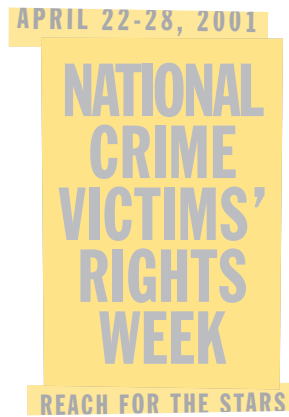


This year, hundreds of state and local officials and agencies will issue proclamations or resolutions that officially proclaim the week of April 22-28, 2001 to be "(State/local) Crime Victims' Rights Week." This sample proclamation can be offered to such officials and entities as a foundation upon which to draft an official proclamation that is specific to each jurisdiction's needs. Data from the statistical overviews included in this Resource Guide and/or jurisdiction-specific data can be useful for tailoring the sample proclamation to an individual organization, jurisdiction or state. Victim advocates should request multiple copies of any proclamations issued that can be framed for the offices of the many organizations that co-sponsor 2001 NCVRW activities.



Sample Proclamation

- Whereas,** America's victims' rights discipline has had a powerful impact in educating our nation about the devastating effects of crime and victimization, and the need to provide support and services to individuals and communities hurt by crime; and
- Whereas,** victimization rates in the United States are the lowest recorded since the inception of the National Crime Victimization Survey in 1973; and
- Whereas,** there were still nearly 29 million people in America who were victimized by crime last year, including *[fill in your state's criminal victimization statistics here]*; and
- Whereas,** the year 2001 marks the 25th anniversary of the Victim Impact Statement, which helps our criminal and juvenile justice systems better understand the psychological, financial, and physical impact of crime on victims, and hold offenders accountable for their criminal and delinquent actions; and
- Whereas,** the voices of our nation's victims have had a powerful effect in changing laws, policies, and attitudes to promote victims' rights and services, and encouraging every person in America to take a stand and help crime victims; and
- Whereas,** important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, allied professionals, victim services, and the private sector to ensure that crime victims are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve; and
- Whereas,** our nation's commitment to crime victim assistance grows stronger with each passing year, with over 10,000 system- and community-based programs in place to provide help and hope to victims of crime; ***therefore, be it***
- Resolved,** that *[individual or entity]* proclaims the week of April 22 to 28, 2001, to be *[city/county/parish/state]* Crime Victims' Rights Week, and celebrates victims' voices as an important chorus for fairness and dignity; ***and be it further***
- Resolved,** that we continue to reach for the stars of justice and compassion for crime victims as individuals, as communities, and as a nation dedicated to justice for all; ***and be it further***
- Resolved,** that a suitably prepared copy of this proclamation be presented to *[your organization]*.