

A Checklist of Victims' Rights When Working With The Media

Victims have the right:

1. To say "no" to an interview.
2. To select the spokesperson or advocate of their choice.
3. To select time and location for media interviews.
4. To request a specific reporter.
5. To refuse an interview with a specific reporter even though they have granted interviews to other reporters.
6. To say "no" to an interview even though they have previously granted interviews.
7. To release a written statement through a spokesperson in lieu of an interview.
8. To exclude children from interviews.
9. To refrain from answering any questions with which they are uncomfortable or feel are inappropriate.
10. To know in advance the direction the story is going to take.
11. To avoid a press conference atmosphere and speak to only one reporter at a time.
12. To demand a correction when inaccurate information is reported.
13. To ask that offensive photographs or visuals be omitted from broadcast or publication.
14. To conduct a television interview using a silhouette or a newspaper interview without having a photograph taken.
15. To completely give their side of the story related to the victimization.
16. To refrain from answering reporters' questions during trial.
17. To file a formal complaint against a journalist.
18. To grieve in private.
19. To suggest training about media and victims for print and electronic media in their communities.

From *Crime Victims and the News Media* by Anne Seymour and Linda Lowrance, (1988), pp. 7 – 10, National Victim Center, Fort Worth, Texas.