an offense under section 1512 of this title, other than an offense consisting of misleading conduct, or under section 1513 of this title.

"(2) At the hearing referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection, any adverse party named in the complaint shall have the right to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

"(3) A protective order shall set forth the reasons for the issuance of such order, be specific in terms, describe in reasonable detail (and not by reference to the complaint or other document) the act or acts being restrained.

"(4) The court shall set the duration of effect of the protective order for such period as the court determines necessary to prevent

harassment of the victim or witness but in no case for a period in excess of three years from the date of such order's issuance. The attorney for the Government may, at any time within ninety days before the expiration of such order, apply for a new protective order under this section.

Definitions.

"(c) As used in this section—

"(1) the term 'harassment' means a course of conduct directed at a specific person that—

"(A) causes substantial emotional distress in such person; and

"(B) serves no legitimate purpose; and

"(2) the term 'course of conduct' means a series of acts over a period of time, however short, indicating a continuity of purpose.

18 USC 1515.

"§ 1515. Definitions for certain provisions

"As used in sections 1512 and 1513 of this title and in this section—

"(1) the term 'official proceeding' means—

"(A) a proceeding before a judge or court of the United States, a United States magistrate, a bankruptcy judge, or a Federal grand jury;

"(B) a proceeding before the Congress; or

"(C) a proceeding before a Federal Government agency which is authorized by law;

"(2) the term 'physical force' means physical action against another, and includes confinement;

"(3) the term 'misleading conduct' means—

"(A) knowingly making a false statement;

"(B) intentionally omitting information from a statement and thereby causing a portion of such statement to be misleading, or intentionally concealing a material fact, and thereby creating a false impression by such statement;

"(C) with intent to mislead, knowingly submitting or inviting reliance on a writing or recording that is false, forged, altered, or otherwise lacking in authenticity;

"(D) with intent to mislead, knowingly submitting or inviting reliance on a sample, specimen, map, photograph, boundary mark, or other object that is misleading in a material respect; or

"(E) knowingly using a trick, scheme, or device with intent to mislead;

"(4) the term 'law enforcement officer' means an officer or employee of the Federal Government, or a person authorized to act for or on behalf of the Federal Government or serving the Federal Government as an adviser or consultant—

"(A) authorized under law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of an offense; or

"(B) serving as a probation or pretrial services officer under this title; and

"(5) the term 'bodily injury' means—

"(A) a cut, abrasion, bruise, burn, or disfigurement;

"(B) physical pain;

"(C) illness;

"(D) impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty; or

"(E) any other injury to the body, no matter how temporary.".

(b) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 73 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended—

(1) so that the item relating to section 1503 reads as follows:

"1503. Influencing or injuring officer or juror generally."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"1512. Tampering with a witness, victim, or an informant.
"1513. Retaliating against a witness, victim, or an informant.
"1514. Civil action to restrain harassment of a victim or witness.
"1515. Definitions for certain provisions.".

(c) Section 1503 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended—

(1) in the heading of such section, by striking out ", juror or witness" and inserting in lieu thereof "or juror";

(2) by striking out "witness" the first place it appears after "impede any" and all that follows through "or any grand" and inserting "grand" in lieu thereof; and

(3) by striking out "injures any party or witness" and all that follows through "matter pending therein, or".

(d) section 1505 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended by—

(1) striking out paragraphs (1) and (2);

(2) striking out "such" the first place it appears in the fourth paragraph and inserting in lieu thereof "any pending";

(3) striking out "such" the second place it appears in the fourth paragraph and inserting in lieu thereof "any"; and

(4) striking out "such inquiry" in the fourth paragraph and inserting in lieu thereof "any inquiry".

(e) Section 1510(a) of title 18 of the United States Code is amended—

(1) by striking out the comma immediately following "bribery" and all that follows through "thereof";

(2) by striking out the semicolon immediately following "investigator" the first place it appears and all that follows through "Shall be fined" and inserting "shall be fined" in lieu thereof.

RESTITUTION

SEC. 5. (a) Chapter 227 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 3579. Order of restitution 18 USC 3579.

"(a)(1) The court, when sentencing a defendant convicted of an offense under this title or under subsection (h), (i), (j), or (n) of section 902 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (49 U.S.C. 1472), may order, in addition to or in lieu of any other penalty authorized by law, that the defendant make restitution to any victim of the offense.

"(2) If the court does not order restitution, or orders only partial restitution, under this section, the court shall state on the record the reasons therefor.

"(b) The order may require that such defendant— Property.

"(1) in the case of an offense resulting in damage to or loss or destruction of property of a victim of the offense—

"(A) return the property to the owner of the property or someone designated by the owner; or

"(B) if return of the property under subparagraph (A) is impossible, impractical, or inadequate, pay an amount equal to the greater of—

"(i) the value of the property on the date of the damage, loss, or destruction, or

"(ii) the value of the property on the date of sentencing,

less the value (as of the date the property is returned) of any part of the property that is returned;

Bodily injury.

"(2) in the case of an offense resulting in bodily injury to a victim—

"(A) pay an amount equal to the cost of necessary medical and related professional services and devices relating to physical, psychiatric, and psychological care, including nonmedical care and treatment rendered in accordance with a method of healing recognized by the law of the place of treatment;

"(B) pay an amount equal to the cost of necessary physical and occupational therapy and rehabilitation; and

"(C) reimburse the victim for income lost by such victim as a result of such offense;

Death.

"(3) in the case of an offense resulting in bodily injury also results in the death of a victim, pay an amount equal to the cost of necessary funeral and related services; and

"(4) in any case, if the victim (or if the victim is deceased, the victim's estate) consents, make restitution in services in lieu of money, or make restitution to a person or organization designated by the victim or the estate.

Victim's estate.

"(c) If the Court decides to order restitution under this section, the court shall, if the victim is deceased, order that the restitution be made to the victim's estate.

"(d) The court shall impose an order of restitution to the extent that such order is as fair as possible to the victim and the imposition of such order will not unduly complicate or prolong the sentencing process.

Restitution.

"(e)(1) The court shall not impose restitution with respect to a loss for which the victim has received or is to receive compensation, except that the court may, in the interest of justice, order restitution to any person who has compensated the victim for such loss to the extent that such person paid the compensation. An order of restitution shall require that all restitution to victims under such order be made before any restitution to any other person under such order is made.

"(2) Any amount paid to a victim under an order of restitution shall be set off against any amount later recovered as compensatory damages by such victim in—

"(A) any Federal civil proceeding; and

"(B) any State civil proceeding, to the extent provided by the law of that State.

Time period.

"(f)(1) The court may require that such defendant make restitution under this section within a specified period or in specified installments.

"(2) The end of such period or the last such installment shall not be later than—

"(A) the end of the period of probation, if probation is ordered;

"(B) five years after the end of the term of imprisonment imposed, if the court does not order probation; and

"(C) five years after the date of sentencing in any other case.

"(3) If not otherwise provided by the court under this subsection, restitution shall be made immediately.

"(g) If such defendant is placed on probation or paroled under this title, any restitution ordered under this section shall be a condition of such probation or parole. The court may revoke probation and the Parole Commission may revoke parole if the defendant fails to comply with such order. In determining whether to revoke probation or parole, the court or Parole Commission shall consider the defendant's employment status, earning ability, financial resources, the willfulness of the defendant's failure to pay, and any other special circumstances that may have a bearing on the defendant's ability to pay.

Probation or parole.

"(h) An order of restitution may be enforced by the United States or a victim named in the order to receive the restitution in the same manner as a judgment in a civil action.

Enforcement.

"§ 3580. Procedure for issuing order of restitution

18 USC 3580.

"(a) The court, in determining whether to order restitution under section 3579 of this title and the amount of such restitution, shall consider the amount of the loss sustained by any victim as a result of the offense, the financial resources of the defendant, the financial needs and earning ability of the defendant and the defendant's dependents, and such other factors as the court deems appropriate.

"(b) The court may order the probation service of the court to obtain information pertaining to the factors set forth in subsection (a) of this section. The probation service of the court shall include the information collected in the report of presentence investigation or in a separate report, as the court directs.

"(c) The court shall disclose to both the defendant and the attorney for the Government all portions of the presentence or other report pertaining to the matters described in subsection (a) of this section.

Information disclosure.

"(d) Any dispute as to the proper amount or type of restitution shall be resolved by the court by the preponderance of the evidence. The burden of demonstrating the amount of the loss sustained by a victim as a result of the offense shall be on the attorney for the Government. The burden of demonstrating the financial resources of the defendant and the financial needs of the defendant and such defendant's dependents shall be on the defendant. The burden of demonstrating such other matters as the court deems appropriate shall be upon the party designated by the court as justice requires.

"(e) A conviction of a defendant for an offense involving the act giving rise to restitution under this section shall estop the defendant from denying the essential allegations of that offense in any subsequent Federal civil proceeding or State civil proceeding, to the extent consistent with State law, brought by the victim.".

(b) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 227 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following new items:

"3579. Nature of order of restitution.

"3580. Procedure for issuing order of restitution.".

FEDERAL GUIDELINES FOR FAIR TREATMENT OF CRIME VICTIMS AND WITNESSES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

18 USC 1512 note.

SEC. 6. (a) Within two hundred and seventy days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall develop and implement guidelines for the Department of Justice consistent with the purposes of this Act. In preparing the guidelines the Attorney General shall consider the following objectives:

(1) SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF CRIME.—Law enforcement personnel should ensure that victims routinely receive emergency social and medical services as soon as possible and are given information on the following—

(A) availability of crime victim compensation (where applicable);

(B) community-based victim treatment programs;

(C) the role of the victim in the criminal justice process, including what they can expect from the system as well as what the system expects from them; and

(D) stages in the criminal justice process of significance to a crime victim, and the manner in which information about such stages can be obtained.

(2) NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF PROTECTION.—A victim or witness should routinely receive information on steps that law enforcement officers and attorneys for the Government can take to protect victims and witnesses from intimidation.

(3) SCHEDULING CHANGES.—All victims and witnesses who have been scheduled to attend criminal justice proceedings should either be notified as soon as possible of any scheduling changes which will affect their appearances or have available a system for alerting witnesses promptly by telephone or otherwise.

(4) PROMPT NOTIFICATION TO VICTIMS OF MAJOR SERIOUS CRIMES.—Victims, witnesses, relatives of those victims and witnesses who are minors, and relatives of homicide victims should, if such persons provide the appropriate official with a current address and telephone number, receive prompt advance notification, if possible, of judicial proceedings relating to their case, including—

(A) the arrest of an accused;

(B) the initial appearance of an accused before a judicial officer;

(C) the release of the accused pending judicial proceedings; and

(D) proceedings in the prosecution of the accused (including entry of a plea of guilty, trial, sentencing, and, where a term of imprisonment is imposed, the release of the accused from such imprisonment).

(5) CONSULTATION WITH VICTIM.—The victim of a serious crime, or in the case of a minor child or a homicide, the family of the victim, should be consulted by the attorney for the Government in order to obtain the views of the victim or family about the disposition of any Federal criminal case brought as a result of such crime, including the views of the victim or family about—

(A) dismissal;

(B) release of the accused pending judicial proceedings;

(C) plea negotiations; and

(D) pretrial diversion program.

(6) SEPARATE WAITING AREA.—Victims and other prosecution witnesses should be provided prior to court appearance a waiting area that is separate from all other witnesses.

(7) PROPERTY RETURN.—Law enforcement agencies and prosecutor should promptly return victim's property held for evidentiary purposes unless there is a compelling law enforcement reason for retaining it.

(8) NOTIFICATION TO EMPLOYER.—A victim or witness who so requests should be assisted by law enforcement agencies and attorneys for the Government in informing employers that the need for victim and witness cooperation in the prosecution of the case may necessitate absence of that victim or witness from work. A victim or witness who, as a direct result of a crime or of cooperation with law enforcement agencies or attorneys for the Government, is subjected to serious financial strain, should be assisted by such agencies and attorneys in explaining to creditors the reason for such serious financial strain.

(9) TRAINING BY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING FACILITIES.—Victim assistance education and training should be offered to persons taking courses at Federal law enforcement training facilities and attorneys for the Government so that victims may be promptly, properly, and completely assisted.

(10) GENERAL VICTIM ASSISTANCE.—The guidelines should also ensure that any other important assistance to victims and witnesses, such as the adoption of transportation, parking, and translator services for victims in court be provided.

(b) Nothing in this title shall be construed as creating a cause of action against the United States. Restriction.

(c) The Attorney General shall assure that all Federal law enforcement agencies outside of the Department of Justice adopt guidelines consistent with subsection (a) of this section.

PROFIT BY A CRIMINAL FROM SALE OF HIS STORY

SEC. 7. Within one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall report to Congress regarding any laws that are necessary to ensure that no Federal felon derives any profit from the sale of the recollections, thoughts, and feelings of such felon with regards to the offense committed by the felon until any victim of the offense receives restitution. Report to Congress. 18 USC 3579 note.

BAIL

SEC. 8. Section 3146(a) of chapter 207 of title 18, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(1) by inserting after "judicial officer," the second place it appears the following: "subject to the condition that such person not commit an offense under section 1503, 1512, or 1513 of this title,"; and

(2) by inserting after "impose" the following: "a condition of release that such person not commit an offense under section 1503, 1512, or 1513 of this title and impose".

EFFECTIVE DATE

18 USC 1512 note.

SEC. 9. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b)(1) The amendment made by section 2 of this Act shall apply to presentence reports ordered to be made on or after March 1, 1983.

(2) The amendments made by section 5 of this Act shall apply with respect to offenses occurring on or after January 1, 1983.

Approved October 12, 1982.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 2420 (H.R. 7191)

SENATE REPORT No. 97-532 (Comm. on the Judiciary).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 128 (1982):
Sept. 14, considered and passed Senate.
Sept. 30, H.R. 7191 considered and passed House; S. 2420, amended, passed in lieu.
Oct. 1, Senate concurred in House amendments with an amendment; House concurred in Senate amendment.