1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to crime victim's rights; creating s. 3 960.00011, F.S.; providing definitions; creating s. 4 960.00012, F.S.; specifying rights that crime victims 5 may exercise; requiring certain entities to notify 6 victims of certain events; creating s. 960.00014, 7 F.S.; providing duties of specified agencies to notify 8 victims in specified ways; providing that a victim has 9 the right to retain an attorney for specified purposes; providing for assertion of a victim's 10 11 rights; specifying that a criminal defendant may not assert a victim's rights; amending s. 960.001, F.S.; 12 13 revising requirements for preparation of guidelines for treatment of victims; providing for limited 14 privacy of victim information cards; amending s. 15 16 960.0015, F.S.; providing a policy concerning the grant of delays in criminal proceedings; providing for 17 18 withdrawal of counsel; providing for motions for 19 speedy trial; providing for hearings on such motions; providing goals for completion of appellate review of 20 21 convictions; providing for notice of delay when review 22 exceeds the goal in a case; providing for reports of 23 cases that exceed the goals; providing requirements 24 for reports; amending s. 960.0021, F.S.; revising the content of a specified notice to crime victims of 25

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victim rights; revising requirements for posting of such notices; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 960.00011, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

960.00011 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

- (1) "Confer" or "consultation" means to consult together, share information, compare opinions, and carry on a discussion or deliberation. The right to confer does not create any right to interfere with the state attorney's discretion in determining what charges to bring, whether to go to trial on a case, or what plea offer to make. The right to confer is intended to a give crime victim a means to be heard and have his or her views considered and does not give a crime victim the right to veto decisions of the state.
- (2) "Court proceedings" includes, but is not limited to, a first appearance hearing, arraignment, any post-arraignment hearing the effect of which may be the release of the defendant from custody or to alter the conditions of bond, change of plea hearing, the trial, any pretrial or post-trial hearing, sentencing, and any proceeding or hearing in a juvenile delinquency case, such as a detention hearing, an adjudicatory hearing, a disposition hearing, a detention hearing, or a

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juvenile mediation, and any oral argument or hearing before an appellate court, any competency hearing, a hearing for conditional release, any hearing related to a modification of sentence, probation or community control revocation hearing, aftercare release or parole hearing, postconviction relief proceeding, habeas corpus proceeding, and clemency proceeding related to the conviction or sentence of the defendant or delinquent.

- (3) "Crime victim" or "victim" is a person or entity who suffers direct or threatened physical, psychological, or financial harm as a result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime or delinquent act or against whom the crime or delinquent act is committed. The term includes the victim's lawful representative, the parent or guardian of a minor, or the next of kin of a homicide victim, except upon a showing that the interest of such individual would be in actual or potential conflict with the interests of the victim. The term includes law enforcement officers, correctional officers, or correctional probation officers who use deadly force in the course and scope of their employment or official duties. The term does not include the accused. As used in this subsection, terms "crime" and "criminal" include delinquent acts and conduct.
- (4) "Information or records that could be used to locate or harass the victim or the victim's family" includes, but is

not limited to, any record or document that may reveal the identity of the crime victim, including the name, home or employment telephone number, home or employment address; the personal assets of the victim of a crime; information or documents that identify that person as the victim of a crime; or disclose the identity of members of the crime victim's household.

- (5) "Status hearing" means a hearing designed to provide information to the court, at which no motion of a substantive nature and no constitutional or statutory right of a crime victim is implicated or at issue.
- (6) "Victim's attorney" means an attorney retained by the victim to assert the victim's constitutional and statutory rights who is hired at the victim's expense or an attorney who has agreed to provide pro bono representation.
- Section 2. Section 960.00012, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
  - 960.00012 Rights a victim may opt to exercise.-
- (1) A crime victim may elect to exercise any or all of the following rights by providing or filing notice on a form designated by the Attorney General to the state attorney or law enforcement.
- (a) The right to notice of court proceedings.

  Notwithstanding any rule of procedure to the contrary, the right, upon request, to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice

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of all public court proceedings involving the criminal conduct, or delinquency, including, but not limited to, trial, plea, sentencing, or adjudication, even if the victim will be a witness at the proceeding.

- 1. If a victim has requested notice of a court proceeding and the victim is absent from that proceeding and the court determines the victim was not noticed of the time and place of the court proceeding in a method reasonably designed to actually notify the victim then only a status hearing may be held at such time and all other matters must be continued to a later court proceeding where the victim is noticed in a manner directed by the court.
- 2. A victim shall also be provided reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any release or escape of the defendant or delinquent, and any proceeding during which a right of the victim is implicated.
- (b) The right to be present at all court proceedings except for grand jury proceedings. Notwithstanding any rule of procedure or court practice to the contrary, every crime victim has a right to be present, even if he or she will be a witness in the proceeding. The right to be present is equal to that of the defendant or the delinquent charged with the criminal offense or delinquent act against the victim, to attend and observe all court proceedings related to the case, including suppression or other evidentiary hearings and the entire trial

of the accused, including jury selection, witness examinations, and closing arguments.

- (c) The right to be heard in any public or court proceeding including pretrial hearings or other release from any form of legal constraint hearings, plea hearings, sentencing, adjudication, or parole and any proceeding during which a right of the victim is implicated.
- 1. Whenever a victim who is not incarcerated has the right to be heard, the court, subject to the proper functioning of the court, shall allow the victim to exercise the right in any reasonable manner the victim chooses.
- 2. In the case of an incarcerated victim, the right to exercise the right to be heard is effectuated by submitting a written statement at any crucial stage of the criminal court proceedings, parole proceedings, or any administrative proceedings.
- (d) The right to a copy of the police report. Upon the request of the victim, the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction shall provide a free copy of the police report concerning the victim's incident, as soon as practicable, but no later than 5 business days after the request. The law enforcement entity may redact any confidential information that is confidential under the public records law.
- (e) The right to confer with the state attorney concerning any plea agreements, participation of the accused in a formal or

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informal pretrial diversion program, release, restitution,
sentencing, or any other disposition of the case.

- 1. The state attorney's office shall consider the written victim impact statement, if prepared before entering into a plea agreement, before making an offer of a plea bargain to the defendant or entering into negotiations with the defendant concerning a possible plea agreement.
- 2. The victim's right to confer with the state attorney about the case does not include the right to veto a plea agreement or require the case go to trial.
- of the offender's conduct on the victim and the victim's family. The state attorney shall inform the victim of the victim's right to submit an oral or written impact statement pursuant to s.

  921.143 and shall assist in the preparation of such statement if necessary. The information provided by the victim shall be considered in any sentencing recommendations submitted to the court.
- (g) The right to receive a copy of any presentence report, and any other report or record relevant to the exercise of a victim's right, except for any confidential information.
- (h) The right to be informed of the conviction, sentence, adjudication, place and time of incarceration or commitment in any type of facility, or other disposition of the convicted offender, any scheduled release date of the offender, and the

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release of or the escape of the offender from custody.

- (i) The right to be informed of all postconviction processes and court proceedings and procedures, to be notified, to participate in such processes and procedures, either by being heard in a trail court, filing amicus briefs that comply with the appellate rules, or to appear before panels, commissions, or boards to provide information to be considered before any release decision is made and to be notified of any release decision regarding the offender. The parole or early release authority shall extend the right to be heard to any person harmed by the offender.
- (j) The right to be informed of clemency and discretionary expungement procedures, not including those that may occur by operation of law based on the passage of time, to provide information to the governor, the court, any clemency board, and other authority in these procedures, and to have such information considered before a clemency or expungement decision is made; and to be notified of such decision in advance of any release of the offender.
- (2) The rights of the victim, as provided in paragraph (1)(a), paragraph (1)(b), or paragraph (1)(c), when the court proceeding is a first appearance hearing, will be deemed to be satisfied by a reasonable attempt by the appropriate agency to notify the victim and if known, when the victim's views are conveyed to the court timely if the victim is unable to attend.

Section 3. Section 960.00014, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

960.00014 Duty to provide victims with notice of their rights.—

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- (1) Victims have a right to be informed of their rights under s. 16(b), Art. I of the State Constitution and Florida law, and to be informed that they may seek the advice of an attorney with respect to their rights.
- (a) The office of Attorney General shall design and publish information that advises the general public and crime victims about their rights. This information shall be made available to the general public and provided to all crime victims in the form of a card, or by other means, intended to effectively advise the victim of their rights for use by law enforcement or other entities assisting victims. The victim right's card or other notification should advise victims where they can acquire additional information about their rights, how to make elections to exercise optional rights, provide information about crime victim compensation, including how to contact the Office of the Attorney General to file a claim, and appropriate referrals to local and state programs that provide victim services.
- (b) A law enforcement agency that investigates an offense committed in this state shall provide a crime victim with a copy of the victim rights card and an explanation of the rights of

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crime victims within 48 hours of law enforcement's initial contact with a victim. The law enforcement agency shall also provide a crime victim with a form that the victim shall sign and date as an acknowledgement that he or she has been furnished with information and an explanation of the rights of crime victims and compensation. If the victim chooses not to sign the form, a notation shall be made in a report.

- (c) The elected state attorneys shall design a form that may be used by victims to make elections about which rights they may wish to exercise. The completed election of rights form shall be filed with the court and will be available to the trial judge. The form may be amended at any time. The state attorneys shall make the form available to victims, law enforcement, clerks of court, and state and local programs that provide victim services. The form may also be available for download on state attorney websites or the websites of other criminal justice system participants.
- (2) At any point, the victim has the right to retain a victim's attorney who may be present with the victim during all stages of any interview, investigation, or other interaction with representatives of the criminal justice system the victim is required to participate. The victim's attorney also has the right to be present at any proceeding or other event, either with the victim or on behalf of the victim, which the victim may be present. Treatment of the victim should not be affected or

251 <u>altered in any way as a result of the victim's decision to</u>
252 exercise this right.

- (a) An attorney wishing to appear on behalf of a victim shall file a limited notice of appearance allowing the attorney to assert and protect the victim's rights.
- (b) Upon the filing of the notice of appearance and service on the state attorney and the defendant, the victim's attorney is to receive copies of all notices, motions and court orders filed thereafter in the case through the court's electronic filing system.
- (3) The victim, the retained attorney of the victim, a lawful representative of the victim, the parents of a minor victim, or the office of the state attorney upon request of the victim, have standing and may assert and seek enforcement of the rights enumerated in s. 16(b), Art. I of the State Constitution, this chapter, or any other right afforded to a victim by law in any trial or appellate court, or before any other authority with jurisdiction over the case, as a matter of right.
- (4) The defendant in the criminal case has no standing to assert a right of the victim in any court proceeding, including on appeal.
- Section 4. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of section 960.001, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 960.001 Guidelines for fair treatment of victims and witnesses in the criminal justice and juvenile justice systems.—

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- (1) The Attorney General Department of Legal Affairs, the state attorneys, the Secretary Department of Corrections, the Secretary Department of Juvenile Justice, the Florida Commission on Offender Review, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court State Courts Administrator and the chief judge of each circuit court administrators, the executive director of the Department of Law Enforcement, and every sheriff sheriff's department, police department, or other law enforcement agency as defined in s. 943.10(4) shall develop, publish, post on any agency or court entity website, and implement guidelines for the use of their respective agencies, which guidelines are consistent with the purposes of this act and s. 16(b), Art. I of the State Constitution and are designed to implement s. 16(b), Art. I of the State Constitution and to achieve the following objectives:
- (a) Information concerning services available to victims of adult and juvenile crime.—As provided in s. 27.0065, state attorneys and public defenders shall gather information regarding the following services in the geographic boundaries of their respective circuits and shall provide such information to each law enforcement agency with jurisdiction within such geographic boundaries. Law enforcement personnel shall ensure, through distribution of a Marsy's victim's rights information card or brochure at the crime scene, during the criminal investigation, and in any other appropriate manner, that victims are given, as a matter of course at the earliest possible time,

301 information about:

- 1. The availability of crime victim compensation, if applicable;
- 2. Crisis intervention services, supportive or bereavement counseling, social service support referrals, and community-based victim treatment programs;
- 3. The role of the victim in the criminal or juvenile justice process, including what the victim may expect from the system as well as what the system expects from the victim;
- 4. The stages in the criminal or juvenile justice process which may be are of the greatest significance or interest to the victim and the manner in which information about such stages can be obtained;
- 5. The right of a victim, who is not incarcerated, including the victim's parent or guardian if the victim is a minor, the lawful representative of the victim or of the victim's parent or guardian if the victim is a minor, and the next of kin of a homicide victim, upon request, to be informed, to be present, and to be heard at all stages of a criminal or juvenile proceedings proceeding—as provided by s. 16(b), Art. I of the State Constitution;
- 6. In the case of incarcerated victims, the right, upon request, to be informed and to submit written statements at all stages of the criminal proceedings, parole proceedings, or juvenile proceedings;

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7. The right of a victim to a prompt and timely disposition of the case in order to minimize the period during which the victim must endure the responsibilities and stress involved; and

- 8. The right of a victim to employ private counsel. The Florida Bar is encouraged to develop a registry of attorneys who are willing to serve on a pro bono basis as advocates for crime victims.
- (b) Information for purposes of notifying victim or appropriate next of kin of victim or other designated contact of victim.—In the case of a homicide, pursuant to chapter 782; or a sexual offense, pursuant to chapter 794; or an attempted murder or sexual offense, pursuant to chapter 777; or stalking, pursuant to s. 784.048; or domestic violence, pursuant to s. 25.385:
- 1. The arresting law enforcement officer or personnel of an organization that provides assistance to a victim or to the appropriate next of kin of the victim or other designated contact must request that the victim or appropriate next of kin of the victim or other designated contact complete a victim notification card. However, the victim or appropriate next of kin of the victim or other designated contact may choose not to complete the victim notification card.
- 2. Unless the victim or the appropriate next of kin of the victim or other designated contact waives the option to complete

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the victim notification card, a copy of the victim notification card must be filed with the incident report or warrant in the sheriff's office of the jurisdiction in which the incident report or warrant originated. The notification card shall, at a minimum, consist of:

- a. The name, address, and phone number of the victim; or
- b. The name, address, and phone number of the appropriate next of kin of the victim; or
- c. The name, address, and telephone number of a designated contact other than the victim or appropriate next of kin of the victim; and
- d. Any relevant identification or case numbers assigned to the case.
- e. The victim information card is confidential unless the court, upon motion, makes all or part of the information on the card available to the defense.
- 3. The chief administrator, or a person designated by the chief administrator, of a county jail, municipal jail, juvenile detention facility, or residential commitment facility shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the alleged victim or appropriate next of kin of the alleged victim or other designated contact within 4 hours following the release of the defendant on bail or, in the case of a juvenile offender, upon the release from residential detention or commitment. If the chief administrator, or designee, is unable to contact the

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alleged victim or appropriate next of kin of the alleged victim or other designated contact by telephone, the chief administrator, or designee, must send to the alleged victim or appropriate next of kin of the alleged victim or other designated contact a written notification of the defendant's release.

- 4. Unless otherwise requested by the victim or the appropriate next of kin of the victim or other designated contact, the information contained on the victim notification card must be sent by the chief administrator, or designee, of the appropriate facility to the subsequent correctional or residential commitment facility following the sentencing and incarceration of the defendant, and unless otherwise requested by the victim or the appropriate next of kin of the victim or other designated contact, he or she must be notified of the release of the defendant from incarceration as provided by law.
- 5. If the defendant was arrested pursuant to a warrant issued or taken into custody pursuant to s. 985.101 in a jurisdiction other than the jurisdiction in which the defendant is being released, and the alleged victim or appropriate next of kin of the alleged victim or other designated contact does not waive the option for notification of release, the chief correctional officer or chief administrator of the facility releasing the defendant shall make a reasonable attempt to immediately notify the chief correctional officer of the

401 jurisdiction in which the warrant was issued or the juvenile was 402 taken into custody pursuant to s. 985.101, and the chief 403 correctional officer of that jurisdiction shall make a 404 reasonable attempt to notify the alleged victim or appropriate 405 next of kin of the alleged victim or other designated contact, 406 as provided in this paragraph, that the defendant has been or 407 will be released. Section 5. Section 960.0015, Florida Statutes, is amended 408 409 to read: (Substantial rewording of section. See 410 411 s. 960.0015, F.S., for present text.) 412 960.0015 Victim's right to a prompt and final conclusion; 413 reporting requirements.-414 (1) Section 16(b)(10), Art. I of the State constitution ensures for victims the right of a victim to a prompt and timely 415 416 disposition of a criminal proceeding, thus minimizing the period 417 during which the victim must endure hardships and 418 responsibilities resulting from participating in a criminal 419 proceeding, including the stress, cost, and inconvenience resulting to the victim. To protect and enforce this right to a 420 421 prompt and final conclusion of the case and any related 422 postjudgment proceedings, delays shall be limited to only those 423 necessary to protect the due process rights of the parties. 424 Therefore, delays shall be monitored and documented in order to

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provide accountability and transparency to the public, victims,

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

426 and policy makers.

- (a) If the defendant's attorney determines that the interest of the accused is so adverse or hostile, or that a conflict of interest exists in continuing the representation of the accused pursuant to s. 27.5303, the attorney shall, within a reasonable time, not to exceed 10 days after the facts supporting the motion are known or should have been known, file a motion to withdraw.
- (b) The attorney may request an in camera or ex parte hearing to establish the grounds creating the conflict consistent with s. 27.5303. The court may not consider any information alleged or established in support of a motion to withdraw for any purpose other than deciding the motion to withdraw.
- (2) At the trial court level, the state attorney may file a good faith demand for a speedy trial attesting that the state attorney believes the case is ready to proceed to trial.
- (a) Once the demand is filed the trial court shall notice, schedule, and hold a hearing on the demand within 15 days of the filing of the demand.
  - (b) At the hearing the trial court shall either:
- 1. Schedule a trial to commence on a date at least 5 days
  but no more than 60 days after the date of the hearing unless
  the state and defense agree to a date outside of the time
  parameters; or

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2. Deny the state attorney's demand for speedy trial by entering a written order with specific findings of fact justifying a trial date more than 60 days after the hearing.

- (3) At the appellate court level, s. 16(b)(10)b., Art. I of the State Constitution establishes the goal that all appeals from a final judgment and sentence, including any collateral attacks on the final judgment and sentence be complete within 2 years from the date of appeal in noncapital cases and within 5 years from the date of appeal in capital cases. Based on the State Constitution the following reporting requirements are established:
- (a) Notice of Delay.—When the appeal or collateral attack is not final within 2 years for a noncapital case or within 5 years in a capital case the chief judge of any district court of appeal or the Chief Justice of the supreme court shall enter a Notice of Delay in the case setting forth the date of filing the appeal, the type of appeal, and the reason or reasons for the failure to meet the time goals of this subsection. The Notice of Delay shall be filed and served on the state, the defense, and the victim, if the victim requested notice, within 30 days after the applicable time period has expired.
- (b) Aging Report.—By January 15 of each year, the chief judge of each district court of appeal and the Chief Justice of the supreme court shall issue an aging report on a case-by-case basis to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the

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House of Representatives listing all cases where the court:

- 1. Previously entered a Notice of Aging, or cases where the notice of appeal was filed before December 31, 2016, for noncapital cases, or before December 31, 2013, for capital cases; and
- 2. Where the case still remains pending as of the January
  15 reporting date.
- 3. The Aging Report shall include the filing date of the pending appeal, the reason or reasons the chief judge or the Chief Justice determined have caused the delay, and any suggested actions the Legislature might take to address the reasons for delay thus helping achieve these time goals.
- 4. Any case that appears in an Aging Report, that also appeared on the previous January's Aging Report must include an itemization of all judicial actions taken on the case during the last year and a notation made of any measurable progress on the case during that time period.
- 5. If the Attorney General, the applicable office of the public defender, or any other government entity is listed as a cause of, or a contributor to the delay, that entity shall have 30 days after a district court of appeal or the Supreme Court files an Aging Report to file a response to the report providing any information the office of Attorney General, office of public defender or other governmental agency deems beneficial. A copy of the response must be served on the President of the Senate

501	á	and	the	Speaker	of	the	House	of	Representatives.

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Section 6. Section 960.0021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

960.0021 Legislative intent; advisement to victims.-

- (1) The Legislature finds that in order to ensure that crime victims can effectively understand and exercise their rights under s. 16, Art. I of the State Constitution, and to promote law enforcement that considers the interests of crime victims, victims must be properly advised in the courts of this state.
- (2) The courts may fulfill their obligation to advise crime victims by doing one of the following:
- (a) Making the following announcement at any arraignment, sentencing, or case-management proceeding:"If you are the victim of a crime with a case pending before this court, you are advised that you have the right, upon request:
  - 1. To be informed.
  - 2. To be present.
  - 3. To be heard at all stages of criminal <u>court</u> proceedings.
  - 4. To receive advance notification, when possible, of judicial proceedings and notification of scheduling changes, pursuant to section 960.001, Florida Statutes.
  - 5. To seek crimes compensation and restitution.

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526 6. To consult with the state attorney's office in certain 527 felony cases regarding the disposition of the case.

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7. To make an oral or written victim impact statement at the time of sentencing of a defendant.

For further information regarding additional rights afforded to victims of crime, you may contact the state attorney's office or obtain a listing of your rights from the Clerk of Court."

- (b) Displaying prominently on the courtroom doors posters giving notification of the existence and general provisions of this chapter. The <u>Attorney General Department of Legal Affairs</u> shall provide the courts with the posters specified by this paragraph.
- (3) The <u>chief judge of the</u> circuit court administrator shall coordinate efforts to ensure that victim rights information, as established in <u>s. 16(b)</u>, <u>Art. I of the State</u> Constitution and Florida law <u>s. 960.001(1)(o)</u>, is provided to the clerk of the court.
- (4) This section is only for the benefit of crime victims.

  Accordingly, a failure to comply with this section shall not

  affect the validity of any hearing, conviction, or sentence.

  Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.