



MATHIAS H. HECK, JR.
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Crime Victim Rights Information

Victims of crime have constitutionally protected rights. **All** victims have a right to:

- Be informed of those rights, to be treated with fairness and respect for your safety, dignity, and privacy.
- Information about the status of your case and to be present for all public court hearings on the case.
- Object to unreasonable delays.
- Give the court your opinion at hearings regarding release of the suspect, pleas, sentencing, parole, and other hearings involving victim's rights.
- Full and timely restitution from the offender.

You can request other rights as listed on the victims' rights request form. A blank form is available in the Victim/Witness Division section of our website at <http://www.mcpc.com> if you want to make changes.

Are you concerned for your safety?

You have a right to reasonable protection from the accused or a person acting on their behalf. If you have concerns about your safety you have the following options:

- Contact the police immediately if you feel threatened.
- Seek a protection order if you are eligible. The investigating officer will provide resources in your area to assist with requesting a protection order.
- Receive texts, calls, or emails to get notice of a defendant or offender's release or escape from jail or prison. Register at: www.vinelink.com/#state-selection or (866) 277-7477.

Can I keep my name, address, and other identifying information private?

A victim or their representative can request that the law enforcement agency, prosecutor or court redact case documents to remove the victim's name, address, and other identifying information before public release. You can elect to do this on the victims' rights request form.

It is your responsibility, and very important, to notify law enforcement and the prosecutor of any change in your contact information, so that you can receive updates on the case.

You have a right to refuse to talk to or provide ANY information to the accused, their attorney, or any person acting on the accused's behalf.

If the accused/defendant, defendant's attorney, or anyone else acting on behalf of the defendant contacts you to request an interview or attempt to obtain any information or materials, immediately contact the prosecutor.

Can I get an interpreter?

Yes. If you need a foreign language or American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, you have the right to an interpreter at all court proceedings, meetings with the prosecutor, and all investigative proceedings at no cost to you. You can indicate on the victims' rights request form that you need one and ask the prosecutor (or police when meeting with police) for help to get an interpreter at any time.

Victim's Representative

You can designate anyone other than the person who committed the criminal act against you as your representative to exercise your rights as a victim for you or with you. If the victim is a minor, incapacitated, incompetent, or deceased, the victim's representative can be a member of the victim's family or a victim advocate. You can designate a representative on the victims' rights request form now, or by telling law enforcement, the prosecutor, or the court at a later time.

You have a right to have a support person with you at any court proceeding and do not need to name a victim's representative to do so.

What is an arraignment?

If criminal charges are filed, the court will conduct a hearing called an arraignment within a few days. The judge will then decide whether or not to release the defendant on bond, set any bond conditions, and whether or not to issue a protection order.

You have the right to attend the arraignment and tell the judge about any safety concerns and your opinion regarding the defendant's release, bond conditions, and whether or not you would like a protection order.

Law enforcement will notify you of the defendant's arrest and can tell you the court where the arraignment will be held. The attached list of victim resources gives the telephone number for each court that can be called to get the date, time and location of the arraignment.

How can I cover the cost of damages done to me?

You may be eligible for financial assistance through the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund for expenses such as medical counseling bills, work loss, and funeral expenses even if the suspect has not been arrested or convicted. For more information and to apply, visit www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/individuals-and-families/victims/apply-for-victims-compensation or (800) 582-2877.

If the defendant is convicted, you are eligible for restitution. This means the court orders the offender to pay you for certain financial losses relating to your victimization. It is important to keep a record of all expenses incurred as a result of the crime (receipts, invoices, estimates, etc.). The prosecutor will give you more information about this.

What happens if my rights are denied?

If any of your rights are denied, you may ask the prosecutor to help, hire an attorney, request free legal assistance from Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center at www.ocvjc.org/request-for-assistance or (614) 848-8500, or represent yourself.

Do you need an attorney?

If criminal charges are filed, a prosecutor will handle the criminal court case. Under the law, you have the right to hire an attorney to also represent you in court, if you wish. You or your attorney can receive notices about court hearings and meetings that involve your rights in order to represent you. To receive such notice, you will need to contact the clerk's office in the court where charges are filed.

Can I keep my address private?

An application on behalf of victims of *domestic violence, menacing by stalking, human trafficking, trafficking in persons, rape or sexual battery* can be made to Ohio's "Safe at Home" program to keep your home address private. Participants receive a "safe" mailing address to use for official documents. Information is available at www.ohiosos.gov/secretary-office/office-initiatives/safe-at-home/survivors/ or (614) 995-2255.



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MONTGOMERY COUNTY OHIO LIST OF VICTIM RESOURCES

To Find Out The Date of Arraignment – Call the Clerk of Court

The first court appearance may be within hours of arrest; it may be 7 days before the clerk's office can provide other court dates.

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| ___ Dayton Municipal Court – 333-4315 | ___ Oakwood Municipal Court – 293-3058 |
| ___ Kettering Municipal Court – 296-2461 (option 2) | ___ Vandalia Municipal Court – 898-3996 (option 1) |
| ___ Miamisburg Municipal Court – 866-2203 (option 1) | ___ Montgomery Co. Municipal Ct. |
| ___ Montgomery Co. Common Pleas Ct. – 225-6000 | ___ Western Division – 687-9099 (option 2) |
| | ___ Eastern Division – 496-7231 (option 1) |

If you cannot attend the arraignment, but want to give information to the Court before Bail is set

Call Pre-Trial at 225-3477, 496-3283, or 225-4425. Caution: the information provided is not always confidential.

Montgomery County Prosecutor's Victim/Witness Division

Montgomery County Courts Building
41 North Perry Street, Room 212
Dayton, OH 45422
(937) 225-5623 (24-Hour)

This Division is designed to help those individuals who have been a victim or witness of a violent crime. The Victim / Witness Division provides 24-hour crisis- intervention, support and informational services to those affected by violent crime. The Advocates specialize in cases of sexual assault/abuse and homicide; however, they offer a variety of services to other victims and witnesses as well. 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 to Victims or Witnesses of any felony offense who may need/request services included:

- Crisis-Intervention & Supportive Services
- Explanation of the Criminal Justice Process
- Advocacy & Assistance during Court Proceedings
- Assistance with Notification Process
- Assistance with Crime Victim Compensation
- Assistance with Post-Conviction Issues

Protection Orders – Information is on the Montgomery County Website

<https://www.mcoho.org/government/courts>

For Stalking Protection Order: Click on "General Division"

For Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order: Click on "Domestic Relations Division"

Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Program

<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Victims/Apply-for-Victims-Compensation>

1-877-584-2846 (toll-free)

To Register for notice of Defendant's Release from Jail or Prison

VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday)

<http://vinelink.com>

1-800-770-0192

Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Section

www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov 614-466-5610

Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center

Victim's Rights Toolkit

www.ocvjc.org 614-848-8500

LocalHelpNow App – available for various community resources (available on the Apple App Store and Google Play for Android)