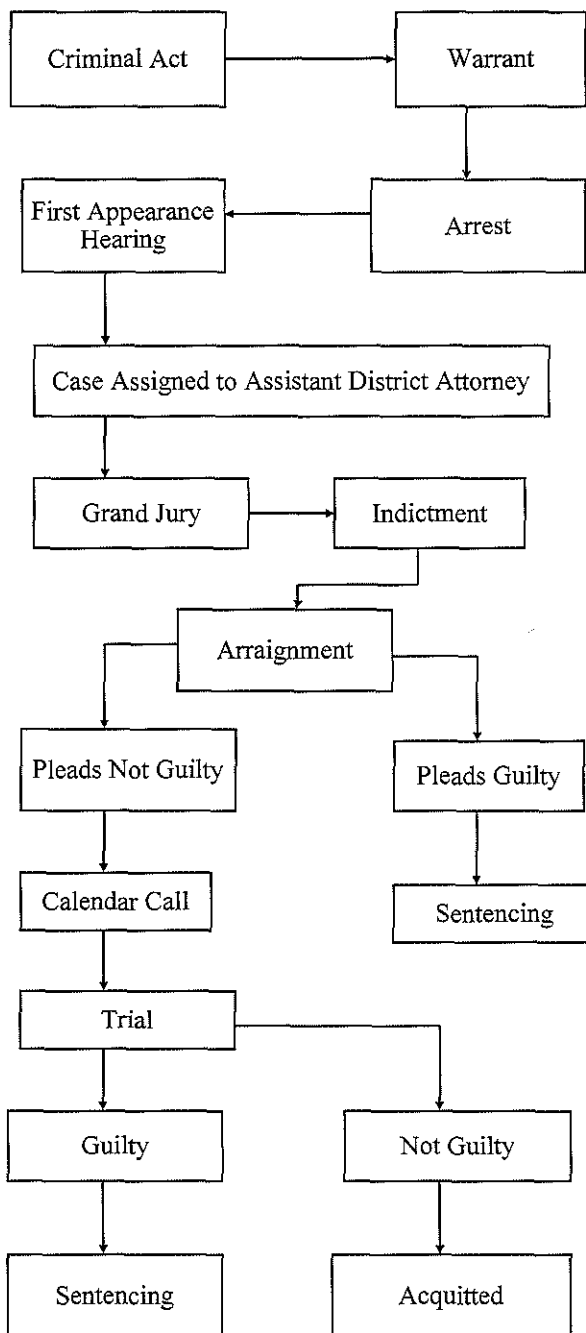


CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS



CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The State of Georgia has a program to assist victims of violent crimes with out-of-pocket, crime-related expenses. It may help compensate for medical and dental bills, counseling expenses, funeral expenses, loss of wages or loss of economic support when the costs are not covered by insurance or other sources, or the professional cleanup of a crime scene.

The following can be covered under medical:

- Home health care
- Eyeglasses
- Dentures
- Prosthetic devices
- Wheelchairs

Victims who have been physically injured in a violent crime. Including but not limited to victims of:

- Assault/Battery
- Homicide
- Child Abuse
- Sexual Assault
- Domestic/Family Violence
- DUI Crash Victim

LIMITATION OF COMPENSATION

Compensation cannot be paid for stolen, damaged or lost property. Victim/claimant must first exhaust funds from other sources, such as health insurance, car insurance, social security, annual/sick leave pay, disability insurance, worker's compensation, unemployment compensation, or funds from other government agencies.

Certain eligibility requirements apply. You may call the Crime Victims Compensation Program at (800) 547-0060, the Victim Compensation Advocate at (478) 621-6427, or visit www.cjcc.georgia.gov for more information.

VICTIM-WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

(478) 621-6427



Office of the District Attorney
K. David Cooke, District Attorney
 Macon Judicial Circuit
 661 Mulberry Street
 2nd Floor, Grand Building
 Macon, GA 31201-7329

If you have been a victim of, or witness to a crime, where do you turn for information and support?

The Victim-Witness Assistance Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability or age for any of our program participants.



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

(O.C.G.A. Title 17, Chapter 17)

The Georgia General Assembly declares it to be the policy of this state that victims of crimes should be accorded certain basic rights just as the accused are accorded certain basic rights.

These rights include:

1. The right to reasonable, accurate and timely notice of any scheduled court proceedings or any changes to such proceedings.
2. The right to reasonable, accurate and timely notice of the arrest, release or escape of accused.
3. The right not to be excluded from any scheduled court proceedings, except as provided in this chapter or as otherwise required by law.
4. The right to be heard at any scheduled court proceedings involving the release, plea or sentencing of the accused.
5. The right to file a written objection in any parole proceedings involving the accused.
6. The right to confer with the prosecuting attorney in any criminal prosecution related to the victim.
7. The right to restitution and compensation as provided by law and when applicable.
8. The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.
9. The right to be treated fairly and with dignity by all criminal justice agencies involved in the case.

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM...

No one expects to be a victim of crime, but it happens. One American household in three is victimized by serious crime every year.

If you or someone close to you is affected by crime, you may be shocked, angered, or shamed. You most probably will feel helpless and confused.

The criminal justice system has traditionally ignored the special needs of victims while concentrating on protecting the rights of the accused. But, the tide is changing.

The Victim-Witness Assistance Program is here to offer crime victims and witnesses emotional support during the aftermath of crime and guidance through the maze of the criminal justice system.

IF YOU ARE A WITNESS...

If you receive a subpoena to appear in court, you are required by law to attend. Remember, your cooperation is very important to the prosecution of the person accused of the crime. Unfortunately, court hearings are often continued for any number of reasons.

You are very important to the case. If you are unavailable to testify, the accused person might go unpunished and continue to commit crimes.

Complete cooperation and truthful testimony of the witnesses and victims are essential to the determination of guilt or innocence of the person accused of the crime.

SERVICES...

The following services available to victims and witnesses of crime are confidential and free of charge:

- **INFORMATION** about the status of your court case via letters and phone calls.
- **NOTICE** of court proceedings, including changes.
- **INFORMATION** and explanation about criminal justice proceedings.
- **ORIENTATION** to the courtroom setting.
- **COMPANION** to attend court with you and provide emotional support.
- **REFERRAL** to social service agencies, counselors and others who can assist you with personal problems.
- **EMPLOYER INTERVENTION** to explain times missed from work due to required court appearances.
- **PRIVATE WAITING AREA** prior to your court appearance.
- **PROPERTY RECOVERY** of stolen items that are being held as evidence.
- **SUPPORT GROUP** for family members and friends of murder victims
- **ASSISTANCE** if you are intimidated, harassed or afraid.
- **ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT** with any problems that you may be having as a result of the crime itself or court appearance.
- **ASSISTANCE** applying for financial compensation to help victims of violent crimes
- **ASSISTANCE** completing Victim Impact Statement.

The Criminal Justice System should do more than provide justice to criminals. It should provide justice to crime victims as well.

Through our Victim-Witness Assistance Program, we are attempting to provide some of the rights which the legal system denies to witnesses and victims of crime.

If you are a victim of crime, or a witness to one, your assistance and cooperation with the prosecution are vital if we are to do our job effectively. No criminal can be punished without the help of witnesses.

We recognize that you may be unfamiliar with court procedures and that the court system can be frustrating and confusing. To help answer your questions, I encourage you to contact our Victim-Witness Assistance Program.

The District Attorney's Office is required by law to provide the defense attorney with names, addresses, and phone numbers of witnesses for the state. The defense attorney may contact you to discuss what you think about the case. If this happens, you have the right to choose whether or not you will talk to the defense attorney. You also have the right to have someone from the District Attorney's Office or your personal attorney present at the interview.

Please feel free to contact the Victim-Witness Assistance Program at any time. We are here to serve you.

K. David Cooke

District Attorney
Macon Judicial Circuit