

N.C. DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

In **November 1996**, North Carolina voters amended the State Constitution by adding Section 37 of Article 1, Declaration of Rights, establishing the Rights of Victims of Crime. The Amendment provides that victims of crime, as prescribed by law, shall be entitled to the following basic rights:

- (a) The right as prescribed by law to be informed of and to be present at court proceedings of the accused.
- (b) The right to be heard at sentencing of the accused in a manner prescribed by law, and at other times as prescribed by law or deemed appropriate by the court.
- (c) The right as prescribed by law to receive restitution.
- (d) The right as prescribed by law to be given information about the crime, how the criminal justice system works, the rights of victims, and the availability of services for victims.
- (e) The right as prescribed by law to receive information about the conviction or final disposition and sentence of the accused.
- (f) The right as prescribed by law to receive notification of escape, release, proposed parole or pardon of the accused, or notice of a reprieve or commutation of the accused's sentence.
- (g) The right as prescribed by law to present their views and concerns to the Governor or agency considering any action that could result in the release of the accused, prior to such action becoming effective.
- (h) The right as prescribed by law to confer with the prosecution.