



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of Alaska*

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*James M. Fitzgerald U.S. Courthouse  
& Federal Building  
222 West 7th Avenue, #9, Room 253  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7567*

*Commercial: (907) 271-5071  
Fax Number: (907) 271-3224*

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Your Restitution Rights  
Case Name: United States v.  
Docket Number:

Sir/Ma'am,

The United States District Court for the District of Alaska ordered a defendant to pay restitution to you. This letter is to advise you regarding your rights and obligations in connection with the Court's restitution order. The Court's restitution order on your behalf was made pursuant to the Mandatory Victims Restitution Act of 1996. The statutory provisions pertaining to restitution are found in Title 18 of the United States Code, in particular 18 U.S.C. Sections 3663, 3663A and 3664.

The Clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Alaska receives payments from the defendant. The Clerk's Office will then disburse the money to you (and any other identified victims). You probably will not receive immediate full payment of the restitution. If and when the defendant pays, you most likely will receive a number of small payments over a long period of time. Unless the Court has ordered otherwise, payments to victims are disbursed on a pro rata basis, meaning each payment will be divided among the victims in proportion to their losses.

A restitution order is enforceable for a minimum of twenty (20) years. If restitution has been ordered to you, it is your responsibility to update the Victim Notification System (VNS) (1-866-365-4968) <http://www.notify.usdoj.gov/> of any change of address during this time.

In addition, it is your responsibility to make sure the Clerk's Office always has your correct mailing address. Business and corporate restitution victims must ensure the Clerk's Office has the current mailing address, telephone number, the relevant

claim or account number, and a contact person. If the Clerk's Office does not have your correct mailing address, your share of payments from the defendant may be sent to other restitution victims. In communicating with the Clerk's Office, you must use this address and telephone number, and you must refer to the Court's criminal case number (your case number is on the letter in this envelope):

U.S. District Court Clerk's Office  
Attn: Financial Deputy Clerk  
222 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rm 229  
Anchorage, AK 99513  
907-677-6100  
1-866-243-3814 (Toll Free)

The Court's restitution order on your behalf also acts as a lien in favor of the United States against all property owned by the defendant. The United States Attorney's Office will record judgment lien notices in all counties where we are aware the defendant owns or may own property. The United States enforces restitution orders on behalf of the restitution victims. So, if you have knowledge of the defendant's assets or sources of income, you should provide that information to this office to assist our collection efforts on your behalf.

You are entitled to request from the Clerk's office a document called an Abstract of Judgment. When properly recorded pursuant to state law (such as in a County Clerk's Office in a county where the defendant owns property), the Abstract of Judgment can give you a lien in your own name against the defendant's property. You will then have similar legal rights as any other civil judgment lien creditor, and this means you can collect the money from the defendant yourself. You must bear the cost of recording the Abstract of Judgment. If you request an Abstract of Judgment from the Clerk's Office by mail, you must include a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

The United States Attorney's Office will enforce the restitution imposed by the Judgment in a Criminal Case (JCC) as attorneys for the United States of America. While this enforcement benefits you as a victim of a crime, neither the United States Attorney's Office nor the Department of Justice, nor any employee thereof, is your attorney. The United States Attorney's Office will not seek your consent to any action it may undertake to pursue enforcement of the restitution order.

We strongly encourage you to discuss the Court's restitution order and all enforcement mechanisms with your own attorney. If the restitution order does not cover all of your losses or if the restitution order is not due and payable in full immediately, or if the laws of your state provide you an effective means by which to enforce collection of the restitution civilly, your attorney can help you understand your options and if necessary, formulate a plan for civil enforcement that will

complement the government's efforts. If you enforce a restitution order on your own behalf and collect money from the defendant, you must provide that information to this office and to the Clerk's office.

For various reasons, collection of Court-ordered restitution in criminal cases is often difficult. Enforcement of the restitution order will be limited by the defendant's economic circumstances. If you have any information that will assist our efforts to collect your restitution, please contact us. Information about a defendant's assets, income and employment can be very helpful in collecting money from an unwilling defendant.

If you have questions or to provide information to assist our collection efforts on your behalf, please contact the Financial Litigation Unit of this Office at 907-271-5071.

Sincerely,

Dawn Shewmaker  
Victim-Witness Coordinator  
District of Alaska  
907-271-3041 (Office)  
907-229-776 (Cell)  
[dawn.shewmaker@usdoj.gov](mailto:dawn.shewmaker@usdoj.gov)