

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Keep our office up to date with your current address, phone number(s), and/or e-mail address
- Attend court hearings
- Provide documentation to verify your losses
- Fill out and return the Victim Impact Statement

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

The Victim/Witness staff is here to assist by providing 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 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 VICTIMS SERVICES COMMISSION
Lewis Cass Building
320 S. Walnut St.
Lansing MI 48933
(517) 373-7373
Toll Free: 1-877-251-7373

**MICHIGAN CRIME VICTIM NOTIFICATION
NETWORK**
(800) 770-7657

Kent County Prosecutor's Office

Victim Witness Unit



**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

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

YOUR RIGHTS

- The right to be treated with fairness and respect throughout the criminal justice process
- The right to timely disposition of the case following arrest of the accused
- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice process
- The right to notification of court proceedings
- The right to attend trial and all other court proceedings the accused has the right to attend
- The right to confer with the prosecution
- The right to make a statement to the court at sentencing
- The right to restitution
- The right to information about the conviction, sentence, imprisonment, and release of the accused

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.



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,

Christopher Becker
Prosecuting Attorney

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