

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

As the victim of a violent crime, you have the right to have the following information:

**CASE INFORMATION**

Defendant's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Charge(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Police Report: \_\_\_\_\_

Court Case: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge/Division: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Prosecutor Assigned: \_\_\_\_\_

Victim/Witness Assistant: \_\_\_\_\_

**COURT EVENTS**

	Date	Time	Division
Filing Charges	_____	_____	_____
Bond Reduction	_____	_____	_____
Preliminary Hr.	_____	_____	_____
Disposition	_____	_____	_____
Arraignment	_____	_____	_____
Motions Hr.	_____	_____	_____
Trial	_____	_____	_____
Sentencing	_____	_____	_____
Sentence	_____	_____	_____
Reconsideration	_____	_____	_____
Modifications	_____	_____	_____
Probation Revoc.	_____	_____	_____
Appellate Review	_____	_____	_____
Attack of Judge	_____	_____	_____
Appeal	_____	_____	_____

(Some of these events may not happen in your case)

In addition to the right to be informed and present, a victim also has the right to be heard at hearings on bond reduction, acceptance of a negotiated plea and at sentencing. A victim has the right to give input to the court regarding motions to continue.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Arraignment:** Court hearing when a defendant pleads guilty or not guilty, after a preliminary hearing. Witnesses do not testify at this hearing.

**Bond:** Money or property that is promised or given to the Court to make sure a defendant will come back to court after getting out of jail.

**Compensation:** A program to help pay for medical or funeral expenses, mental health therapy or lost wages for victims of violent crime. A police report must be made. You must apply for these funds. Please call (303) 271-6846 for information.

**Continuance:** When a court hearing is delayed.

**Defendant:** A person who is accused of committing a crime.

**Disposition:** When a case is resolved without a trial.

**Filing of Charges:** Presentation of written charges to the Clerk of the Court. The document is called a complaint or an information.

**Motions Hearing:** A hearing where the judge decides what evidence will be allowed at trial.

**No Contact:** A condition of bond that means a defendant cannot have contact with a victim by phone, letter, through a third party or in person.

**Plea Negotiations:** A defendant pleads guilty to a charge or a lesser charge in return for a sentence which may be less than if convicted of all charges at trial.

**Preliminary Hearing:** A hearing to determine if there is enough evidence to go to trial. This is the first hearing when witnesses may have to testify.

**Pretrial Conference:** A meeting of Deputy DA, defendant and defense attorney to discuss possible plea negotiations.

**Probation:** The release, under conditions of good behavior, of a person convicted of a crime as an alternative to imprisonment.

**Restitution:** After conviction, a defendant can be ordered to pay the victim for "out of pocket" financial losses.

**Sentence:** The penalty which is given by a judge to a defendant upon conviction of a crime.

**Subpoena:** An order to come to court, which is mailed to the witness or personally delivered.

**Trial:** An examination of issues of fact and law before a judge or a jury. Evidence is presented to determine whether or not the defendant is guilty of committing a specific crime.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

Arvada <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(720) 898-6900 <b>(720) 898-6747</b>
Black Hawk Metro Line <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(303) 582-0503 (303) 642-0726 <b>(303) 582-5926</b>
Broomfield (Voice TDD) <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(303) 438-6400 <b>(303) 438-6429</b>
Central City Metro Line <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(303) 582-5519 (303) 642-3310 <b>(303) 582-5926</b>
Colorado State Patrol <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(303) 239-4400 TDD (303) 239-4499 <b>(303) 273-1618</b>
Colorado School of Mines <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(303) 273-3333
Edgewater <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(303) 235-0500 <b>(303) 202-2196</b>
Gilpin County Sheriff <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(303) 582-1060 <b>(303) 582-5926</b>
Golden Voice <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(303) 384-8045 TDD (303) 384-8047 <b>(303) 202-2196</b>
Jefferson County Sheriff <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(303) 277-0211 TDD (303) 271-5517 <b>(303) 271-5339</b>
Lakewood <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(303) 987-7111 TDD (303) 987-7111 <b>(303) 987-7191</b>
Morrison <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(303) 697-4810 TDD (303) 697-8749
Mountain View <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(303) 425-1748 TDD (303) 271-5517 <b>(303) 202-2196</b>
Westminster <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(303) 430-2400 x2744 TDD (303) 429-1500 <b>(303) 430-2400 x2789</b>
Wheat Ridge <b>Victim Advocate</b>	(303) 237-2220 TDD (303) 235-2900 <b>(303) 202-2196</b>
District Attorney's Office Victim/ Witness Assistance Unit	(303) 271-6840 TDD (303) 271-6909
Crime Victim Compensation Program	(303) 271-6846
<b>Women In Crisis Battered Women's Shelter Rape Assistance Awareness Program</b>	<b>(303) 420-6752</b> Hot Line (303) 322-RAPE (7273) Spanish Speaking (303) 329-0031 TDD (303) 329-0023

*Your Constitutional Rights as a Victim of Violent Crime*



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**(303) 271-6840**

## "TO BE INFORMED, PRESENT AND HEARD..."

We at the Jefferson/Gilpin District Attorney's Office are sorry to learn you have been the victim of a crime. This brochure is to help you understand what will happen next and to explain your rights as a crime victim.

As a victim of violent crime, you have the constitutional right to be informed of certain information and court dates. These court hearings are listed on the back page of this brochure so you may keep track of them.

### Violent crimes that apply are:

- Murder, Manslaughter, Homicide
- Vehicular Assault, Vehicular Homicide
- Assault
- Sexual Assault on an Adult or Child
- Incest
- Sexual Exploitation of Children
- Menacing
- Kidnapping
- Robbery
- Child Abuse
- Crimes Against At Risk Persons
- Crimes involving Domestic Violence
- Careless Driving Resulting in Death
- Hit & Run Resulting in Death
- Harassment by Stalking
- Ethnic Intimidation
- Retaliation against a Witness or Victim
- Tampering with a Witness or Victim
- Any attempt, conspiracy, solicitation or
- Accessory to the listed crimes

The Victim/Witness Assistance program can answer questions you may have or talk with you about your case. Please call:

(303) 271-6840

***It is your responsibility to keep the DA's Office informed of your current address and phone number(s) at all times.***

## YOUR RIGHTS AS A VICTIM OF VIOLENT CRIME

- \* to be treated with fairness, respect and dignity and to have swift and fair resolution of your case.
- \* to be informed of and present for all critical stages of the criminal justice process.
- \* to be present and heard in court regarding any bond reduction, continuances, acceptance of plea negotiations, case disposition or sentencing.
- \* to have a safe place to wait before court.
- \* to talk with the Deputy District Attorney before the case is resolved or goes to trial and to be informed of how it is resolved.
- \* to prepare a Victim Impact Statement and to be present and to be heard at sentencing.
- \* to be informed of the status of your case and any scheduling changes or cancellations if known in advance.
- \* to have restitution ordered.
- \* to pursue a civil judgment against anyone who has committed a crime against you.
- \* to be informed of post conviction release or modification hearings.
- \* to get your property back quickly when it is no longer needed for prosecution.
- \* to be informed of the availability of financial assistance and community services.
- \* to be given appropriate employer intercession services regarding court appearances and meetings with criminal justice officials.
- \* to be assured that in any criminal proceeding the court, the prosecutor and other law enforcement officials will take appropriate action to achieve a swift and fair resolution of the proceedings.

For a complete listing of your rights, please refer to Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-4.1-101 through 24-4.1-304.

## HOW THE VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CAN HELP YOU

Being victimized and going through the court system can be difficult and confusing. Trained Victim/ Witness Assistants can give you support, information and referrals.

The Office of the District Attorney provides a Victim/ Witness Assistance Program for your benefit. This program is staffed by people who care about you and your involvement in the criminal justice system. Their goal is to help lessen the impact of being a victim of a crime or a witness to a crime.

A Victim/ Witness Assistant can give you information about how the court system works and what is happening with your case. We can also talk to you about your feelings and answer your questions. Some of the services available are:

- \* Crime Victim Compensation Program
- \* Restitution Program
- \* Victim/ Witness Center
- \* Information on the status of your case.
- \* On-Call System. This allows you to stay by a phone rather than wait long periods at the courthouse to testify in jury trials.
- \* Call-Off. We attempt to call you as soon as we know an event in your case has been continued or called off.
- \* Witness Fee Information
- \* Employer Intervention
- \* Referral to other services which may be of help to you
- \* Transportation and lodging when necessary.
- \* Translator and special needs services

If all efforts to obtain your rights have failed, you may request assistance from the Governor's Victims' Coordinating Committee. For additional information call the Office of Victims' Programs at the Division of Criminal Justice (303) 239-4442

## CORRECTIONAL FACILITY INFORMATION

After conviction of a defendant charged with a violent crime and upon your written request, your state or local correctional authorities will notify you of:

- \* The institution where the person is incarcerated or other wise being held.
- \* The projected release date of the person.
- \* Any release of the person, including furlough, work release, or community corrections in advance of release.
- \* Scheduled parole hearings for the person and any changes in hearing schedules.
- \* Any escape of the person from a correctional facility or program.
- \* The death of the person while in a correctional facility or program.

If the defendant is in the county jail you may sign up for notification of his/her release by calling Detentions Accounting (303) 271-5445.

In addition, upon request of the victim, correctional officials will keep confidential the victim's or immediate family's address, phone numbers, places or employment, or other personal information.

If the defendant is sentenced to the Department of Corrections, you have the right to get this information if you request it in writing. Send a letter to:

DOC Victim Notification Program  
Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center  
P.O. Box 392004  
Denver, CO 80239-8004  
(303) 307-2225

If the defendant is a juvenile sentenced to the Division of Youth Corrections, send a letter to:

Division of Youth Corrections (DYC)  
Victim Notification Program  
4255 South Knox Court  
Denver, CO 80236-3194  
(303) 987-4618

If you prefer, the DA's Office has a Request Form you may fill out. Please call (303) 271-6840.

***It is your responsibility to keep DOC informed of your current address and phone number(s) at all times.***