

**VICTIM GUIDELINES FOR PROSECUTORS**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Andrew Stoddard**

Senate Sponsor: Todd Weiler

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill enacts guidelines for prosecutors and other relevant entities interactions and protocols related to a victim cooperating with an investigation or prosecution.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ enacts the "Victims Guidelines for Prosecutors Act";
- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ provides uniform guidelines for prosecutors and other entities regarding proper protocol related to immigration status forms of a crime victim when receiving the assistance of the crime victim;
- ▶ provides a timeline for completion of certain forms; and
- ▶ requires reports to the Judiciary Interim Committee.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**77-38-501**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**77-38-502**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



28 [77-38-503](#), Utah Code Annotated 1953



30 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

31 Section 1. Section **77-38-501** is enacted to read:

32 **Part 5. Victims Guidelines for Prosecutors Act**

33 **77-38-501. Title.**

34 This part is known as the "Victims Guidelines for Prosecutors Act."

35 Section 2. Section **77-38-502** is enacted to read:

36 **77-38-502. Definitions.**

37 As used in this part:

38 (1) "Certifying entity" means any of the following:

39 (a) a law enforcement agency, as defined in Section [77-7a-103](#);

40 (b) a prosecutor, as defined in Section [77-22-4.5](#);

41 (c) a court, as defined in Section [78A-1-101](#);

42 (d) any other authority that has responsibility for the detection, investigation, or  
43 prosecution of a qualifying crime or criminal activity; and

44 (e) an agency that has criminal detection or investigative jurisdiction in the agency's  
45 respective areas of expertise, including:

46 (i) the Division of Child and Family Services; and

47 (ii) the Department of Workforce Services.

48 (2) "Certifying official" means:

49 (a) the head of the certifying entity;

50 (b) a person in a supervisory role who has been specifically designated by the head of  
51 the certifying entity to issue Form I-918 Supplement B certifications on behalf of that agency;

52 (c) a judge; or

53 (d) any other certifying official defined under 8 C.F.R. Sec. 214.14.

54 (3) (a) "Qualifying criminal activity" means the same as that term is defined in 8 C.F.R.  
55 Sec. 214.14.

56 (b) "Qualifying criminal activity" includes criminal offenses for which the nature and  
57 elements of the offenses are substantially similar to the criminal activity described in

58 Subsection (3)(a), and the attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of those offenses.

59 Section 3. Section **77-38-503** is enacted to read:

60 **77-38-503. Guidelines for prosecutors.**

61 (1) Upon the request of the victim or victim's family member, a certifying official from  
62 a certifying entity shall certify victim helpfulness on the Form I-918 Supplement B  
63 certification, when the victim was a victim of a qualifying criminal activity and has been  
64 helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful to the detection, investigation, or prosecution  
65 of that qualifying criminal activity.

66 (2) For purposes of determining helpfulness described in Subsection (1), there is a  
67 rebuttable presumption that a victim is helpful, has been helpful, or is likely to be helpful to the  
68 detection or investigation or prosecution of that qualifying criminal activity, if the victim has  
69 not refused or failed to provide information and assistance reasonably requested by law  
70 enforcement.

71 (3) The certifying official shall fully complete and sign the Form I-918 Supplement B  
72 certification and, regarding victim helpfulness, include specific details about the nature of the  
73 crime investigated or prosecuted and a detailed description of the victim's helpfulness or likely  
74 helpfulness to the detection, investigation, or prosecution of the criminal activity.

75 (4) A certifying entity shall process a Form I-918 Supplement B certification within 90  
76 days of request, unless the noncitizen is in removal proceedings, in which case the certification  
77 shall be processed within 14 days of request.

78 (5) A current investigation, the filing of charges, a prosecution, or a conviction are not  
79 required for the victim to request and obtain the Form I-918 Supplement B certification from a  
80 certifying official.

81 (6) A certifying official may only withdraw the certification if the victim refuses to  
82 provide information and assistance when reasonably requested.

83 (7) A certifying entity is prohibited from disclosing the immigration status of a victim  
84 or person requesting the Form I-918 Supplement B certification, except to comply with federal  
85 law, or if authorized by the victim or person requesting the Form I-918 Supplement B  
86 certification.

87 (8) (a) Each certifying entity that receives a request for a Form I-918 Supplement B  
88 certification shall report to the Office of the Attorney General before June 30 of each year:

89 (i) the number of victims that requested Form I-918 Supplement B certifications from

90 the entity;

91 (ii) the number of those Form I-918 Supplement B certifications that were signed; and

92 (iii) the number of Form I-918 Supplement B certifications that were denied.

93 (b) The Office of the Attorney General shall report to the Judiciary Interim Committee

94 of the Legislature, on or before November 30, 2020, and annually thereafter:

95 (i) the number of victims that requested Form I-918 Supplement B certifications from

96 the certifying entities in this state;

97 (ii) the number of those Form I-918 Supplement B certifications that were signed; and

98 (iii) the number of Form I-918 Supplement B certifications that were denied.

99 (9) (a) A certifying entity shall not disclose personal identifying information, or

100 information regarding the citizenship or immigration status of any victim of criminal activity or

101 trafficking who is requesting a certification unless:

102 (i) required to do so by applicable federal law or court order; or

103 (ii) the certifying agency has written authorization from:

104 (A) the victim; or

105 (B) if the victim is a minor or is otherwise not legally competent, from the victim's

106 parent or guardian.

107 (b) Subsection (9)(a) does not modify legal obligations of a prosecutor or law

108 enforcement to disclose information and evidence to a defendant.