



Information for Victims and Witnesses of Crime



United States Capitol Police Victim-Witness Assistance Program



United States Capitol Police

Tel. 202-224-5151

USCP Information for Victims and Witnesses of Crime

INTRODUCTION

The United States Capitol Police (USCP) is aware of and concerned about the problems you may experience as a victim or witness of crime. We understand the feelings of confusion, frustration, fear, and anger sometimes suffered as a result of the disruption of life which you have experienced.

The following information has been prepared to help you deal with these problems and better understand how the criminal justice system works. We have included important information on what services are available to assist you as well as a description of your rights under Federal law.

THE INVESTIGATION

The days and months ahead may be particularly stressful to you as a victim and/or witness. Even though this may be a difficult time for you and your family, we need your continued support in our efforts in apprehending the criminal and bringing him to justice.

A police investigation can be both complex and time consuming. It may involve several organizations, some federal and some local. Remember, your interests are very important to us.

In 1982, Congress passed the Federal Victim and Witness Protection Act. This Act is designed to assist you to the fullest extent possible in recovering from the effects of crime. As part of this Act, you will be kept informed of the status of your case if you so request.

IF AN ARREST IS MADE

Once the case is filed, you will be contacted by the Assistant U.S. Attorney assigned to handle your case. Each U.S. Attorney's Office has a Victim/Witness Coordinator to help answer your questions and deal with your concerns during the corresponding stages of pretrial and trial process. Since most criminal defendants are released on bond pending trial, you should not be surprised if this happens in your case.

As a victim and/or witness of serious crime, the Assistant U.S. Attorney can provide information on the following.

- Scheduling changes and/or continuances affecting your appearance or attendance at judicial proceedings.
- The release detention status of the defendant.
- The acceptance of a plea of guilty or a guilty verdict.
- The date set for sentencing if the defendant is found guilty.
- For victims, the opportunity to address the court at the time of the sentencing.
- The sentence imposed.
- Advance notification of the defendant's release from custody.

USCP Officer's Name

USCP Report/Case Number

United States Capitol Police
Victim-Witness Assistance Program

119 D Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Phone: 202-224-5151
www.uscapitolpolice.gov

E-mail: AskUSCP@cap-
police.senate.gov

In addition, Federal Guidelines for Fair Treatment of Victims and Witnesses provide that "The victim of a serious crime, or in the case of a minor child or a homicide, the family of the victim should be consulted by the attorney for the Government in order to obtain the views of the victim or family about the disposition of any Federal criminal case brought as a result of such crime, including the views of the victim or family about:

- dismissal;
- release of accused pending Judicial proceedings;
- plea negotiations; and
- pretrial diversion program.

INJURIES, PROPERTY & EVIDENCE

You may be eligible for crime victims compensation assistance that is available to victims compensation. Information on the crime victims compensation can be found on the back of this brochure. If an individual is arrested and is found guilty or pleads guilty, you may also be eligible for restitution. Restitution is court-ordered payment to you as a victim of crime. It means that the defendant must return the things he stole from the victim, or otherwise make good the losses he caused. As a provision of the Federal Victim and Witness Protection Act, the judge may consider restitution before passing sentence.

In those cases where recovered property is needed as evidence in the case the U.S. Attorney's Office Victim-Witness coordinator can provide information on when it can be returned to you. Restitution may be available to you as part of a plan of prosecution to help defray the costs of property not recovered or the costs of any repair which may be necessary.

If appropriate, we will contact your employer to discuss further the importance of your role as a victim or witness in the government's case.

IF YOU ARE THREATENED OR HARASSED

As a witness in the government's case, there is the possibility that you may be harassed. If anyone threatens you or you feel that you are being harassed because your cooperation in this investigation, immediately contact the USCP investigator or the U.S. Attorney Victim Witness Coordinator assigned to your case.

If you are in or on U.S. Capitol Buildings and Grounds and you feel threatened or in immediate danger, call 202-224-0911. If you are elsewhere, call 911.

Additional penalties have been established for harassment and other threats as part of the Federal Victims and Witness Protection Act in order to further ensure your safety.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

If needed, the U.S. Attorney Victim Witness Coordinator assigned to your case will help you by referring you to the most appropriate of the various public or private programs that provide counseling, treatment, or support to victims or witnesses of crime. It is important for you to know that you may suffer from resulting physical, emotional and/or financial difficulties long after the crime itself occurred. You need not deal with these problems alone; help is available to assist you and your family cope with the impact of crime.

ADVOCACY RESOURCES

- AYUDA (assistance for immigrant victims: 202-387-4848)
- Child and Adolescent Protection Center (services for abused children and adolescents: 202-476-4100 and 202-476-5000 (evenings))
- Chinatown Service Center (social services for Asian residents): 202-898-0061
- DC Rape Crisis Center (24hr Sexual assault hotline) 202-333-7273
- Domestic Violence Intake Center: DC Superior Court, Room 4235: 202-879-0152 and Greater SE Hospital, Suite 311: 202-561-3000

EMERGENCY SHELTER

- Dwelling Place (shelter for victims of elder abuse): 202-583-7602
- House of Ruth (24hr shelter): 202-667-7001
- My Sister's Place (24hr shelter): 202-529-5991

INFORMATION/REFERRAL

RESOURCES

- National Center for Victims of Crime (8:30am-8:30pm for information) Referrals: 1-800-FYI-CALL
- National Organization for Victim Assistance (24hr intervention, referrals, information): 800-879-6682
- Mayor's Citywide Information Line: 311

BATTERER'S INTERVENTION

RESOURCES

- CSOSA Domestic Violence Intervention: 202-442-1822
- East River Collaborative 2nd Responder Program: 202-397-7300
- Family and Child Services Treatment: 202-289-1510
- Interdynamics Anger Management Program: 301-306-4590

SYSTEMS BASED RESOURCES

- Crime Victim Compensation Office (financial assistance for violent crime victims): 202-879-4261
- USCP Reports Processing Section: 202-593-4099
- US Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Unit: 202-514-7130
- Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE): 877-329-7894