

HB

100

**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE BILL FILE**

Bill Number: HB 100

Abbreviated Title: Victims Rights

Sponsor: Donley Original Received: May 3, 1991

Written Request to Schedule Rcv'd: _____ From: _____

Sponsor's Statement Rcv'd: _____ From: _____

Sectional Analysis Rqst'd: _____ From: _____

Sectional Analysis Received: _____

Fiscal Note (Original)

Rqst'd Of: _____ Rcv'd From: Law Date: 2-15-91

Rqst'd Of: _____ Rcv'd From: Pub. Saf. Date: 3-22-91

Rqst'd Of: _____ Rcv'd From: HSS Date: 4-3-91

Fiscal Note (C.S.)

Rqst'd Of: _____ Rcv'd From: _____ Date: _____

Rqst'd Of: _____ Rcv'd From: _____ Date: _____

Rqst'd Of: _____ Rcv'd From: _____ Date: _____

Five Day Notice Given: _____ Notice of Hearings Given: _____

Committees of Referral: First: _____ Second: _____ Third: _____

LAA Contact: John Lougine To Senate Secretary: _____

COMMITTEE ACTION

DATE:

19 May 91 Heard Adopt Sen Jud CS -
Debate most of Sec 50 - moved on Ind Rec.
Called Lougine for final
Need Ricks signature

PERSONS TO BE NOTIFIED OF HEARING

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| 1. Sponsor | 6. _____ |
| 2. Agency | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

REPRESENTATIVE DAVE DONLEY

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
DISTRICT ELEVEN
SEAT A

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Senator Rick Halford
Judiciary Chair

FROM: Representative Dave Donley *DB*

DATE: May 3, 1991

RE: Request to Schedule HB 100

I respectfully request that HB 100, the Victim's Rights Act of 1991, be scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee at the earliest possible opportunity. The bill increases the rights available to crime victims and will help ensure that victims of crime are not further victimized by being ignored and left out of the criminal justice process.

For example, under current law, if an offense is committed by a juvenile, the victim of the offense does not automatically have the right to attend court hearings involving the person who injured them. This inequity is corrected in HB 100. The bill also increases the rights of victims of crime to participate in sentencing and post-conviction hearings.

Other provisions of the bill make it easier for crime victims to collect civil damages for their injuries from criminal defendants, allow victims of violent crimes to recover treble damages and full attorneys fees in civil cases brought against the person who committed the crime, and protect the addresses and telephone number of victims and witnesses from unnecessary disclosure.

A sectional analysis that describes the bill in more detail, and additional back-up materials, are attached to this memorandum.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

DD:lc

JUNEAU OFFICE

(During Legislative Session January through May)

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722C

DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

April 9, 1991

SUBJECT: Sectional analysis of CSHB 100 (Jud)

TO: Representative Dave Donley
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Attn: Laurie Otto

FROM: John B. Gaguine *JBG*
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional analysis of the above described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional analysis or summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1 of the bill gives its short title, the Victims' Rights Act of 1991.

Sections 2 - 4 provide that a criminal's victims may seize earnings and assets of the criminal that would not be seizable by other creditors of the criminal, and define victims to include the spouse and dependents of a deceased person and the spouse, parents, or guardian of a minor or of an incompetent or incapacitated person.

Section 5 provides that victims of various criminal offenses, including those killed, injured or otherwise damaged while trying to prevent the commission of a crime, to apprehend the offender, or to assist a police officer, may obtain treble damages from the criminal and may recover full attorney's fees necessary to bring a civil action for damages.

Sections 6 - 9 give a victim of a crime the right, at the sentencing hearing of the criminal who victimized him or her, or at a hearing on a subsequent motion to modify the sentence, to give sworn testimony or to make an unsworn statement.

Section 10 - 12 amend the rights-of-victims chapter of the code of criminal procedure to be consistent with the changes made in sections 6 - 9 of the bill.

Representative Dave Donley

April 9, 1991

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Section 13 provides that the addresses and telephone numbers of crime victims and witnesses are confidential; that a defendant's attorney may not disclose this information to the defendant; that the court may order a defendant proceeding without counsel to use a third party to arrange meetings with witnesses, if the court finds this procedure necessary; that a representative of the defendant must advise the victim of the victim's right not to talk with the representative or to have the victim's own representative present; and that the names of victims of sexual assaults shall not be made public.

Sections 14 and 15 require that a victim, on written request, shall receive notice from the Department of Corrections whenever the offender against the victim escapes or is released on custody, and shall on written request receive a recent photograph of the offender.

Section 16 gives the victim of an offense with which a juvenile has been charged the right to attend all proceedings involving the juvenile, even though those proceedings are normally closed to the public.

Section 17 requires juvenile probation officers, after a juvenile has been adjudged delinquent for an offense with a victim, to prepare a victim impact statement for the court's consideration in ordering the appropriate disposition of the delinquent minor.

Section 1b makes a technical change, relocating a definition.

Sections 19 - 22 provide for changes in court rules consistent with the statutory changes made by the bill.

Section 23 repeals a statute that has been superseded by other sections of this bill.

Section 24 provides that sections 2 - 5 of this bill will apply only to crimes committed after the effective date of the enactment.

Sections 25 - 28 note that two sections of this bill alter procedural court rules, and provide that they will only take effect if they receive a two-thirds vote in each house.

JBG:lmb
91-104.lmb

Alaska State Legislature



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House of Representatives

ROBIN L. TAYLOR
MINORITY LEADER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Rick Halford

FROM: Rep. Robin L. Taylor

DATE: 4/29/91

REF: HB 100

A handwritten signature in cursive, appearing to read "RT", is written over the "REF:" line.

Rick:

I have serious reservations about Section 5 of the attached bill and would appreciate your assistance in removing the section entirely when HB100 reaches the Senate.

I will be attempting to draft a compromise amendment with Max, but doubt that effort will succeed.

I've highlighted my specific concerns. This otherwise well meaning legislation is an open invitation to court dockets overloaded claims for damages and attorney fees.

Call me if you have any questions.

Heard May 19th Sunday -

Rick Questions all Section 5 -

Laurie will ask Ronley -

Heard till end of calendar

Sec 5 amended as Per Louis Otto -

Pass CS Jud Senate on budget.

Alaska Association Chiefs of Police



March 21, 1991

Representative Dave Donley
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Donley,

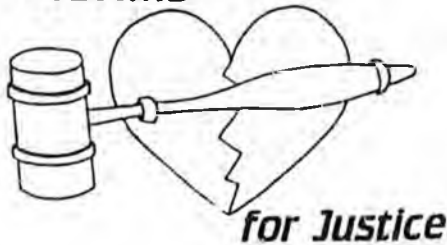
Those of us in the law enforcement community for many years have felt that the rights of victims are overlooked in our legal system. Too often, victims are helpless and unable to recover damages they suffer at the hands of criminals. Compounding this is the fact that victims are excluded from having a voice in post-conviction hearings for adults, while being totally barred from any proceeding involving a minor.

The Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police supports House Bill 100 because many of these injustices would be corrected. We are supportive of laws that give victims a voice in a system that has traditionally focused on wrongdoers, rather than the innocent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Duane S. Udland", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Duane S. Udland, President
Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police
4501 South Bragaw
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

VICTIMS

March 19, 1991

Representative Dave Donley
House of Representatives
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Donley,

Thank you so much for your support and help in writing legislation concerning victims. Our goal is to see "justice for all... even the victim"!

Paul Stockler, a local attorney, who until this month, has worked for the District Attorney's Office is now the legislative liaison and Board Member of Victims for Justice. Paul is writing to you from the legal perspective concerning the 1991 Anti-Crime Legislation. I am writing from the victim's perspective and only on the issues that I have dealt with directly in working with victims.

HB 100 would be a wonderful help to families whose loved ones have been murdered by a juvenile. Presently, if a juvenile murders a family member, a terrible process begins which compounds the victim's grief, and virtually neglects the families legal needs. The victim's family must first go through the trauma of filling out a petition to attend the juvenile hearings. After the juvenile petition is filed the defense attorney will usually respond as to why the family should not attend the proceedings. A family has no legal representation and is always overwhelmed with the defense's response. Mr. Cole, from the Attorney General's Office, due to the juvenile privacy law cannot provide the family with any legal help, "as he represents the State not the victim". The right to be informed is wrongly denied these suffering families.

The family needs to confront the perpetrator, just as the law says the perpetrator must face the victim, so the victim needs to confront the perpetrator as a part of the healing process. The juvenile perpetrator needs the opportunity to face the victim in order to deal with accountability. In a recent case, the family won the decision to be a part of the hearings, but they kept the juvenile behind a two-way glass because he did not want to face the family whose son he murdered. What a terribly painful experience for the victim's family. I also believe an injustice to the juvenile perpetrator.

In adult court Victim Impact Statements are encouraged at the time of sentencing. In a juvenile hearing the victim's family is not allowed to give a victim impact statement. Espe-

information in order to face accountability and the victim needs the opportunity to feel a part of the system. This bill would be very valuable in considering the victim's rights. The criminal justice system is traumatic enough without the complications of considering only the juvenile's rights.

One issue I would suggest be changed in HB 101 is "minors under the age of 18 who are treated as adults be placed in juvenile institutions rather than adult prisons." Minors who are adjudicated as adults should not be placed in McLaughlin but perhaps isolated in an adult jail, away from adult prisoners or in a special prison. McLaughlin is overcrowded and mixing murderers with the general population creates some negative role models to already disturbed children.

HB 103: Fingerprinting of Minors: Most crimes are committed by juveniles under the age of 16. Therefore tracking these early offenders is a way to help these youths face accountability.

HB 105: Facilitating Joint Trials of Multiple Defendants and Joining Charges Against One Defendant: This bill saves money, provides a jury with a more accurate picture of the crime and allows the victim to experience the pain of one trial instead of multiple.

HB 142: Closing Loopholes in Escape Statue. I was surprised that this would even be an issue. I am grateful that someone is interpreting the law to make it more practical and realistic.

Thank you for your hard work.

Sincerely,

Janice Lienhart

Sharon Nahorney

Janice Lienhart
Sharon Nahorney

ALASKA NETWORK ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

130 Seward, No. 301 • Juneau, Alaska 99801 • (907) 586-3650

Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC);
Advocates for Victims of Violence (AVV);
Alking Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies (AWARE);
Alaska Women's Resource Center (AWRC); Arctic Women in Crisis (AWIC);
Bering Sea Women's Group (BSWG); Emmonak Women's Shelter;
Kodiak Women's Resource & Crisis Center (KWICC);
Manitlaq Regional Women's Crisis Program;
Tongass Community Counseling Center; Parent Aid Family Support Center;
Safe & Fear-Free Environment (SAFE); Sitka's Against Family Violence (SAFV);
Seward Line Action Council (SLAC); Southwestern Alaska Council
for the Prevention of Child Sexual Assault (SWACPCSA);
South Peninsula Women's Services (SPWS);
Standing Together Against Rape (STAR); Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC);
Unalaska's Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (USAFV);
Valley Women's Resource Center (VWRC);
Women in Crisis Counseling & Assistance (WICCA);
Women in Safe Homes (WISH); Women's Resource & Crisis Center (WRCC)

HB 100 VICTIM'S RIGHTS

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is a non-profit membership organization comprised of 23 agencies statewide that work with victims of domestic violence & sexual assault and their families.

The Network supports HB 100, which provides important additions to the rights of crime victims in Alaska. The Network is especially supportive of provisions which allow for oral presentations and sworn testimony, for treble damages in civil actions, and for victims of violent crimes to be present at juvenile hearings.

The Network believes that providing an opportunity for oral presentation is important to victims who may not have writing skills or who may be dealing with English as a second language. It is appropriate to ensure that victims can make their statements in the manner most comfortable and least threatening, to them.

The bill provides for treble damages and fees in cases where someone has been injured as a result of violent crime or as a result of trying a victim of such a crime. Civil action, particularly in cases of rape and child sexual assault, provides a means for victims to recover the long-term damages suffered as a result of their victimization. It holds the offender responsible for paying those costs.

Victims of violent crimes should have a right to attend all proceedings that bear on their case. According to the Committee for Children, in 1987 children under the age of 15 were arrested for 11,284 aggravated assaults and 1,660 forcible rapes. Among teen girls who are raped, 40-65% are assaulted by an acquaintance, usually a date or boyfriend. When these cases are prosecuted under current law, the victim of the crime may never know what, if anything, was done in his/her behalf. This is extremely difficult for victims for whom coming forward in the first place can be a tough decision. It is an ineffective treatment of offenders, many of whom minimize or deny the impact their action has had on the victim.

HB100
Page Two

The Network would like to request that the sponsor consider the addition of the words "or the victim's designee" to Section 12 to allow a victim to designate an advocate or other party to attend the hearings in their behalf, and to consider wording to allow the victim to bring an advocate to those hearings at which the victim is required to testify. The Network is concerned, however, that when children strike back against a physically or sexually abusive party, that that party not be allowed into hearings under this bill, and would respectfully request that a waiver of this right be considered in such circumstances.



Children in Custody, 1975-85

Census of Public and Private
Juvenile Detention, Correctional,
and Shelter Facilities

Table 41. Number of juveniles held in public and private juvenile facilities, by reason held and sex, 1985

Reason held	Number of juveniles in:								
	All facilities			Public facilities			Private facilities		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	83,402	66,393	17,009	49,322	42,549	6,773	34,080	23,844	10,236
Juveniles detained or committed for:									
Delinquent acts^a	57,743	51,001	6,742	46,086	40,929	5,157	11,657	10,072	1,585
Violent offenses	14,093	12,858	1,235	12,245	11,214	1,031	1,848	1,644	204
Murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault	9,466	8,840	626	8,656	8,096	560	810	744	66
Negligent manslaughter, simple assault, and sexual assault	4,627	4,018	609	3,589	3,118	471	1,038	900	138
Property offenses	27,918	25,230	2,688	22,020	19,978	2,042	5,898	5,252	646
Burglary, arson, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft	19,312	17,882	1,430	16,129	14,948	1,181	3,183	2,934	249
Vandalism, forgery, counterfeiting, fraud, stolen property, and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle	8,606	7,348	1,258	5,891	5,030	861	2,715	2,318	397
Alcohol/drug offenses	3,356	2,902	454	2,660	2,319	341	696	583	113
Public-order offenses and probation violations	7,147	5,651	1,496	6,493	5,157	1,336	654	494	160
All other offenses^b	5,229	4,360	869	2,668	2,261	407	2,561	2,099	462
Nondelinquent reasons	25,451	15,248	10,203	3,104	1,519	1,585	22,347	13,729	8,618
Status offenders^c	9,019	5,092	3,927	2,293	1,096	1,197	6,726	3,996	2,730
Nonoffenders^d	9,280	5,646	3,634	512	263	249	8,768	5,383	3,385
Voluntary admissions	7,152	4,510	2,642	299	160	139	6,853	4,350	2,503
Other^e	208	144	64	132	101	31	76	43	33

Note: The data were collected on Feb. 1, 1985.

^a Acts that would be criminal if committed by adults.

^b Includes unknown and unspecified

delinquen' offenses.

^c Acts that would not be criminal for adults, such as running away, truancy, and incorrigibility.

^d Those held for dependency, neglect,

abuse, emotional disturbance, or mental retardation.

^e Includes all other unspecified acts.

Table 14. Perceived race of offender(s), by race and age of victim, and type of violent crime, 1982-84

Type of crime and race and age of victims	Total	Percent of victimizations involving:				Race not known not ascertained
		All white offenders	All black offenders	All other race offenders	Offenders of different races	
White victims						
Crimes of violence*						
12-15 years old	100%	78%	15%	4%	3%	2%
20 and older	100	71	20	4	2	4
Robbery						
12-19 years old	100	49	38	5	6	—
20 and older	100	41	48	5	4	4
Aggravated assault						
12-19 years old	100	78	12	6	2	4
20 and older	100	75	15	3	2	5
Simple assault						
12-19 years old	100	83	10	3	2	2
20 and older	100	79	14	3	1	3
Black victims						
Crimes of violence*						
12-19 years old	100	11	83	2	2	3
20 and older	100	13	78	2	3	5
Robbery						
12-19 years old	100	8	86	—	—	—
20 and older	100	9	80	—	4	6
Aggravated assault						
12-19 years old	100	9	86	—	—	—
20 and older	100	14	76	2	3	5
Simple assault						
12-19 years old	100	14	79	—	—	—
20 and older	100	14	78	—	—	4

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.
 —Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.
 *Includes data on rape, not presented as a separate category.

Table 16. Police reporting rates, by age of victim and type of crime, 1982-84

Type of crime and age of victim	Percent of victimizations:	
	Reported to police	Not reported to police
Crimes of violence		
12-15 years old	31%	67%
16-19	41	58
20 and older	53	46
Rape		
12-15 years old	74	—
16-19	53	47
20 and older	48	51
Robbery		
12-15 years old	34	64
16-19	46	54
20 and older	60	39
Aggravated assault		
12-15 years old	41	57
16-19	48	50
20 and older	61	38
Simple assault		
12-15 years old	25	74
16-19	34	65
20 and older	45	54
Crimes of theft		
12-15 years old	9%	90%
16-19	19	79
20 and older	31	67

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding and the exclusion from the table of percentages (2% or less) where police reporting was not known or not ascertained.
 —Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.

Table 15. Perceived age of offender(s), by age of victim and type of violent crime, 1982-84

Type of crime and age of victim	Total	Percent of victimizations involving offender(s) who were:					Age not known/not ascertained
		All under 15	All 15-17	All 18-20	All 21 and older	Mixed ages	
Crimes of violence*							
12-15 years old	100%	32%	29%	7%	13%	16%	4%
16-19	100	1	20	24	35	16	4
20 and older	100	1	4	10	70	8	7
Robbery							
12-15 years old	100	22	32	10	8	25	—
16-19	100	—	13	23	30	27	7
20 and older	100	1	6	12	54	15	11
Aggravated assault							
12-15 years old	100	29	21	6	16	20	8
16-19	100	—	17	23	38	17	4
20 and older	100	1	3	9	71	9	7
Simple assault							
12-15 years old	100	37	30	6	11	12	3
16-19	100	—	24	25	33	13	4
20 and older	100	1	3	9	76	8	4

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 because of rounding.
 —Too few cases to obtain statistically reliable data.
 *Includes data on rape, not presented as a separate category.

Introduction

From 1982 through 1984, teenagers (ages 12-19) experienced an average of 1.8 million violent crimes and 3.7 million crimes of theft annually. Teenage victimization rates for these crimes were about twice as high as those of the adult population, ages 20 and older. The average annual violent crime victimization rate was 60.1 per 1,000 teenagers compared to 26.9 for the adult population. For crimes of theft, the teenage rate was 123.5; the adult rate, 65.6.

Within the teenage population itself, older teens (ages 16-19) had higher violent crime victimization rates than did younger teens (ages 12-15). The two groups had similar victimization rates for crimes of theft.

Trends in crime rates against teenagers since 1973 have been similar to those for adults. Teenagers have experienced a decline in theft victimization rates, but violent crime victimization rates have remained essentially unchanged.

Both younger and older teens were more likely than adults to be attacked during a violent crime and were less likely than adults to be injured. In other ways, however, the characteristics of incidents against older teens more closely resembled those of adult victimizations. Similar proportions of older teens and adults faced armed offenders and, if injured, sustained serious injuries. By contrast, younger teens were least likely of the three age groups to face armed offenders; if injured, they were less likely to sustain serious injuries.

Crimes against teenagers were less likely to be reported to the police than crimes against adults. Among teenagers, crimes against younger teens were less likely to be reported than crimes against older teens.

Violent crimes against teenagers were more likely to be committed by other teenagers than by adults. Most

of these crimes against younger teenagers were committed by offenders under 18 years old. Close to half of the violent crimes against older teenagers were committed by offenders under 21. By contrast, 70% of the violent crimes against adults were committed by offenders age 21 or older.

Teenagers of all ages also reported knowing their assailants more often than adults. Younger teens were most likely to report that the offender was a casual acquaintance or someone known by sight, but least likely to identify their assailant as a complete stranger.

The information in this report is based on data obtained from the National Crime Survey (NCS) for the years 1982 through 1984. The NCS obtains information about personal and household crimes, including crimes not reported to the police, from individuals ages 12 and over in a nationally representative sample of households. Although NCS interviewers obtain information directly from most household members, nearly all the interviews for 12- and 13-year-olds are completed by a knowledgeable adult household member (see methodology).

Victimization rates

Teenagers had higher annual violent crime victimization rates than did adults from 1982 through 1984. Young teenagers had a rate of 52.0 per 1,000 teens; the rate for older teens was 67.8 per 1,000 (table 1). Adults had a violent crime victimization rate of 26.9 per 1,000. For each category of violent crime (rape, robbery, and assault) teenagers in both age groups had higher victimization rates than adults.

Overall, teenagers had higher victimization rates for crimes of theft than adults. The rates for personal larceny with contact (purse snatching or pocket picking) were not measurably different for teens and adults. The rate for personal

larceny without contact, however, was higher for teenagers than for adults.

Within the adolescent population, older teenagers had higher victimization rates than younger teens for crimes of violence in general and for the specific violent crimes of robbery and aggravated assault. Younger and older teens experienced similar rates of personal thefts.

Within the U.S. population, personal victimization rates generally decrease as the age of the victim increases (table 2). Because older age groups have lower personal victimization rates than do young adults, the rates for the entire adult population are lower than the rates for teenagers. However, the victimization rates for young adults ages 20-24 and teenagers are more similar than the aggregated adult rates suggest.

Similar to the adult population, male teenagers had higher violent and theft crime rates than did female teens. Black teenagers had higher violent crime rates than teenagers of other racial groups. Within categories of teenagers based on race and sex, however, older teens consistently had higher victimization rates for violent crimes than younger teens in the same group (table 3).¹ On the other hand, victimization rates for crimes of theft generally did not vary by age within these same categories; young black teens, however, had higher rates than older black teens.

¹The difference between victimization rates for 12-15-year-old blacks and 16-19-year-old blacks was significant at the 90% confidence level.

Children And Violence

There has never been a time, in the past two centuries, when our children were exposed to and exhibited the violent tendencies of today. Violence surrounds the children of the '90's. In today's media-oriented society, the television and movies children watch, and the music they listen to, all contribute to learned patterns of violent behavior.

The theory 30 years ago focused on violent children as products of their environments: ghettos produced gangs, which perpetrated violence against each other and society. A movie popular in the 1950's, "The Bad Seed", portrayed an angelic-looking, upper middle-class child who committed violent crimes against people who displeased her. Then, it was dismissed as "movie fantasy."

Just Some Examples

- Approximately 5,200 secondary school teachers are attacked each month by students.
- In a borough of New York City, a 17-year-old student was killed in November, 1989 by a gun-toting classmate in a crowded hallway of his high school as he was changing classes.
- An assistant principal was shot in the back at an Arlington, Texas junior high school parking lot, reportedly by a 13-year old student.
- And students at an elementary school in Stockton, California still live in fear, following the January 1989 schoolyard attack by a man carrying an AK-47 semiautomatic assault rifle that left five children dead and 29 others injured.

How Safe Are You?

Violence against children — which can range from throwing an object to using a weapon — occurs in 62 percent of American families every year. But violence against children is not limited to the home. According

to the Committee For Children in Seattle, Washington:

- In a study of 8th and 10th grade students, 34% of students reported that another student threatened to hurt them during the year.
- Almost 8% of urban junior and senior high school students miss at least one day of school each month because they are afraid to go.
- Each month, about 282,000 students are physically attacked in America's secondary schools by other students.
- ✓ In 1987, children under the age of 15 were arrested for 11,284 aggravated assaults and 1,660 forcible rapes.

The More You Know

Violence against children and in schools is rapidly reaching epidemic proportions. Think back to the time when you were a student. Did your school have metal detectors you had to pass through before entering? How many times were teachers assaulted on school property? Did "gang activity" mean anything more to you than simply the kids you hung around with? Was the most dangerous thing offered to you in the school restroom a cigarette?

Yet, the children of today face life and health-threatening hazards simply by showing up at school each morning.

The grief and anger a child feels after a victimization are sometimes more intense than an adult's reaction would be.

There is still a tendency in our society to blame the victim:

- When your car gets stolen, the first question asked is "Did you leave the keys in the ignition?", indicating you were responsible for the crime.