

## RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENT OR SEX CRIMES

### IF YOU HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OR WITNESS TO ANY VIOLENT OR SEX CRIME, THEN YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:

1. To be informed by local law enforcement agencies or the prosecuting attorney of the final disposition of the case in which the victim, survivor, or witness is involved.
2. To be notified by the party who issued the subpoena that a court proceeding to which they have been subpoenaed will not occur as scheduled, in order to save an unnecessary trip to court.
3. To receive protection from harm and threats of harm arising out of cooperation with law enforcement and prosecution efforts, and to be provided with information as to the level of protection available.
4. To be informed of the procedure to be followed to apply for and receive any witness fees to which you are entitled.
5. To be provided, whenever practical, a secure waiting area during court proceedings that does not require them to be in close proximity to defendants and families or friends of defendants.
6. To have any stolen or other personal property expeditiously returned by law enforcement agencies or the superior court when no longer needed as evidence. When feasible, all such property, except weapons, currency, contraband, property subject to evidentiary analysis, and property of which ownership is disputed, shall be photographed and returned to the owner within ten days of being taken.
7. To be provided with appropriate employer intercession services to ensure that employers of victims, survivors of victims, and witnesses of crime will cooperate with the criminal justice process in order to minimize an employee's loss of pay and other benefits resulting from court appearance.
8. To have access to immediate medical assistance and not to be detained for an unreasonable length of time by a law enforcement agency before having such assistance administered. However, an employee of the law enforcement agency may, if necessary, accompany the person to a medical facility to question the person about the criminal incident if the questioning does not hinder the administration of medical assistance.
9. To have a crime victim advocate from a crime victim/witness program present at any prosecutorial or defense interviews with the victim. This applies only if practical and the presence of the advocate --does not cause any unnecessary delay in the investigation or prosecution of the case. The role of the advocate is to provide emotional support to the crime victim.
10. To be physically present in court during trial, or if subpoenaed to testify, to be scheduled as early as practical in the proceedings in order to be physically present during trial after testifying and not to be excluded solely because they have testified.
11. To be informed by the prosecuting attorney of the date, time and place of the trial and of the sentencing hearing for felony convictions upon request by victim or survivor.
12. To submit a victim impact statement or report to the court, with the assistance of the prosecuting attorney if requested, which shall be included in all presentence reports and permanently included in the files and records accompanying the offender committed to the custody of a state agency or institution.
13. To present a statement personally or by representation, at the sentencing hearing for felony convictions.
14. To entry of an order of restitution by the court in all felony cases, even when the offender is sentenced to confinement, unless extraordinary circumstances exist which make restitution inappropriate in the court's judgement.

### IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

**Pierce County Prosecutors,  
Victim Witness Assistance**

Room 946, County City Building  
930 Tacoma Avenue South  
Tacoma, Washington 98402

**(253) 798-6875**