



CP-22  
(07/14)

## Information for Victims and Witnesses of Crime

### United States Capitol Police Victim-Witness Assistance Program



**United States Capitol Police**  
**Tel. 202-224-5151**

## USCP Information for Victims and Witnesses of Crime

### INTRODUCTION

The United States Capitol Police (USCP) is aware of and concerned about the problems you may experience as a victim or witness of crime. We understand the feelings of confusion, frustration, fear, and anger sometimes suffered as a result of the disruption of life which you have experienced.

The following information has been prepared to help you deal with these problems and better understand how the criminal justice system works. We have included important information on what services are available to assist you as well as a description of your rights under Federal law.

### THE INVESTIGATION

The days and months ahead may be particularly stressful to you as a victim and/or witness. Even though this may be a difficult time for you and your family, we need your continued support in our efforts in apprehending the criminal and bringing him to justice.

A police investigation can be both complex and time consuming. It may involve several organizations, some federal and some local. Remember, your interests are very important to use.

In 1982, Congress passed the Federal Victim and Witness Protection Act. This Act is designed to assist you to the fullest extent possible in recovering from the effects of crime. As part of this Act, you will be kept informed of the status of your case if you so request.

### IF AN ARREST IS MADE

Once the case is filed, you will be contacted by the Assistant U.S. Attorney assigned to handle your case. Each U.S. Attorney's Office has a Victim/Witness Coordinator to help answer your questions and deal with your concerns during the corresponding stages of pretrial and trial process. Since most criminal defendants are released on bond pending trial, you should not be surprised if this happens in your case.

As a victim and/or witness of serious crime, the Assistant U.S. Attorney can provide information on the following:

- Scheduling changes and/or continuances affecting your appearance or attendance at judicial proceedings.
- The release detention status of the defendant.
- The acceptance of a plea of guilty or a guilty verdict.
- For victims, the opportunity to address the court at the time of the sentencing.
- The sentence imposed.
- Advance notification of the defendant's release from custody

\_\_\_\_\_  
USCP Officer's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
USCP Report/Case Number

**United States Capitol Police**  
**Victim-Witness Assistance Program**

119 D Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Phone: 202-224-5151  
[www.uscapitolpolice.gov](http://www.uscapitolpolice.gov)

Email: [AskUSCP@uscp.gov](mailto:AskUSCP@uscp.gov)

In addition, Federal Guidelines for Fair Treatment of Victims and Witnesses provide that “The victim of a serious crime, or in the case of a minor child or a homicide, the family of the victim should be consulted by the attorney for the Government in order to obtain the views of the victim or family about the disposition of any Federal criminal case brought as a result of such crime, including the views of the victim or family about:

- Dismissal;
- Release of accused pending Judicial proceedings;
- Plea negotiations; and
- Pretrial diversion program.

#### **INJURIES, PROPERTY & EVIDENCE**

You may be eligible for crime victims’ compensation. Information on the crime victims’ compensation can be found on the back of this brochure. If an individual is arrested and is found guilty or pleads guilty, you may also be eligible for restitution. Restitution is court-ordered payment to you as a victim of crime. It means that the defendant must return the things he stole from the victim, or otherwise make good the losses he caused. As a provision of the Federal Victim and Witness Protection Act, the judge may consider restitution before passing sentence.

In those cases where recovered property is needed as evidence in the case the U.S. Attorney’s Officer Victim-Witness coordinator can provide information on when it can be returned to you. Restitution may be available to you as part of a plan of prosecution to help defray the costs of property not recovered or the costs of any repair which may be necessary.

If appropriate, we will contact your employer to discuss further the importance of your role as a victim or witness in the government’s case.

#### **IF YOU ARE THREATENED OR HARASSED**

As a witness in the government’s case, there is the possibility that you may be harassed. If anyone threatens you or you feel that you are being harassed because your co-operation in this investigation, immediately contact the USCP investigator or the U.S. Attorney Victim Witness Coordinator assigned to your case.

If you are in or on U.S. Capitol Buildings and Grounds and you feel threatened or in immediate danger, call 202-224-0911. If you are elsewhere, call 911.

Additional penalties have been established for harassment and other threats as part of the Federal Victims and Witness Protection Act in order to further ensure your safety.

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

If needed, the U.S. Attorney Victim Witness Coordinator assigned to your case will help you by referring you to the most appropriate of the various public or private programs that provide counseling, treatment, or support to victims or witnesses of crime. It is important for you to know that you may suffer from resulting physical, emotional and/or financial difficulties long after the crime itself occurred. You need not deal with these problems alone; help is available to assist you and your family with coping with the impact of crime.

#### **ADVOCACY RESOURCE:**

AYUDA (assistance for immigrant victims):  
202-387-4848

Child & Adolescent Protection Center (services for abused children and adolescents):  
Day: 202-476-4100 Evening: 202-476-5000

Chinatown Service Center (social services for Asian residents): 202-898-0061

DC Rape Crisis Center (24hr Sexual assault hotline):  
202-333-7273

Domestic Violence Intake Center: DC Superior Court, Room 4235: 202-879-0152 and Greater SE Hospital, Suite: 202-561-3000

#### **EMERGENCY SHELTER:**

Dwelling Place (shelter for victims of elder abuse):  
202-583-7602

House of Ruth (24hr shelter): 202-667-7001

My Sister’s Place (24hr shelter): 202-529-5991

#### **INFORMATION/REFERRAL RESOURCES:**

National Center for Victims of Crime  
(8:30am-8:30pm for information):  
Referrals: 202-467-8700 ext. 8716

National Organization for Victim Assistance (24hr intervention, referrals, information): 800-879-6682

Mayor’s Citywide Info Line: 311

#### **BATTERER’S INTERVENTION RESOURCES:**

CSOSA Domestic Violence INTERVENTION: 202-442-1822

East River Family Strengthening Collaborative: 202-397-7300

Family Matters of Greater Washington: 202-289-1510

Interdynamics Anger Management Program: 301-306-4590

#### **SYSTEMS BASED RESOURCES:**

Crime Victim Compensation Office (financial assistance for violent crime victims): 202-879-4261

USCP Reports Processing Section: 202-593-4099

US Attorney’s Victim/Witness Assistance Unit: 202-252-7130

Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE): (DC) 877-329-7894; (MD) 866-634-8463; (VA) 800-467-4943