## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 387 (SB 320)

## 2016 Regular Session

Morrell

<u>Prior law</u> required courts, when possible, to provide a secure waiting area during court proceedings for victims, witnesses, or homicide victim's families that does not require them to be in close proximity to the defendants, or their families or friends. Provided a court must without exception provide a secure waiting area in cases involving violent crimes.

<u>New law</u> retains <u>prior law</u> but does not limit <u>prior law</u> to homicide victims' families only. Further provides that upon request of a victim, victim's family, or witness, and whenever possible, the court must also provide designated seating in a courtroom for victims, victims' families, and witnesses that does not require them to be in close proximity to defendants, defendants' families, or witnesses for defendants.

Effective August 1, 2016.

(Amends R.S. 46:1844(G))