

HELP AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS OF CRIME IN PENNSYLVANIA

Hummelstown Borough Police Department

(717) 566-2555



Being a victim of crime can be very hard and confusing. People may tell you things that you do not understand. You might not be able to remember things. This is all normal. The legal system can be very hard to understand.

The following packet provides general information on your rights as a crime victim and services available to assist you through the aftermath of the crime. A victim advocate is available to help you know and understand your rights, connect you to available services such as counseling, and assist you in applying for financial assistance with medical bills and other crime related expenses. Because your case may involve interaction with many state and local agencies, an advocate will provide you with support and guidance as well as help you understand the legal system and what happens next in the process.

You may have heard that the person who committed the crime against you has “rights” under the law. You also have rights or things that must happen. This packet describes them. Some of them are:

- Be told about the help you can get;
- Be told about court hearings and have someone be with you at them if you want;
- Be told if the person who committed the crime against you has been arrested;
- Be told if the person who committed the crime escapes;
- Tell how the crime has affected you before the judge decides what happens to the person who committed the crime;
- Have anything taken from you returned when it is not needed anymore for court;
- Be told what happens at the end of your case; and
- Be paid back by the person who committed the crime for money you lost.

www.pacrimevictims.com

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

Victims Compensation Assistance Program: You may be eligible to receive financial help with expenses directly related to the crime (e.g. medical and counseling expenses, loss of earnings, loss of support, stolen cash, relocation, funeral or crime scene clean-up). To receive compensation you have to:

1. Be a victim of a crime that happened in Pennsylvania.
2. Report the crime or file a Protection From Abuse (PFA) order within 3 days.
3. Cooperate with the police, courts, and the Victims Compensation Assistance Program.
4. File the claim within two years of the crime.
5. Not be involved in illegal activity that caused the crime to happen.
6. Lose at least \$100 because of the crime (if you are less than 60 years old).

This program will NOT reimburse you for pain and suffering or stolen/damaged property.

Contact Victim/Witness to see if you are eligible for compensation at (717) 780-7075.

Offender Release Notification: You can register to receive free, automatic, confidential notification regarding your offender while they are under the supervision of county jails, state prisons, or state parole. To learn more and to register, call 1-866-9PA-SAVIN (1-866-972-7284).

Court Notifications: If the crime in which you were a victim is being prosecuted by the district attorney's office and you would like to be notified as the case moves through the system, please inform your advocate.

Address Confidentiality Program: You may be eligible for enrollment in the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) if you are a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. For more information about ACP, contact your local victim service provider at 717-780-7075 or call ACP directly at 1-800-563-6399.

WHAT YOU MUST DO: To get information about your case or access services, you must give your address and telephone number to agencies that will assist you with your rights. You must also tell them if your address or telephone number changes. For child victims, the parent or legal guardian must do this. For a homicide, a surviving family member must do this. Only people who work for the police, district attorney (this may include Victim/Witness staff) or corrections department may see your address and telephone number. No one else will be given your information unless you say it is okay in writing.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

If you are the victim of domestic violence, counseling, legal and medical advocacy, emergency shelter and safety planning services are available. You also have the right to go to court and file a petition requesting a Protection From Abuse (PFA) order which could include the following:

1. An order restraining the abuser from further acts of abuse;
2. An order telling the abuser to leave your household;
3. An order keeping the abuser from entering your residence, school, business or place of employment;
4. An order giving you or the other parent temporary custody of or temporary visitation with your child or children;
5. An order telling the abuser to pay support to you and the minor children if the abuser has a legal obligation to do so;
6. An order telling the abuser to stop stalking or harassing you or other designated persons.

To obtain a PFA contact Victim/Witness at (717) 780-7077.

To obtain an **Emergency PFA during non-business hours** call the YWCA of Harrisburg at (717) 234-7931.

Si usted es una víctima de violencia doméstica, los servicios están disponibles para promoción de orientación psicológica, legal y médico, refugio de emergencia y el plan de seguridad. Usted también tiene el derecho a acudir a los tribunales y archivar una petición solicitando una protección de abuso (PFA) orden que podría incluir los siguientes procedimientos:

1. Una orden de restricción al abusador de nuevos actos de violencia;
2. Una orden diciendo al abusador a dejar su hogar;
3. Una orden que impide que el abusador entrar en su residencia, escuela, negocio o lugar de empleo;
4. Una orden dando a usted o la custodia temporal de los padres de o temporal visitas con su hijo o hijos;
5. Una orden diciendo al abusador para pagar la manutención a usted y a los hijos menores si el abusador tiene la obligación legal de hacerlo;
6. Una orden diciendo al abusador para acechar o acosar a usted o a otros señala personas.

Para obtener un contacto PFA víctima/testigo en (717) 780-7077.

Para obtener una **Emergencia PFA durante horas no hábiles** llame la YWCA de Harrisburg a (717) 234-7931.

AGENCIES THAT CAN ASSIST YOU

Dauphin County Victim/Witness Assistance Program

Victim/Witness Assistance: For victims of crimes committed by an adult offender (age 18 and over), this office can provide information on your rights and how they can help you.

Juvenile Court Victim/Witness Assistance: This agency can also provide information on victims' rights and services when the offender is under age 18 in the juvenile justice system and community.

Sexual Assault: Services are available to all victims of sexual violence, including female and male victims who are adults, teens, or children. Crisis and support counseling is available for sexual assault victims, family members, and others close to the victim. Counseling is available both in person and on the telephone. An advocate will provide accompaniment to the hospital, police and court proceedings and assist in navigating the medical and criminal justice systems. Hotline and accompaniments services are available 24-hours a day.

Phone Number: (717) 780-7075

Website: www.victimwitness.org

Dauphin County Children & Youth

This agency can provide counseling, information, and referral services for abused and neglected children and their families.

Phone Number: (717) 780-7200

Dauphin County Area Agency on Aging

This agency can provide counseling, shelter, and protective services for older victims and their families.

Phone Number: (717) 780-6130

MADD-DUI

This agency can provide counseling, support, information, and referral services for victims of DUI crashes and their families.

Phone Number: (717) 657-3911

Dauphin County Case Management Unit

This agency can provide counseling, support, information, and referral services for victims or family members with mental health diagnoses.

Phone Number: (717) 232-8761

RECEIPT OF INFORMATION

I received information on the basic rights and services available for victims of crime. My name and telephone number

_____ may

_____ may not

be provided to the appropriate agency or agencies on pages 2-4 that can provide assistance.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: (to receive instructions about court hearings) _____

Date: ____/____/____

Incident Number: _____

Officer Name: _____