



YOUR ROLE IN THE COURT PROCESS

As a crime victim or witness you will be receiving a subpoena. This is a court document requiring you to be present in court at the time and place stated.

FELONY CASES

A felony is a crime that is punishable by a maximum of more than one year in prison. In a felony case, there are two court dates on which you may be summoned to testify. The first will be the preliminary hearing in General District or Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court (first floor of the Lower Courts, Judicial Complex), and the second will be the trial in the Circuit Court (second floor Courthouse). You will receive a subpoena for the dates you are needed to testify.

MISDEMEANOR CASES

A misdemeanor is crime that is punishable by confinement in the county jail for a maximum of twelve months, a fine of not more than \$2,500.00, or both. In misdemeanors there is one court date, unless the case is later appealed to Circuit Court.

JUVENILE AND FAMILY CASES

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court handles criminal and traffic violations involving persons less than 18 years of age and any crime committed within the immediate family.

CONTINUANCES

Often trials cannot take place as scheduled. We will make every effort to notify you in advance, but may not be successful. By calling 564-3350 the day or the evening before the hearing, you can confirm whether you have to appear.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Commonwealth's Attorney Office and Victim/Witness Program564-3350
Harrisonburg Police Department434-2545
Rockingham County Sheriff's Department564-3800
Magistrate.....564-3848

COURTS

General District Court.....564-3130
Juvenile & Domestic Court.....564-3370
Circuit Court.....564-3118

First Step-Domestic Violence Shelter
24 hour emergency shelter, support and information for victims of domestic violence.....434-0295

Citizens Against Sexual Assault...434-2272
24 hour crises hotline and support services for victims of sexual assault

Center for Marriage and Family Counseling.....433-1546
Offers domestic and violence/anger control groups and visitation assistance

Community Services Board434-1941
Mental Health counseling and outpatient treatment for alcohol and drug problems. 24 hr. crisis services.

Emergency Services.....434-1766

Blue Ridge Legal Services.....433-1830

James Madison University
Campus Police.....568-6913
Counseling Center.....568-6552
Health and Sexual Assault Ed. Center.....568-2831

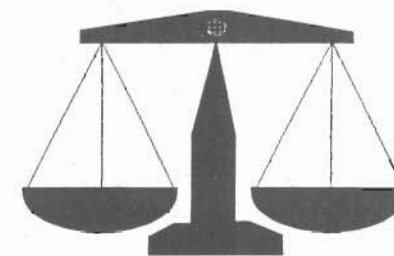
This brochure was paid for by grant funds from the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

Are You A Victim of Crime?

WE CAN HELP

Call

564-3350



An Information Guide for Crime Victims and Witnesses



Rockingham County/City of Harrisonburg
Victim/Witness Program
Tina C. Clark, Director
Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney
53 Court Square, Suite 210
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540) 564-3350

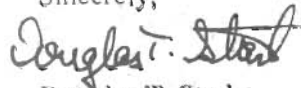
A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

As Commonwealth's Attorney, I am aware of concerns that victims of crime and witnesses encounter in the criminal justice system. Many times these individuals are inconvenienced and frustrated in the performance of this civic responsibility.

Our Victim/Witness Program was created to help citizens understand and anticipate issues that may arise in the course of their participation in a criminal trial. The program strives to maintain a working relationship between prosecutor and witnesses and victims of crime. By working together many inconveniences and frustrations can be eliminated.

Whether you are a victim of a crime or a witness, your testimony is necessary to present the complete story to the judge or jury. I hope that the information in this brochure will make you feel more comfortable about the experience ahead of you. If you have any questions about your appearance in court, do not hesitate to contact me or Tina C. Clark, Director of the Victim/Witness Program at 564-3350.

Sincerely,



Douglas T. Stark
Commonwealth's Attorney

YOUR RIGHTS AS A VICTIM

If you are a crime victim and have suffered physical, psychological, or economic harm as a direct result of any of the following crimes...

*Any felony, Assault and Battery, Stalking
Sexual Battery, Attempted Sexual Battery
An accident involving a charge of Driving
while Intoxicated*

You may be entitled to...

PROTECTION

- From Further Harm and Threats of Harm
- Separate Waiting Areas During Court Proceedings

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund
- Property Return
- Restitution for Damages or Loss

NOTIFICATION

- Case Status Information
- Employer Intercession Services
- Prisoner Release Information

VICTIM INPUT

- Victim Impact Statement Preparation
- Courtroom Presence During a Criminal Trial

COURTROOM ASSISTANCE

- Confidentiality of Address and Telephone Number
- Interpreter Services

VICTIM/WITNESS PROGRAM

The Victim/Witness Program, located in the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, has been implemented for the benefit of victims and witnesses of crime. Our program's goal is to reduce any trauma or confusion by explaining the criminal process and providing the services you are entitled to as victim or witness of crime.

This brochure acquaints you with the services available to assist you and the steps involved in bringing your case to trial.

CALL THE VICTIM/WITNESS PROGRAM
AT 564-3350 IF:

- ◆ You have questions about your role as a witness.
- ◆ You have received crime-related threats or harassment.
- ◆ You would like an explanation of court procedures or a tour of the courtroom before you testify.
- ◆ Your personal property is being held as evidence, and you want to know when you can recover it.
- ◆ You want assistance in filing for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund Act.
- ◆ You need to notify us of a change of address or telephone number.
- ◆ You would like someone to escort you to court.
- ◆ You would like assistance in preparing your victim impact statement.
- ◆ You need a referral to social service agencies that provide assistance to crime victims.
- ◆ You have any questions regarding your case.
- ◆ You just need someone to talk to.