

**Senate File 2379 - Reprinted**

SENATE FILE 2379  
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3089)

(As Amended and Passed by the Senate March 17, 2026)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to victim protections including victim  
2 counselors, protective orders, sex offender registration,  
3 rights of sexual abuse victims, mental competency and civil  
4 commitment, restitution, and victim rights.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

DIVISION I

VICTIM COUNSELORS

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Section 1. Section 915.20A, subsection 1, paragraphs a and d, Code 2026, are amended to read as follows:

a. *“Confidential communication”* means information shared between a crime victim and a victim counselor within the counseling relationship, and includes all information received by the counselor and any advice, report, or working paper given to or prepared by the counselor in the course of the counseling relationship with the victim. *“Confidential information”* is confidential information ~~which~~ that, so far as the victim is aware, is not disclosed to a third party with the exception of a person present in the consultation for the purpose of furthering the interest of the victim, a person to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for the transmission of the information, or a person with whom disclosure is necessary for accomplishment of the purpose for which the counselor is consulted by the victim, or as may be required by this section.

d. *“Victim counselor”* means a person who is engaged in a crime victim center, is certified as a counselor by the crime victim center, and is under the control of a direct services supervisor of a crime victim center, whose primary purpose is the rendering of advice, counseling, and assistance to the victims of crime. To qualify as a ~~“victim counselor”~~ victim counselor under this section, the person must also have completed at least twenty hours of training provided by the center in which the person is engaged, ~~by the Iowa organization of victim assistance, by the Iowa coalition against sexual assault, or by the Iowa coalition against domestic violence,~~ or by an organization under contract with the department to provide training, which training shall include but not be limited to the dynamics of victimization, substantive laws relating to violent crime, human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence, crisis intervention techniques, communication skills, working with diverse populations, an

1 overview of the state criminal justice system, information  
2 regarding pertinent hospital procedures, and information  
3 regarding state and community resources for victims of crime.

4 Sec. 2. Section 915.20A, subsections 2 and 5, Code 2026, are  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 2. A victim counselor shall not be compelled to produce  
7 confidential communications or confidential information or be  
8 examined or required to give evidence in any civil or criminal  
9 proceeding as to any confidential communication or confidential  
10 information made by a victim to the counselor, nor shall a  
11 clerk, secretary, stenographer, or any other employee who types  
12 or otherwise prepares or manages the confidential reports or  
13 working papers of a victim counselor be required to produce  
14 evidence of any such confidential communication or confidential  
15 information, unless the except under any of the following  
16 circumstances:

17 a. The victim waives this privilege in writing ~~or~~  
18 disclosure.

19 b. Disclosure of the information is compelled by a court  
20 pursuant to subsection 7. Under no circumstances shall the  
21 location of a crime victim center or the identity of the victim  
22 counselor be disclosed in any civil or criminal proceeding.

23 5. The privilege under this section does not apply in  
24 matters of proof concerning the chain of custody of evidence,  
25 or in matters of proof concerning the physical appearance  
26 of the victim at the time of the injury or the counselor's  
27 first contact with the victim after the injury, ~~or where the~~  
28 ~~counselor has reason to believe that the victim has given~~  
29 ~~perjured testimony and the defendant or the state has made an~~  
30 ~~offer of proof that perjury may have been committed.~~

31 DIVISION II

32 PROTECTIVE ORDERS

33 Sec. 3. Section 236A.7, subsection 3, Code 2026, is amended  
34 to read as follows:

35 3. a. An order for a protective order or approved consent

1 agreement shall be for a fixed period of time not to exceed one  
2 year except as provided in this section. The court may amend  
3 or extend its order or a consent agreement at any time upon a  
4 petition filed by the plaintiff or defendant and after notice  
5 and hearing. The court may extend the order if the court,  
6 after hearing at which the defendant has the opportunity to  
7 be heard, finds that the defendant continues to pose a threat  
8 to the safety of the plaintiff, persons residing with the  
9 plaintiff, or members of the plaintiff's immediate family. The  
10 number of extensions that can be granted by the court is not  
11 limited.

12 b. Notwithstanding paragraph "a", in the sentencing  
13 proceeding for a person convicted of a sexual offense as  
14 provided in section 709.8, 709.8A, 709.11, 709.12, 709.14,  
15 709.15, 709.21, or 709.23, any violation of chapter 710A, or  
16 a violation of section 713.3, subsection 1, paragraph "d", a  
17 prosecutor may request that the criminal court grant the victim  
18 an order of protection to remain in effect for the duration of  
19 the criminal court's jurisdiction over the person. At any time  
20 after the expiration of a criminal court's jurisdiction over a  
21 person against whom an order of protection was granted pursuant  
22 to a request under this paragraph, the victim may:

23 (1) File a petition for an order of protection against the  
24 person.

25 (2) Submit evidence of the person's conviction for a sexual  
26 offense as provided in this section as cause for the court to  
27 grant the order of protection.

28 c. Based on evidence submitted pursuant to paragraph "b",  
29 a court may take judicial notice of the facts that led to a  
30 person's conviction for a sexual offense as provided in this  
31 section and a victim shall not be required to appear before  
32 the court on the victim's petition for an order of protection;  
33 provided, however, that another person may appear on the  
34 victim's behalf.

35 d. A court may grant an order of protection pursuant to

1 this section for any length of time, including for a victim's  
2 lifetime.

3 e. An order of protection granted pursuant to this section  
4 shall continue until the expiration provided in the order,  
5 if any, or until modified or rescinded upon a motion by the  
6 victim.

7 DIVISION III

8 SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

9 Sec. 4. Section 692A.104, subsections 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8,  
10 Code 2026, are amended to read as follows:

11 1. A sex offender shall appear in person to register with  
12 the sheriff of each county where the offender has a residence,  
13 maintains employment, or is in attendance as a student, within  
14 ~~five~~ three business days of being required to register under  
15 section 692A.103 by providing all relevant information to  
16 the sheriff. A sheriff shall accept the registration of any  
17 person who is required to register in the county pursuant to  
18 the provisions of [this chapter](#).

19 2. A sex offender shall, within ~~five~~ three business days of  
20 changing a residence, employment, or attendance as a student,  
21 appear in person to notify the sheriff of each county where a  
22 change has occurred.

23 3. A sex offender shall, within ~~five~~ three business days  
24 of a change in relevant information, other than relevant  
25 information enumerated in [subsection 2](#), notify the sheriff of  
26 the county where the principal residence of the offender is  
27 maintained about the change to the relevant information. The  
28 department shall establish by rule what constitutes proper  
29 notification under [this subsection](#).

30 5. A sex offender shall, within ~~five~~ three business days of  
31 the establishment of a residence, employment, or attendance as  
32 a student in another jurisdiction, appear in person to notify  
33 the sheriff of the county where the principal residence of the  
34 offender is maintained, about the establishment of a residence,  
35 employment, or attendance in another jurisdiction. A sex

1 offender shall, within ~~five~~ three business days of establishing  
2 a new residence, employment, or attendance as a student in  
3 another jurisdiction, register with the registering agency of  
4 the other jurisdiction, if the offender is required to register  
5 under the laws of the other jurisdiction. The department shall  
6 notify the registering agency in the other jurisdiction of the  
7 sex offender's new residence, employment, or attendance as a  
8 student in the other jurisdiction.

9 7. Except as provided in [subsection 8](#), the initial or  
10 subsequent registration and any notifications required in  
11 subsections 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 shall be by appearance at the  
12 sheriff's office and completion of the initial or subsequent  
13 registration or notification shall be on a printed form, which  
14 shall be signed and dated by the sex offender. If the sheriff  
15 uses an electronic form to complete the initial registration  
16 or notification, the electronic form shall be printed upon  
17 completion and signed and dated by the sex offender. The  
18 sheriff shall transmit the registration or notification form  
19 completed by the sex offender within ~~five~~ three business days  
20 by paper copy, or electronically, using procedures established  
21 by the department by rule.

22 8. The collection of relevant information by a court or  
23 releasing agency under [section 692A.109](#) shall serve as the sex  
24 offender's initial or subsequent registration for purposes of  
25 this section. However, the sex offender shall register by  
26 appearing in person in the county of residence to verify the  
27 offender's arrival and relevant information. The court or  
28 releasing agency shall forward a copy of the registration to  
29 the department within ~~five~~ three business days of completion  
30 of registration using procedures established by the department  
31 by rule.

32 Sec. 5. Section 692A.105, Code 2026, is amended to read as  
33 follows:

34 **692A.105 Additional registration requirements — temporary**  
35 **lodging.**

1 In addition to the registration provisions specified in  
2 section 692A.104, a sex offender, within ~~five~~ three business  
3 days of a change, shall also appear in person to notify  
4 the sheriff of the county of principal residence~~7~~ of any  
5 location in which the offender is staying when away from the  
6 principal residence of the offender for more than five days~~7~~ by  
7 identifying the location and the period of time the offender is  
8 staying in such location.

9 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 692A.105A Additional registration  
10 requirements.

11 In addition to the registration provisions specified in  
12 section 692A.104, a sex offender, within three business days  
13 of a change, shall also appear in person to notify the sheriff  
14 of the county of the sex offender's principal residence of the  
15 following:

16 1. The name, address, and telephone number of the sex  
17 offender's place of employment, and any changes to such  
18 information.

19 2. The license plate number and a physical description,  
20 including make, model, and color, of any vehicle owned or  
21 regularly operated by the sex offender.

22 DIVISION IV

23 SEXUAL ABUSE — RIGHTS

24 Sec. 7. Section 709.10, subsections 6 and 7, Code 2026, are  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 6. The law enforcement agency shall store the kit in a  
27 clean, dry location for a minimum of ~~fifteen~~ twenty years, or  
28 in the case of a minor victim for ~~a minimum of fifteen years~~  
29 ~~after the minor reaches the age of majority~~ the lifetime of the  
30 minor victim, even if the reported victim of sexual abuse has  
31 not filed a criminal complaint.

32 7. Prior to the disposal of a kit by a law enforcement  
33 agency, the law enforcement agency shall notify the reported  
34 victim ~~of~~ in writing not fewer than sixty days before the  
35 intended date of disposal of the kit, the reason for disposal

1 of the kit, and the options that remain available for retention  
2 and analysis of the kit, if any. The law enforcement agency  
3 shall obtain written approval from the appropriate county  
4 attorney and retain that approval in the victim's case file  
5 prior to disposal. Any kit disposed of shall be documented  
6 by a law enforcement agency in the kit tracking system within  
7 forty-eight hours of disposal. Upon written request of the  
8 reported victim, the law enforcement agency shall grant further  
9 preservation of the kit or its probative contents.

10 Sec. 8. Section 709.22, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code  
11 2026, is amended to read as follows:

12 c. Providing a victim with immediate and adequate notice  
13 of the victim's rights. The notice shall consist of handing  
14 the victim a document that includes the telephone numbers of  
15 shelters, support groups, and crisis lines operating in the  
16 area and contains the following statement of rights written in  
17 English and Spanish; asking the victim to read the document;  
18 and asking whether the victim understands the rights:

19 [1] You have the right to ask the court for help with any of  
20 the following on a temporary basis:

21 [a] Keeping your attacker away from you, your home, and your  
22 place of work.

23 [b] The right to stay at your home without interference from  
24 your attacker.

25 [c] The right to seek a no-contact order under [section 664A.3](#)  
26 or [915.22](#), if your attacker is arrested for sexual assault.

27 [2] You have the right to register as a victim with the  
28 county attorney under [section 915.12](#).

29 [3] You have the right to file a complaint for threats,  
30 assaults, or other related crimes.

31 [4] You have the right to seek restitution against your  
32 attacker for harm to you or your property.

33 [5] You have the right to apply for victim compensation.

34 [6] You have the right to contact the county attorney or  
35 local law enforcement to determine the status of your case.

1 [7] If you are in need of medical treatment, you have  
2 the right to request that the officer present assist you in  
3 obtaining transportation to the nearest hospital or otherwise  
4 assist you.

5 [8] You have the right to a sexual assault examination  
6 performed at state expense. You have the right not to be  
7 prevented from receiving a sexual assault examination. If you  
8 choose to have a sexual assault examination:

9 [a] You have the right to have a sexual assault examination  
10 kit or its probative contents preserved, without charge, for  
11 twenty years, or in the case of a minor victim for the lifetime  
12 of the minor victim, even if you do not file a criminal  
13 complaint, pursuant to section 709.10, subsection 6.

14 [b] You have the right to be informed of any results of a  
15 sexual assault examination kit if such disclosure would not  
16 impede or compromise an ongoing investigation.

17 [c] You have the right to be informed of the status and  
18 location of a sexual assault examination kit.

19 [d] At least sixty days prior to the intended disposal of  
20 a sexual assault examination kit, you have the right to be  
21 notified in writing by a law enforcement agency of the intended  
22 disposal. This is so that you can make a written request for  
23 further preservation of the kit or its probative contents.

24 [e] In order to notify a victim, the law enforcement  
25 office that has custody of the sexual assault examination kit  
26 must verify the victim's physical address. A victim must  
27 notify the law enforcement office with custody of the sexual  
28 assault examination kit of any change to the victim's contact  
29 information.

30 [9] You have the right to request the presence of a victim  
31 counselor, as defined in [section 915.20A](#), at any proceeding  
32 related to an assault including a medical examination.

33 [10] If you believe that police protection is needed for your  
34 physical safety, you have the right to request that the officer  
35 present remain at the scene until you and other affected

1 parties can leave or until safety is otherwise ensured.

2 DIVISION V

3 MENTAL COMPETENCY

4 Sec. 9. Section 812.8, subsections 4 and 8, Code 2026, are  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 4. a. Upon receiving a notification under [this section](#), the  
7 court shall schedule a hearing to be held within fourteen days.  
8 Within ten days of receiving notice, a party may request a  
9 separate independent psychiatric evaluation to be performed by  
10 a psychiatrist or licensed, doctorate-level psychologist of the  
11 party's own choosing. The requesting party must file notice  
12 of intent to seek such evaluation before the scheduled hearing  
13 and proceedings shall be stayed until such separate evaluation  
14 is completed. Upon receipt of the independent expert's report,  
15 the requesting party shall file notice of receipt of that  
16 report with the court. The court shall schedule a hearing to  
17 be held within fourteen days of receipt of notice. The court  
18 shall also issue an order to transport the defendant to the  
19 hearing if the defendant is in custody or is being held in  
20 an inpatient facility. The defendant shall be transported  
21 by the sheriff of the county where the court's motion or the  
22 application pursuant to [section 812.3](#) was filed.

23 b. Following the submission of an initial evaluation finding  
24 that there is no substantial probability that the defendant  
25 will be restored to competency in a reasonable amount of time  
26 and provided the defendant is otherwise eligible for pretrial  
27 release, the defendant may request a bond review hearing. In  
28 determining the conditions, if any, of the defendant's release,  
29 the court shall consider whether the defendant is likely to  
30 voluntarily participate in the second evaluation as a factor in  
31 setting bond or other conditions of release.

32 c. Upon receipt of the second evaluation, or upon expiration  
33 of the time period for obtaining a second evaluation, the court  
34 shall schedule and hold a hearing to determine the defendant's  
35 competency status. At the hearing, the court shall make one of

1 the following findings:

2 (1) The defendant is competent to stand trial.

3 (2) The defendant is not currently competent but there is a  
4 substantial probability that the defendant will be restored to  
5 competency within a reasonable period of time.

6 (3) The defendant is not competent and there is no  
7 substantial probability that the defendant will be restored to  
8 competency within a reasonable period of time.

9 8. If the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence  
10 that there is no substantial probability the defendant's  
11 competency will be restored in a reasonable amount of time,  
12 the court shall terminate the commitment under [section 812.6](#)  
13 in accordance with the provisions of [section 812.9](#) and, if the  
14 person is charged with a forcible felony, set the matter for  
15 commencement of civil proceedings. A charge of a forcible  
16 felony shall be deemed a recent overt act for purposes of civil  
17 commitment proceedings under chapter 229.

18 DIVISION VI

19 RESTITUTION

20 Sec. 10. Section 602.8107, subsection 2, paragraph c, Code  
21 2026, is amended to read as follows:

22 c. Payments received under [this section](#) shall be applied in  
23 the following priority order:

24 (1) Pecuniary damages as defined in section 910.1,  
25 subsection 6.

26 (2) Fines or penalties and the crime services surcharge.

27 ~~(3) Crime victim compensation program reimbursement.~~

28 ~~(4)~~ (3) Court costs, court-appointed attorney fees, or  
29 public defender expenses.

30 Sec. 11. Section 910.1, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2026, are  
31 amended to read as follows:

32 1. "Category "A" restitution" means fines, penalties,  
33 payment of crime victim compensation program reimbursements,  
34 and surcharges.

35 2. "Category "B" restitution" means the contribution of

1 funds to a local anticrime organization ~~which that~~ provided  
2 assistance to law enforcement in an offender's case, ~~the~~  
3 ~~payment of crime victim compensation program reimbursements,~~  
4 payment of restitution to public agencies pursuant to  
5 section 321J.2, subsection 13, paragraph "b", court costs,  
6 court-appointed attorney fees ordered pursuant to section  
7 815.9, including the expense of a public defender, and payment  
8 to the medical assistance program pursuant to [chapter 249A](#) for  
9 expenditures paid on behalf of the victim resulting from the  
10 offender's criminal activities including investigative costs  
11 incurred by the Medicaid fraud control unit pursuant to section  
12 249A.50.

13 Sec. 12. Section 910.1, Code 2026, is amended by adding the  
14 following new subsections:

15 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. "*Crime victim compensation program*"  
16 means the program established in sections 915.80 through  
17 915.94 that provides financial assistance to crime victims for  
18 out-of-pocket expenses resulting from criminal acts.

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 2B. "*Crime victim compensation program*  
20 *reimbursements*" means amounts a court has ordered a defendant  
21 to pay to the crime victim compensation program to reimburse  
22 the program for amounts the program expended to assist the  
23 defendant's victim with out-of-pocket expenses incurred as a  
24 result of the defendant's criminal actions. Reimbursements  
25 shall be made in accordance with this chapter and chapter 915.

26 Sec. 13. Section 910.2, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code  
27 2026, is amended to read as follows:

28 *c.* In structuring a plan of restitution, the plan of payment  
29 shall provide for payments in the following order of priority:

- 30 (1) Pecuniary damages to the victim.
- 31 (2) Category "A" restitution.
- 32 (3) Category "B" restitution in the following order:
  - 33 ~~(a) Crime victim compensation program reimbursement.~~
  - 34 ~~(b)~~ (a) Public agencies.
  - 35 ~~(c)~~ (b) Court costs.



1 ~~established~~ approved by the ~~international association of~~  
2 ~~forensic nurses~~ federal department of justice, in collaboration  
3 with the department of health and human services and the Iowa  
4 coalition against sexual assault, in sufficient numbers and  
5 geographical locations across the state to assist treatment  
6 facilities with training sexual assault examiners and sexual  
7 assault nurse examiners.

8 Sec. 18. Section 915.80, subsection 7, Code 2026, is amended  
9 to read as follows:

10 7. "*Secondary victim*" means the victim's spouse, children,  
11 parents, ~~and~~ siblings, foster parents, custodians, and any  
12 person who resides in the victim's household at the time of the  
13 crime or at the time of the discovery of the crime. "*Secondary*  
14 *victim*" does not include persons who are the survivors of a  
15 victim who dies as a result of a crime.