

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND TWELVE

H.P. 1295 - L.D. 1760

**An Act To Ensure Notification to Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual
Assault and Stalking When Defendants Are Released on Bail**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §1175-A is enacted to read:

§1175-A. Notification of defendant's release on bail

1. In the case of an alleged crime involving domestic violence, sexual assault under chapter 11 or stalking, the arresting law enforcement officer shall obtain the victim's contact information and provide that information to the jail to which the defendant is delivered.

2. In a case of an alleged crime involving domestic violence, sexual assault under chapter 11 or stalking, a jail shall notify a victim of a defendant's release on preconviction bail as soon as possible but no later than one hour after the defendant's release. If the defendant is released on bail before being delivered to a jail, the arresting law enforcement agency shall notify the victim as provided in this section.

3. Notification under subsection 2 must be made by a telephone call either directly to the victim or as provided in subsection 5. In the event that the jail has not succeeded in contacting the victim after the jail has exercised due diligence in attempting to contact the victim, notification of the defendant's release must be made to the law enforcement agency that investigated the report of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. That law enforcement agency shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the victim of the defendant's release on preconviction bail.

4. Notwithstanding subsection 2, a victim of an alleged crime described in subsection 1 may request in writing that the jail or arresting law enforcement agency not notify the victim of the defendant's release on preconviction bail.

5. Notification under this section to an adult victim must be made to the victim. Notification to a minor victim must be made to an adult who is the victim's parent or legal guardian or, if a parent or legal guardian is not available, to another immediate family member of the victim unless the jail or arresting law enforcement agency reasonably believes that it is in the best interest of the minor victim to be notified directly.

6. Neither the failure to perform the requirements of this section nor compliance with this section subjects the State, the arresting law enforcement agency, the jail where the defendant was delivered, the Department of Corrections or officers or employees of the law enforcement agency, jail or Department of Corrections to liability in a civil action.

For purposes of this section, "crime involving domestic violence" has the same meaning as in Title 15, section 1003, subsection 3-A and includes those crimes under section 152, subsection 1, paragraph A, section 208 and section 208-B when the victim is a family or household member as defined in Title 19-A, section 4002, subsection 4.

In House of Representatives, 2012

Read twice and passed to be enacted.

..... Speaker

In Senate, 2012

Read twice and passed to be enacted.

..... President

Approved 2012

..... Governor