

### **Victimology**

- Subfield of criminology
- Special forces on studying victims of crime, the process of victimization, and consequences of victimology
- What are the risk factors for becoming a victim
- How victimization relates to social groups
- How victims interact with the criminal justice system

### **Victims' Rights**

- Enhance victims privacy, protection, participation
- Marcy's law (2008)

### **In NYS..**

- Certain kinds of compensation and assistance
- Notification of judicial proceedings
- During judicial proceedings
- Freedom from intimidation
- Restitution
- Other general and specific rights

### **Victim impact statement**

- Gives voice to victims and those indirectly affected by crime
- Detail the harm that was caused
- Make pre sentencing, sentencing and parole recommended actions

### **Arguments for VIS**

- Gives victim rights, equality
- Allows victims narratives to be understood
- Victims/families deserve closure

### **Arguments against VIS**

- It is not the legal systems duty to provide closure
- Invoke empathy for victims
- Makes statements about the value of victims
- Invoke vengeance toward defendant
- Exacerbate bias
- Distract legal decision makers (jurors, judges)

### **US Supreme Court Cases**

- Decision based on reason, not emotion (Booth v. Maryland 1987)
- Evidence about victim and the impact on victim's family is relevant to sentencing. (Payne v. Tennessee 1991)

### **Secondary Victimization**

- Victim is traumatized again through participation in the criminal justice process
- When rights are violated, when victim is blamed seriousness of crime is minimized.

### **Vicarious Victimization**

- Trauma makers, victim advocates, family, experience trauma due to other victimization
- Ex - Increased fear or anxiety.