The Purpose...

The purpose of the Victim Witness Division is to.....

- Provide more consideration and personal attention to victims and witnesses.
- Sensitize criminal justice professionals, the media, and the community to the needs of victims of crime.
- Assure that victims and witnesses are informed of the progress of the case in which they are involved.
- Advocate for victims and their families by connecting them with local resources that will aid them in their recovery process.
- Provide an advocate to all victims at all stages of the criminal justice process.
- Provide information and advocacy during post sentencing hearings.
- Petition for and provide advocacy during Civil Protection Orders.
- Assist victims with applying for Victims of Crime Compensation.
- Assist victims with Victim Notification and VINE.

Eight Ways We Can Help....

If you are a victim or witness of a crime in Fayette County, the following services are available to you through the Victim Witness Division...

1. 24 hour crisis response services through hospital, law enforcement and personal request.
2. Information regarding the status of a criminal case.
3. Explanation of and orientation to the criminal justice process.
4. Referral to local resources.
5. Assistance with applications for Victims of Crime Compensation and restitution.
6. Accompaniment by an advocate to all court proceedings.
7. Petitioning for Civil Protection Orders.
8. Notification and assistance with post sentencing hearings.

Victim Witness

Fayette County Prosecutor's Office
Victim Witness Division
133 South Main St.
Washington C.H., Ohio 43160

Phone: 740-335-8033
Fax: 740-333-3596
Email: vicwit@fayette-co-oh.com

"Fayette County Victim Witness Division serves all federal crime victims".

Victim Witness Division

VICTIM AND WITNESS ASSISTANCE

Fayette County Prosecuting Attorney,
Jess C. Weade
Victim Witness Division

Fayette County
Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Victim Witness Division
133 South Main Street, Lower Level
Washington CH, Ohio 43160

Tel: 740-335-8033
Fax: 740-333-3596
E-mail: vicwit@fayette-co-oh.com

Victim Witness Division

This office is committed to providing any assistance possible to the victims and witnesses of crimes in Fayette County. The cooperation of the victim or witness is most important to the successful prosecution in a criminal case.

The Victim Witness Division is here to help you and will make every effort to ensure that victims and witnesses receive prompt notification of scheduled changes that involve their case. Whenever possible, Victim Witness will also provide information and notification of:

- Judicial proceedings
- Defendant's release on bond
- Charges filed
- Defendant's pleading to the case
- Schedule trial dates
- Changes in custody of defendant
- Changes in trial dates
- Verdict
- Right to submit a victim impact statement to the court prior to sentencing
- Method of application for up to $50,000 in Crime Victims Compensation, when applicable.

Victim Witness will be consulted with and/or informed by the prosecutor on case dispositions such as:

- Dismissal
- Release
- Negotiated pleas
- Escape of defendant

An advocate will be available to you during all court proceedings.

Victims of Crime

As A VICTIM OR WITNESS, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT.....

1. To be treated with courtesy and compassion.
2. To be free from intimidation and harm.
3. To be informed concerning the process of the criminal justice system.
4. To apply for crime victims compensation, where applicable.
5. To preservation of property and employment.
6. To timely notice of judicial proceedings and/or notice of postponements or cancellations.

REMEMBER AS A VICTIM OR A WITNESS:

1. If you are threatened or intimidated in any way by the defendant, his/her family. Or friends, you should contact the local law enforcement immediately!
2. You have the right to refuse if someone other than the prosecutor, his staff or the investigating police officer attempts to talk with you regarding the case. Notify your advocate immediately, if this happens.
3. The Court may order restitution, be sure and discuss this procedure with your advocate.

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Attorney General's Office

Your Testimony

Your testimony and cooperation with the prosecutor and/or his staff is crucial in securing a conviction. A victim in a case is the most important, and sometimes the only witness to a crime. Testifying is an opportunity for the victim to tell his/her story to a judge and/or jury, who will decide whether or not the defendant is guilty. While testifying, the victim/witness will be assisted in telling his/her story, by questions asked by the prosecuting attorney. The victim/witness will also be asked questions by the defense attorney. After all the testimony is presented, the judge and/or jury will reach a verdict. This will conclude your role as a witness.

1. Dress well and be courteous.
2. Be attentive during the proceedings.
3. Think before you speak.
4. Answer all questions directly, do not volunteer information.
5. Be fair, do not exaggerate.
6. NEVER lose your temper.
7. Be prepared to wait.
8. Above all, always tell the TRUTH!

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