

Basic Rights

Every person in Oregon has basic rights when engaging with systems in the aftermath of a hate/bias incident or crime. You have the right:

- To an interpreter – if you are accessing police, hospitals, public schools, and any government program or agency that receives federal funding, you have the right to a free interpreter and to receive any materials translated into a language you request. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Americans with Disabilities Act)
- To be treated with dignity and respect.
- To accessibility – you have the right to have your request for reasonable modifications considered in places of public accommodation if you have a disability. (Americans with Disabilities Act)
- To have a support person of your choosing by your side. There are some exceptions under the law in certain environments; for example, Oregon law prohibits support persons in Grand Jury or in Child Abuse Interviews.
- To pursue or seek civil legal remedies on your own or by consulting with or retaining an attorney.
- To due process and transparency when interacting with government systems – including having crimes investigated fully, accessing appeals processes if applications for benefits are denied, and requesting/accessing public records as allowed by law.
- To remain silent, to not participate, or to control your level of engagement with systems – There are certainly exceptions, including if you're subpoenaed. However, if you start an application with a state agency for benefits such as SNAP or TADVS, etc., you can change your mind about continuing with the process. You can withdraw your application.
- To choose to talk with the media or not – it's your choice. For more information, please see our one-pager highlighting [Tips for Interacting with the Media](#).

- ❑ To ask systems about how they will protect your confidentiality, and/or ask where your information will be shared or stored.
- ❑ To not have your personal information shared with ICE or federal immigration agencies for the purpose of federal immigration enforcement by a state or local government employee or by law enforcement, unless compelled by an order signed by a judge. (ORS 181A.820-181A.829)
- ❑ To not be discriminated against based on your protected class – Oregon and federal laws prohibit discrimination based on actual and perceived protected class. The list of protected classes varies depending on where you are—at work, at school, at the store, in your home, etc.

This is not an exhaustive list of rights, and does not constitute legal advice. For more information, [consult an attorney](#). You can also review our [overview of Oregon Constitutional and statutory crime victim rights for hate/bias crime victims](#).