

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1252**

Introduced by

Representatives Louser, Becker, Blum, Kading, Kasper, K. Koppelman

Senators Burckhard, Hogue, Poolman, Unruh

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 12.1-34-02 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to rights of victims; and to amend and reenact subsection 1 of  
3 section 12.1-32-02, subsection 1 of section 12.1-32-08, and subsection 10 of section  
4 12.1-34-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to contact with victims, the definition of  
5 victim, and restitution.

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

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

- 9 1. Every person convicted of an offense who is sentenced by the court must be  
10 sentenced to one or a combination of the following alternatives, unless the sentencing  
11 alternatives are otherwise specifically provided in the statute defining the offense or  
12 sentencing is deferred under subsection 4:
- 13 a. Payment of the reasonable costs of the person's prosecution.
  - 14 b. Probation.
  - 15 c. A term of imprisonment, including intermittent imprisonment:
    - 16 (1) In a state correctional facility in accordance with section 29-27-07, in a  
17 regional corrections center, or in a county jail, if convicted of a felony or a  
18 class A misdemeanor.
    - 19 (2) In a county jail or in a regional corrections center, if convicted of a class B  
20 misdemeanor.
    - 21 (3) In a facility or program deemed appropriate for the treatment of the  
22 individual offender, including available community-based or faith-based  
23 programs.

1                   (4) In the case of persons convicted of an offense who are under eighteen  
2                   years of age at the time of sentencing, the court is limited to sentencing the  
3                   minor defendant to a term of imprisonment in the custody of the department  
4                   of corrections and rehabilitation.

5                   d. A fine.

6                   e. Restitution for damages resulting from the commission of the offense.

7                   f. Restoration of damaged property or other appropriate work detail.

8                   g. Commitment to an appropriate licensed public or private institution for treatment  
9                   of alcoholism, drug addiction, or mental disease or defect.

10                  h. Commitment to a sexual offender treatment program.

11                  Except as provided by section 12.1-32-06.1, sentences imposed under this subsection  
12                  may not exceed in duration the maximum sentences of imprisonment provided by  
13                  section 12.1-32-01, section 12.1-32-09, or as provided specifically in a statute defining  
14                  an offense. This subsection does not permit the unconditional discharge of an offender  
15                  following conviction. A sentence under subdivision e or f must be imposed in the  
16                  manner provided in section 12.1-32-08. If the person is sentenced to a term of  
17                  imprisonment, the court may prohibit the person from contacting the victim during the  
18                  term of imprisonment. For purposes of this subsection, "victim" means victim as  
19                  defined in section 12.1-34-01.

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

22                  1. Before imposing restitution or reparation as a sentence or condition of probation, the  
23                  court shall hold a hearing on the matter with notice to the prosecuting attorney and to  
24                  the defendant as to the nature and amount of restitution. The court, when sentencing a  
25                  person adjudged guilty of criminal activities that have resulted in pecuniary damages,  
26                  in addition to any other sentence the court may impose, shall order that the defendant  
27                  make restitution to the victim or other recipient as determined by the court, ~~unless the~~  
28                  ~~court states on the record, based upon the criteria in this subsection, the reason it~~  
29                  ~~does not order restitution or orders only partial restitution.~~ Restitution must include  
30                  payment to the owner of real property that is contaminated by the defendant in the  
31                  manufacturing of methamphetamine for the cost of removing the contamination and

1 returning the property to the property's condition before contamination and to any  
2 other person that has incurred costs in decontaminating the property. In determining  
3 ~~whether to order~~ the amount of restitution, the court shall take into account:

- 4 a. ~~The~~ the reasonable damages sustained by the victim or victims of the criminal  
5 offense, which damages are limited to those directly related to the criminal  
6 offense and expenses actually incurred as a direct result of the defendant's  
7 criminal action. This can include an amount equal to the cost of necessary and  
8 related professional services and devices relating to physical, psychiatric, and  
9 psychological care. The defendant may be required as part of the sentence  
10 imposed by the court to pay the prescribed treatment costs for a victim of a  
11 sexual offense as defined in chapters 12.1-20 and 12.1-27.2.
- 12 ~~b. The ability of the defendant to restore the fruits of the criminal action or to pay~~  
13 ~~monetary reparations, or to otherwise take action to restore the victim's property.~~
- 14 e. ~~The likelihood that attaching a condition relating to restitution or reparation will~~  
15 ~~serve a valid rehabilitational purpose in the case of the particular offender~~  
16 ~~considered.~~

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

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

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

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

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