

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why am I receiving a subpoena?

The law requires live testimony in criminal cases.

Why was this case rescheduled?

Cases are rescheduled for many reasons. Witnesses or attorneys may be unavailable. Multiple trials are set each day and the court decides the scheduling priority of each case.

What is Crime Victim Compensation?

Victims who were injured or lost earnings or support because of the crime may be qualified for reimbursement in addition to court-ordered restitution.

What is an impact statement?

A written or verbal statement letting the court know your feelings about the crime and how it has affected your life.

What happens if I don't return my impact statement?

Your views on the case may not be known and restitution may not be ordered on your behalf.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

The Victim/Witness staff will, UPON REQUEST, provide the following services:

- Information about the court process and case progress
- Information and assistance in applying for Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission Funds
- Referrals to community agencies which may provide counseling and other services
- Accompany the victim to court

If you are intimidated or threatened with violence:

CONTACT THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES

KENT COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION

180 Ottawa – Suite 3500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 632-5106

KENT COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION

1501 Cedar St., N.E.
Grand Rapids MI 49503
(616) 632-5750

KENT COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Sheriff Lawrence A. Stelma
703 Ball NE
Grand Rapids MI 49503
(616) 632-6300

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS STATE OF MICHIGAN

PO Box 30003
Grandview Plaza Building
Lansing MI 48909
(517) 373-4467
Toll Free: 1-877-886-5401

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION

Lewis Cass Building
320 S. Walnut St.
Lansing MI 48933
(517) 373-7373
Toll Free: 1-877-251-7373

Kent County Prosecutor's Office

Victim Witness Unit Juvenile Division



CHRISTOPHER BECKER PROSECUTOR

KENT COUNTY VICTIM WITNESS UNIT

180 Ottawa – Suite 5400
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 632-5400
Fax: (616) 632-5389
Toll Free: (877) 451-8115
TDD: (616) 632-5404

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



You have the following rights under Article I, Section 24 of the Michigan Constitution as well as under the Crime Victim's Rights Act.

UPON REQUEST, the Victim/Witness Unit will provide you with notice of the following:

- Notice of court proceedings and schedule changes
- The right to discuss the case with an assistant prosecutor
- Notice of the date and time of disposition
- The right to make a written or oral statement for use at the disposition
- Notice of the juvenile's adjudication/disposition
- If the juvenile is placed in a facility, you will be provided a form that you can submit to the Department of Human Services to request notice of dismissal, discharge or transfer from a secure to a non-secure facility.

REMEMBER: This information will not be provided unless you return the enclosed NOTIFICATION OF HEARING form.



If a juvenile is formally charged with a crime, the Prosecutor's Office will file a petition in the Circuit Court Family Division. Because each case is different, the Court has many options:

1. The Court may:

- a. handle the charge informally, including requiring restitution or other terms, warn the juvenile and dismiss the petition, or
- b. refer the juvenile for voluntary counseling, or
- c. place the juvenile on informal probation, or
- d. set the case for a formal hearing.

2. If the case is set for a formal hearing and the juvenile does not plead guilty, either:

- a. there will be a pre-trial hearing, a trial by judge or jury and if the juvenile is found guilty, an investigation to determine why the juvenile committed the crime and what can be done to make sure he/she does not commit more crimes. There will then be a disposition (sentencing) hearing, or
- b. under certain circumstances, on the motion of the Prosecuting Attorney, the Family Division of the Circuit Court will hold a hearing to determine whether the juvenile should stand trial as an adult or be sentenced as an adult.

3. If the juvenile is kept in the juvenile system, which happens in the majority of cases, the Court can:

- a. place the juvenile on probation in his/her parent's home, in a relative's home, or in licensed foster family home, or
- b. send the juvenile to an institution which treats juvenile offenders, and/or
- c. order the juvenile to participate in such programs as counseling, education, employment, drug/alcohol treatment, or unpaid community service work, as well as order him or her to pay restitution to the victim.

Crime and its aftermath can have serious consequences for you, your family and our community. Without your help and cooperation, however, the criminal justice system cannot successfully prosecute those individuals who have obviously demonstrated that they have no regard for your safety or property.

This brochure is meant to provide you with basic information about the court system and to assist you in understanding the various steps of the criminal case in which you are involved.

In an effort to support you and your family during this difficult process, the county has created the Victim/Witness Unit. Its staff is available to answer your questions and to help in any way possible. I would encourage you to contact the office either by phone at (616) 632-5400 or in person. The office is located in Suite 5400 on the 5th floor of the Kent County Courthouse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Becker".

Christopher Becker
Prosecuting Attorney

For more information please visit our offices or our website at:
<http://www.accesskent.com/CourtsAndLawEnforcement/ProsecutorsOffice/>