

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1252  
(Representatives Louser, Becker, Blum, Kading, Kasper, K. Koppelman)  
(Senators Burckhard, Hogue, Poolman, Unruh)

AN ACT to create and enact a new subsection to section 12.1-34-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to rights of victims; to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 12.1-32-02, subsection 1 of section 12.1-32-08, and subsection 10 of section 12.1-34-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to contact with victims, the definition of victim, and restitution; and to declare an emergency.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 12.1-32-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. Every person convicted of an offense who is sentenced by the court must be sentenced to one or a combination of the following alternatives, unless the sentencing alternatives are otherwise specifically provided in the statute defining the offense or sentencing is deferred under subsection 4:
  - a. Payment of the reasonable costs of the person's prosecution.
  - b. Probation.
  - c. A term of imprisonment, including intermittent imprisonment:
    - (1) In a state correctional facility in accordance with section 29-27-07, in a regional corrections center, or in a county jail, if convicted of a felony or a class A misdemeanor.
    - (2) In a county jail or in a regional corrections center, if convicted of a class B misdemeanor.
    - (3) In a facility or program deemed appropriate for the treatment of the individual offender, including available community-based or faith-based programs.
    - (4) In the case of persons convicted of an offense who are under eighteen years of age at the time of sentencing, the court is limited to sentencing the minor defendant to a term of imprisonment in the custody of the department of corrections and rehabilitation.
  - d. A fine.
  - e. Restitution for damages resulting from the commission of the offense.
  - f. Restoration of damaged property or other appropriate work detail.
  - g. Commitment to an appropriate licensed public or private institution for treatment of alcoholism, drug addiction, or mental disease or defect.
  - h. Commitment to a sexual offender treatment program.

Except as provided by section 12.1-32-06.1, sentences imposed under this subsection may not exceed in duration the maximum sentences of imprisonment provided by section 12.1-32-01, section 12.1-32-09, or as provided specifically in a statute defining an offense.

This subsection does not permit the unconditional discharge of an offender following conviction. A sentence under subdivision e or f must be imposed in the manner provided in section 12.1-32-08. If the person is sentenced to a term of imprisonment, the court may prohibit the person from contacting the victim during the term of imprisonment. For purposes of this subsection, "victim" means victim as defined in section 12.1-34-01.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 12.1-32-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. Before imposing restitution or reparation as a sentence or condition of probation, the court shall hold a hearing on the matter with notice to the prosecuting attorney and to the defendant as to the nature and amount of restitution. The court, when sentencing a person adjudged guilty of criminal activities that have resulted in pecuniary damages, in addition to any other sentence the court may impose, shall order that the defendant make restitution to the victim or other recipient as determined by the court, ~~unless the court states on the record, based upon the criteria in this subsection, the reason it does not order restitution or orders only partial restitution.~~ Restitution must include payment to the owner of real property that is contaminated by the defendant in the manufacturing of methamphetamine for the cost of removing the contamination and returning the property to the property's condition before contamination and to any other person that has incurred costs in decontaminating the property. In determining ~~whether to order the amount of~~ restitution, the court shall take into account:
  - a. ~~The~~ the reasonable damages sustained by the victim or victims of the criminal offense, which damages are limited to those directly related to the criminal offense and expenses actually incurred as a direct result of the defendant's criminal action. This can include an amount equal to the cost of necessary and related professional services and devices relating to physical, psychiatric, and psychological care. The defendant may be required as part of the sentence imposed by the court to pay the prescribed treatment costs for a victim of a sexual offense as defined in chapters 12.1-20 and 12.1-27.2.
  - b. ~~The ability of the defendant to restore the fruits of the criminal action or to pay monetary reparations, or to otherwise take action to restore the victim's property.~~
  - c. ~~The likelihood that attaching a condition relating to restitution or reparation will serve a valid rehabilitational purpose in the case of the particular offender considered.~~

The court shall fix the amount of restitution or reparation, ~~which may not exceed an amount the defendant can or will be able to pay,~~ and shall fix the manner of performance of any condition or conditions of probation established pursuant to this subsection. The court shall order restitution be paid to the division of adult services for any benefits the division has paid or may pay under chapter 54-23.4 unless the court, on the record, directs otherwise. Any payments made pursuant to the order must be deducted from damages awarded in a civil action arising from the same incident. An order that a defendant make restitution or reparation as a sentence or condition of probation may, unless the court directs otherwise, be filed, transcribed, and enforced by the person entitled to the restitution or reparation or by the division of adult services in the same manner as civil judgments rendered by the courts of this state may be enforced.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 10 of section 12.1-34-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

10. "Victim" means a ~~natural~~ person who ~~has suffered~~ suffers direct or threatened physical, financial, or psychological harm as the result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime or delinquent act or against whom the crime or delinquent act is committed. ~~The term "victim" includes the family members of a minor, incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased person.~~ The term "victim" does not include the accused or a person whom the court finds would not act in the best interests of a deceased, incompetent, minor, or incapacitated victim.

**SECTION 4.** A new subsection to section 12.1-34-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

If the victim is deceased, incompetent, incapacitated, or a minor, the victim's spouse, parent, grandparent, child, sibling, grandchild, or guardian, and any person with a relationship to the victim which is substantially similar to a listed relationship, may exercise the rights granted to a victim under this chapter.

**SECTION 5. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1252 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote:        Yeas 91                      Nays 0                      Absent 3

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote:        Yeas 46                      Nays 0                      Absent 0

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State