

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 370 (HB 479)

2025 Regular Session

Mandie Landry

New law provides for notice from the sheriff, the highest ranking employee of the sheriff's office, or the person acting on behalf of the sheriff who is physically present at and in charge of the parish prison or jail to every law enforcement agency, victim, witness, and local media outlet when an inmate has escaped from or left the premises of the parish prison or jail without authority.

New law provides for notification procedures pertaining to an inmate's escape and recapture.

New law defines the terms "law enforcement agency" and "local media outlet".

New law directs the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to create a comprehensive victims' services system to notify victims, witnesses, and designated family members of their rights and to inform them of legal proceedings.

Existing law (R.S. 46:1844) provides for the basic rights of victims and witnesses of a crime.

New law creates the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights related to the rights established in existing law.

New law provides that a defendant shall not have standing to challenge the outcome of a case pursuant to a violation of a victim's rights.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 20, 2025).

(Adds R.S. 15:715 and R.S. 46:1847 and 1848)