



VICTIM/WITNESS SERVICES

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THE VICTIM/WITNESS SERVICES DIVISION

The Victim/Witness Services Division is a section of the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office. This Division is comprised of Victim/Witness Coordinators who serve victims and witnesses in the criminal and juvenile divisions. Each coordinator provides information and support to crime victims and witnesses as their cases proceed through the judicial process. The goal of the Division is to help victims and witnesses understand their rights and responsibilities so that they can make intelligent choices about what is best for them.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Crisis-Intervention & Supportive Services - When victimization occurs, it is not uncommon to have difficulty handling stress and new information. Coordinators work with victims to address these issues.

Explanation of the Criminal Justice Process - Coordinators can address and answer questions or direct victims to those who can.

Advocacy & Assistance during Court Proceedings - Victims have the right to have an coordinator present with them during court appearances. Coordinators can also assist with safety planning and arrange for emergency transportation to court.

Assistance with Notification Process - Coordinators can provide details of case developments and court proceedings.

Assistance with Crime Victim Compensation - The Victim/Witness Division has application forms and information about available programs. Coordinators can assist victims with the preparation and filing of the application.

Assistance with Post-Conviction Issues - Coordinators can provide an explanation of the parole consideration process, help victims and survivors provide input to the Parole Board and accompany victims and survivors to hearings.

OHIO CONSTITUTION

Article I, § 10a, Rights of Victims of Crime

MARSHY'S LAW

You Have the Right to:

- **Be treated with fairness and respect** regarding your safety, dignity, and privacy.
- **Reasonable protection** from the accused or anyone acting on his or her behalf.
- **Refuse to answer questions** from the offender, or any person representing the offender.
- **Proceedings that are free from unreasonable delay** and a prompt conclusion of the case.
- **Receive full and timely restitution.**
- **Access to the Attorney** for the Government.

You May Request Your Right To:

- **A timely notice of all public proceedings** involving the crime against you and to attend them.
- **Speak at any proceedings** involving an offender's release, plea, sentencing, disposition, or parole.
- **Receive notice** if the offender is released or escapes.
- **Assert these rights** yourself, through a representative, or by asking the prosecuting attorney. If your relief is denied, you may appeal to your local district court of appeals.

VICTIM REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION

Ohio VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) system links county sheriffs, county prosecuting attorneys, and state correctional facilities to create a comprehensive victim notification system. The Ohio system is part of a nationwide VINE program. A website or toll free hotline will provide information 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

For inmate information, go to www.vinelink.com or call 1-800-770-0192.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION?

Victims of violent crime such as rape, assault, murder, kidnapping and domestic violence, face many challenges as a result of their tragic and unexpected circumstances. The Ohio Attorney General's Office Crime Victim Section offers services to aid victims, trainings for professionals who work with victims, and crime prevention programs for Ohio communities.

You may be eligible for compensation if you are:

- A victim who suffers physical injury as a result of trying to stop a crime.
- A victim who suffers psychological injury from a violent crime and requires counseling.
- A person who is injured in an automobile accident caused by a drunk driver, a driver who is fleeing from the police or a driver whose conduct was so extreme that they were charged with aggravated vehicular assault.
- A person who witnesses a violent crime and as a result requires psychological counseling.
- Dependents of deceased victims of crimes.
- A family member of a homicide victim (travel expenses to attend the trial).
- Someone who has paid the expenses of a victim.
- An immediate family member of a victim of homicide, sexual assault, domestic violence or severe and permanent incapacitating injury.
- A victim who has lost wages due to the crime.
- A victim who does not have a felony conviction, or a child endangering or domestic violence conviction, within 10 years prior to the crime or while the claim is pending.
- A victim who has reported the crime to law enforcement.
- A victim who fully cooperates with law enforcement.
- A victim who has not committed criminal or tortious acts that contributed to his or her injuries.

OUR VICTIM/WITNESS COORDINATORS



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HELPFUL NUMBERS FOR VICTIMS

Adult Parole Authority	330-797-9994
Mahoning County Bar Association	330-746-2933
Community Legal Aid Services	330-744-3196
Compass Family Services	330-782-5664
Compass Sojourner House Domestic Violence Services	330-747-4040
Department of Youth Services	800-872-3132
Juvenile Justice Center	330-744-2244
Mahoning County Children Services	330-941-8888
Mahoning County Clerk of Courts	330-740-2104
Mahoning County Jail	330-480-5000
Mahoning County Probation Dept.	330-726-9448
Mothers Against Drunk Drivers	330-726-3523
Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Program	877-584-2846
Suicide Help Hotline	330-747-2696