

## SERVICES

The Victim Services can inform you of your rights, assist you with any questions you may have or refer you to the appropriate agency for help. Our office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am until 5:00pm.

*The following services are confidential and free of charge to crime victims and witnesses:*

- INFORMATION about the status of your case via letters and telephone calls.
- NOTICE of court proceedings, including changes.
- INFORMATION and explanation about criminal justice proceedings.
- ORIENTATION to the courtroom setting.
- REFERRAL to social service agencies, counselors and others who can assist you with your problems resulting from this victimization.
- EMPLOYER INTERVENTION to explain time missed from work.
- PROPERTY RECOVERY of stolen property that is being held as evidence.
- ASSISTANCE if you are intimidated, harassed or afraid.
- TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS are civil court papers to help keep the offender away from you in domestic situations.
- COMPENSATION is available for out of pocket expenses for medical bills, counseling, funeral expenses and lost wages, if you qualify.

## IF YOU ARE THREATENED

If you are threatened or intimidated by the accused, or by a third party on behalf of the accused, call the police and ask the police to write a report. In case of an emergency, call 911.

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## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**Georgia Legal Aid: 1.800.735.4271**  
**Rape Crisis Center: 229.439.7065**  
**Victim Services: 706.795.6322**

*The Victim Services Program does not discriminate against individuals or group on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or disability. If you believe you have been the target of discrimination, you have the right to file a civil rights complaint. Information on how to file a civil rights complaint can be found on the Office of Justice Programs website.*

## **VICTIM SERVICES**

*Serving Madison, Oglethorpe, Elbert, Hart & Franklin Counties*

**A SERVICE OF THE DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
NORTHERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**KRISTIE CROSS  
DIRECTOR  
[KCROSS@PACGA.ORG](mailto:KCROSS@PACGA.ORG)  
706-795-6322 (OFFICE)  
706-795-3588 (FAX)  
P.O. BOX 452  
DANIELSVILLE, GA 30633**



# **VICTIM BILL OF RIGHTS**

Victims of many types of crimes have rights and responsibilities under a Georgia Law (O.C.G.A 17-17-1) called *The Victims' Bill of Rights*. This brochure explains some of your rights.



## DEFENDANTS MAY BE RELEASED ON BOND PRIOR TO TRIAL

Most defendants are released on bond from jail before the disposition of the case. The US and Georgia Constitution's guarantee bond, except in certain cases.



Bond is money or property put up to ensure the defendant's appearance in court. The Judge considers several issues in determining the bond amount for the accused: The possibility of fleeing and failing to appear in court, threat or danger the community, the risk of committing another crime and the possibility of threatening the victim or witnesses.

Within 48 hours after the accused has been arrested, most defendants will appear before a Judge. A bond may be set at that time.

There are certain serious crimes in which only a Superior Court Judge can set a bond. These hearings are usually at a later time, after notice is provided to the District Attorney's Office. The Victim Services will attempt to notify you, prior to these bond hearings.

If the accused is a juvenile (under 17), proceedings are handled differently. For more information, contact your local Victim Services.

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

In order for you to be notified of various proceedings, you must provide the police with your name and address, as well as your home and work telephone numbers. If there is an arrest and your number changes from the number you provided the police, you must notify they jail and Victim Services in your county in order to be informed of criminal proceedings.

If the defendant is convicted and sent to prison and you want to be notified of a parole or express your opinions prior to a parole decision, you must write the **State Board of Pardons and Parole** in Atlanta. If you want to know of any change in the status of the defendant (such as furlough or work release) write the **Department of Corrections** in Atlanta. The Victim Services Office can and will assist you with these communications.

## FINANCIAL COMPENSATION

If you are a victim of a violent crime (NOT A PROPERTY CRIME) you may be eligible for victim compensation. You must file complete application within three years of the date of your victimization. You must fill out a police report, but an arrest does not have to happen.

Compensation can help with your out of pocket expenses, not covered by insurance, Medicaid or Worker's Compensation. Eligible expenses include medical bills, counseling, funeral expenses and lost wages.

## YOUR RIGHTS

*You have the right to be notified of:*

- A. The arrest of the accused,
- B. Availability of Victim Services Programs,
- C. Availability of compensation for Victims of violent crimes,
- D. Any court appearances where release of the accused will be considered,
- E. Release of the accused,
- F. Court proceedings during the prosecution of the case,
- G. Motion for a new trial or appeal dates,
- H. Parole or change in status of defendant, if you request this in writing.

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