

Other Services

Victim Compensation Assistance Program

Local: Marie Christinis - Director
724-250-4811
State: 1-800-233-2339

Victim Notification for Inmate Releases

PA SAVIN: 1-866-972-7284

Victims of Domestic Violence Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA

724-223-9190 or
1-800-791-4000 (24 hour hotline)

Victims of Sexual Assault SPHS STTARS Program

1-888-480-7283 (24 hour hotline)

State-wide Victim Services www.pacrimewicvims.state.pa.us

Questions about Court-Ordered Restitution

Clerk of Courts
724-228-6787

PA Victim Bill of Rights

You have rights as a victim of crime. In addition, there are standards of service that you can expect to receive as a victim of crime. Your rights will be provided to you by several different agencies, which include a state or local law enforcement agency, the prosecutor's office, local correctional facility, Board of Probation and Parole, the juvenile probation office or the Department of Public Welfare. Who provides specific notifications to you depends on where the case is in the criminal or juvenile justice system. There are some rights that you will need to request in order for them to be provided to you.

Some of your rights are listed below:

You have the right to be told...
about basic services available to you in your county
about certain court events, including information on bail, escape of offender, release of an offender
about the details of the final disposition of a case

You have the right to receive...
notice of the arrest of the offender
information about restitution and assistance with compensation
accompaniment to all criminal proceedings by a family member, a victim advocate or a support person
You have the right to provide input...
into the sentencing decision and to receive help in preparing an oral and/or written victim impact statement
into post sentencing decisions

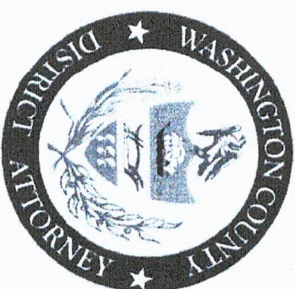
Note that information you provide this office is not strictly confidential. It may be shared or reviewed by the District Attorney, law enforcement or court personnel.

District Attorney's Office of Victim Services
Phone: 724-229-5922
Fax: 724-250-4140
E-mail: Help4crimewicvims@co.washington.pa.us



Important Crime Victim Information

District Attorney's Office of Victim Services



Jason M. Walsh,
District Attorney
Marie Christinis- Director
Office of Victim Services

District Attorney's Office
1 S. Main St., Ste 1003
Washington, PA 15301
724-228-6790

We Are Here To Help You

As a victim of a crime...

You have the right to receive assistance with...

- **Victim Impact Statement:**

A victim impact statement is your chance to tell the court how the crime hurt you and your family. You may say what punishment you think the defendant should receive. You may write your statement or you may speak in court when the defendant is sentenced.

There is a victim impact statement form in this packet. You may use it or write your own statement.

- **Restitution:**

Restitution is money a defendant repays to a victim. This is for money that you have lost or spent because of the crime. The money can repay you for loss of property, loss of money, medical bills and counseling bills.

☆ There is a restitution form in this packet. Please read the form and return this form to us as soon as possible. Restitution cannot be decided without it.

- **Victims' Compensation Assistance Program:**

This program may be able to help you by repaying you money you had to pay or lost because of the crime. The Victims Compensation Assistance Program may pay for out-of-pocket medical and counseling expenses, loss of wages, and loss of support, travel costs and crime scene clean up.

And...

There are also certain pieces of information that you as the victim have a right to know. You must tell us you would like to know about...

Notice of Bail:

You have the right to know about the defendant's bail.

Prior Comment:

You have the right to tell the Assistant District Attorney about your concerns before a personal injury charge is reduced or dropped, or before a plea agreement is changed. We will call you before a decision is made.

Notice of Sentencing Hearing:

We can tell you the time, date and place of the sentencing hearing. You can choose if you want to come. An advocate can go with you. At the hearing, you can tell the judge how the crime hurt you.

Notice of Defendant's Release from the State or Local Correctional Facility:

SAVIN is a program that can tell you if a defendant is released from prison on bail, work release or parole. The program can also tell you if the defendant escapes from prison.

You must register for the SAVIN program. You can register by calling 1-866-972-7284. You can register on the Internet at www.vinelink.com.

Frequently asked questions:

Do I need an attorney?

No, the Commonwealth will prosecute the case on your behalf.

Can I get restitution as a crime victim?

You (or your next of kin) may ask the court for money for losses you suffered because of the crime. This is called restitution and is paid by the defendant. You have the right to be compensated for some crime-related losses, such as personal injury, counseling, lost wages, medical bills, and funeral and burial expenses. Restitution does not compensate for "pain and suffering" or "emotional distress." If you want this type of compensation, you must contact a civil lawyer.

How will I know what is going on with my case?

You may contact a Victim Advocate at the District Attorney's Office of Victim Services with questions you have regarding the criminal case in which you are a victim. (724-229-5922) It is helpful to provide the name of the defendant and/or the criminal case number when you call.

☆ **Return the completed forms included in this mailing. Otherwise, we will not know which services you are requesting or need.** ☆