



Crime Victim's Restitution

Definitions:

What is restitution?

Restitution is payment for an economic loss incurred by a victim as a direct result of the crime committed against him or her.

What is a criminal restitution order?

A **criminal restitution order** is a court order obtained on behalf of the victim requiring the defendant to pay for the victim's losses.

*Seek the truth
Serve the people
Do Justice*

If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this brochure please contact the Victim Services Unit of the Pinal County Attorney's Office at

Phone: 520 866 6813 or
800 208 6897 ext. 6813

Fax: 520 866 6852

E-mail: pinalcountyattorney@pinalcountyaz.gov

or visit our office at:

45 N. Florence St.
Florence Arizona

Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 1010
Florence, AZ 85232



James P. Walsh,
Pinal County Attorney

What is the victim loss statement?

The victim loss statement is a notarized document completed by the victim of a crime, detailing the losses incurred as a direct result of that crime.

Once the victim completes the statement, the **Victim Services Unit** files it with the court. The judge may use the victim loss statement as a guide in determining the amount of restitution he or she will order on behalf of the victim.

For more information, contact the Victim Services Unit at (520) 866-6813.

How is a criminal restitution ordered?

The judge will decide how much restitution, if any, will be ordered on behalf of the victim. This decision usually takes place during the sentencing or a separate restitution hearing.

If restitution is ordered, the defendant is then ordered to make monthly payments to the victim through the Pinal County Clerk of the Superior Court's Office.

The Collections Department of the Clerk of the Superior Court's Office also keeps records of the restitution ordered, the payments made, and the balance that is due.

You may contact the Pinal County Clerk of the Superior Court's Office at (520) 866-5300.

Restitution lien:

A restitution lien may be imposed on the defendant's real property to ensure payment of restitution ordered by the court.

A restitution lien is created after the judge grants a criminal restitution order.

The Collections Department of the Pinal County Clerk of the Superior Court receives a copy of the criminal restitution order.

The Pinal County Clerk of the Superior Court's Office then certifies a copy and sends it to the Pinal County Recorder's Office.

Once the copy is recorded by the Recorder's Office a lien is established against the real property owned by the defendant and is effective on property currently owned and property acquired while the lien is in effect.

The restitution lien affects all real property and is not automatically imposed on vehicles or other types of property.

The victim must obtain a motor vehicle lien separately.

Motor vehicle liens can affect all property items with a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), such as cars, mobile homes and motorcycles.

Motor vehicle lien:

If the victim of a crime wishes to obtain a motor vehicle lien, he or she will need a certified copy of the criminal restitution order entered against the defendant, which can be obtained at the Pinal County Clerk of the Superior Court.

Also, the victim will need to know the defendant's name, date of birth and other personal identification information, as requested by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Once the victim has collected all the necessary information, he or she will need to mail the restitution order to the:

Department of Motor Vehicles Central Communications Unit

P.O. Box 2100
Mail Drop 554M
Phoenix, AZ 85001

We recommend that you keep copies of all documents you send and use certified mail, although it is not required.

Also, we recommend you include a self-addressed stamped envelop, so the DMV can respond to you if necessary.

