



Arizona Voice for Crime Victims
111 East Taylor
Street Phoenix, AZ 85004

Telephone: 480.600.2661
www.voiceforvictims.org

October 3, 2022

Members of the Arizona Supreme Court
1500 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Members of the Court:

On behalf of the Arizona Voice for Crime Victim's ("AVCV") Board of Directors, I am writing to you in support of integrating victims' rights into Arizona's Rules of Criminal Procedure. The AVCV Board is aware of the important work that the Court's Committee on Criminal Rules Regarding Victims ("Committee") has done over the last year and a half. While the final product, which contains the "Section V" approach as suggested by Court staff, is different than initially envisioned, it accomplishes the goal of integrating victims' rights throughout the rules.

We have been advised that the majority of the Committee does not support integration for various reasons. However, integration is an important and significant step in protecting and giving effect to victims' constitutional and statutory rights. The rules serve as a guide, to both attorneys and judges, throughout the criminal justice process, and they specify the rights of the accused and the duties of the state. Victims' rights are implicated throughout the duration of this process. Yet, as currently written, most of the rules lack instruction to prosecutors, defense attorneys, and courts on which rights of victims may be at stake at various stages of a criminal case. In some instances, victims' rights are undoubtedly overlooked. Integration makes the process better for all involved. Integration will provide a better guide to attorneys and judges, as well as provide assurances to victims that their rights, should they choose to exercise them, will be considered and protected at vital stages of a criminal case.

If this Court votes for integration, it will be the first Supreme Court in the nation to develop rules that protect all of the participants in the criminal justice process. Further, integration would allow for Arizona's Rules of Criminal Procedure to serve as the model for other jurisdictions to follow in ensuring that victims' constitutional and statutory rights are respected and considered throughout the criminal justice process.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. DePaoli

Deborah J. DePaoli
Board President, Arizona Voice for Crime Victims

CC (via email): AVCV Board Members; Colleen Clase



National Organization of
Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.

For the families and friends of those who have died by violence.

635 W. 7th Street, Suite 104 • Cincinnati, OH 45203 • (513) 721-5683 • Fax (513) 345-4489 •
Website: www.pomc.org • Email: natlpomc@pomc.org

September 23, 2022

Members of the Arizona Supreme Court
1500 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Members of the Court:

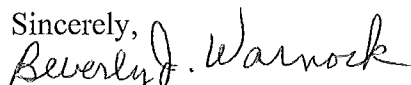
I am writing to you on behalf of the National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children in support of integrating victims' rights into Arizona's Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Parents Of Murdered Children has been helping survivors who have had a homicide in their life since 1978. We help these survivors navigate the criminal justice system, refer them to one of the 45 support groups that we have established all over the United States, organize a national conference for them to attend, and many programs that help them cope with their grief and anger. As an organization that provides support to victims of homicide crimes, we feel that integrating victims rights into the applicable rules of criminal procedure will be a step in the direction of ensuring that victims' rights are protected every day and in every courtroom across Arizona.

A number of our members have shared their experiences in the court system. Too often we hear that they have no rights – the murderer has all the rights and they have none. They are not notified of hearings or changes made in the scheduling of trials and hearings, they feel like their loved ones are on trial and the offender is the victim. Also, the attorneys and judges don't seem to care about what the family is going through with the trial. As an example, one of the most frustrating things for our members is the length of time it takes for their cases to go to trial or for the resolution of the appeals process. In Arizona, our members have a constitutional right to a speedy trial and to a prompt and final conclusion of the case. Amending court rules to require courts to consider these rights before granting motions to continue and motions to extend filing deadlines will give effect to victims' constitutional rights. Of course, this is just one example that our members have shared where they have felt that their rights weren't considered. Thus, we support comprehensive integration.

POMC fully supports AVCV's efforts to continuously find ways to make the process better for victims such as integrating victims' rights into Arizona's Rules of Criminal Procedure. POMC strongly encourages this Court to adopt the "Section V" approach that AVCV is supporting.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 513-721-5683.

Sincerely,

Beverly J. Warnock
Executive Director



PARENTS OF MURDERED CHILDREN
Valley of the Sun Chapter

For the families and friends of those who have died by violence

PO Box 40126 • Mesa, AZ 85274

Message Phone: (602) 254 -8818 • pomcvos.com • EIN# 31-1255458

September 28, 2022

Members of the Arizona Supreme Court
1500 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Members of the Court:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Valley of the Sun Chapter of Parents Of Murdered Children in support of integrating victims' rights into Arizona's Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Members of Parents Of Murdered Children have all been directly impacted by the violent death of someone they love. As an organization that provides support to victims of homicide crimes, we feel that integrating victims rights into the applicable rules of criminal procedure will be a step in the direction of ensuring that victims' rights are protected every day and in every courtroom across Arizona.

A number of our members have shared their experiences in the court system. Too often we hear about how they feel re-victimized by the judicial process, especially when court proceedings are postponed repeatedly. As you can imagine, preparing for court processes where they know they will need to be in the same space as someone accused of killing their loved one, is quite emotionally exhausting and traumatizing often days before each court date and days or even weeks afterwards. Another source of frustration for our members is the length of time it takes for their cases to go to trial or for the resolution of the appeals process. In Arizona, our members have a constitutional right to a speedy trial and to a prompt and final conclusion of the case. Amending court rules to require courts to consider these rights before granting motions to continue and motions to extend filing deadlines will give effect to victims' constitutional rights. Of course, this is just one example that our members have shared where they have felt that their rights weren't considered. Thus, we support comprehensive integration.

POMC fully supports AVCV's efforts to continuously find ways to make the process better for victims such as integrating victims' rights into Arizona's Rules of Criminal Procedure. POMC strongly encourages this Court to adopt the "Section V" approach that AVCV is supporting.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 602-885-6819.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Green, Chapter Secretary
Valley of the Sun Chapter of Parents Of Murdered Children

September 21, 2022

Beckie A. Miller



RE: Letter of Support for Arizona Voice for Crime Victims Integration Efforts

To whom it may concern:

As a crime victim myself and an advocate for crime victims for more than 30-years, I strongly support Arizona Voice for Crime Victims efforts to integrate victims' rights into the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure. All persons working with crime victims in the judicial system should fully understand the rights of victims. Sadly though, the rights of crime victims are still violated and not fully understood despite becoming law more than thirty-years ago.

Judges and attorneys should and must consider a victims' constitutional right to a prompt and final conclusion before ruling on any matter. A victim's right to a speedy trial is guaranteed with victims' rights and yet time and time again delays led largely by the defense prevent that from happening for the victims. Some are necessary but many are not. Those rights of all victims should be easily available for review of all judges and attorneys at all times during the process.

Please integrate victims' rights into the proposed rules of procedure and help to correct injustices inflicted on those who have suffered and endured enough already and who are legally supposed to be protected in our system.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beckie A. Miller".

Beckie A. Miller

Debbie Carlson



September 18, 2022

Arizona Supreme Court
1501 W. Washington St. Suite 402
Phoenix, Az 85007

RE: Arizona Victim Bill of Rights integrated to the Arizona Rules of Criminal procedures

Dear Arizona Supreme Court,

This letter is to the Committee members considering Arizona Voices for Crime Victims recommendation to integrate victims' rights into the Arizona rules of criminal procedures. We support this outstanding organization on everything they do to help victims as they go through the criminal justice system.

The importance of this integration is having the Victims Bill of Rights being readily available to be the guide to all involved in the criminal procedure and to understand when and how to apply them through each step of the process.

Most victims do not have their own attorney to help them ensure their rights are represented and heard. Unfortunately, we didn't have one until the end of our very long case. In hindsight, I wish I would have utilized Arizona Voices for Crime Victims much sooner, they were outstanding and an intrical support for us in the final months of concluding our case.

As the mother of Vicki Lynne Hoskinson, I can assure you our rights were violated countless times throughout our journey with the criminal justice system. In 1984, the Victim's Bill of Rights did not exist, so we did not have access to it going through our trial. Our case was tried in 1987, almost three years from the date of Vicki Lynne's murder to trial and moved from Tucson to Phoenix due to pretrial publicity, an immense hardship to our family. I became an active voice in and worked passionately to get the Victims Bill of Rights passed in 1990 so another family would not have to go through the hell we experienced. The definition of a speedy trial was not a standard in our situation, and a gross injustice was walking into the courtroom for the sentencing to find seats were taped off for the defendants' parents when we had to stand at sentencing. Thankfully, compassionate people in attendance saw us standing and gave us their seats, this should never have been allowed or if so, should have been done so equally. Our case was filled with long and unnecessary interviews from the defendant's counsel, repetitive motions and countless delays that spanned almost four decades.

This is the largest travesties in our quest for justice for Vicki Lynne. 37 years, 8 months, and 22 days for the inmate to be executed. The impact of this has affected our lives beyond measure or

comprehension. The toll it continues to take on our emotional, physical, monetary wellbeing was and is simply wrong. The scales of Justice are not in balance when the criminal is afforded more rights than the victim.

I understand the courts can refer to the Victim Bill of Rights and Rule 39, however, I believe it is crucial and would be beneficial for the courts to have a guide on how to apply them in necessary situations within the criminal procedures.

It is my sincere and respectful plea on behalf of countless crime victims, that you integrate these rights into the Arizona rules criminal procedure.

Respectfully submitted,



Debbie Carlson
