

OHIO CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS (Ohio Revised Code – Chapter 2930)

Victims of all felony and violent misdemeanor crimes, whether committed by an adult or juvenile, have legal rights specified.

You have a right to be informed

- by Law Enforcement about victim's rights, available services, victim's compensation, and the name, arrest, and release of the defendant(s)
- by Prosecutors about pretrial diversion, plea negotiations, change in charges, and all court proceedings, schedule changes, appeals, and parole & release hearings

You have a right to be present

- at hearings and proceedings unless the judge determines it will cause an unfair trial
- and have someone with you for support
- or have someone represent you if you do not want to attend
- and have unwanted contact between prosecution and defense sides kept to a minimum

You have a right to be heard

- through contact with the Prosecutor handling your case
- through a Victim Impact Statement before sentencing

Victims (or their representative) cannot be discharged or disciplined by an employer for participating, at the request of the prosecuting attorney, in preparation for and reasonable appearances at court hearings.

If the prosecuting attorney determines reasonable grounds, a motion may be filed with the court to conceal the victim's (or the representative's) address, telephone number, and similar identifying information. The Court, after a hearing, will make the determination.

The Ohio Crime Victim Rights Constitutional Amendment

(Article 1, Section 10(a))

**requires that victims be treated with
FAIRNESS, DIGNITY,
and
RESPECT**

Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Program

(toll-free)

1-877-584-2846

(1-877-5VICTIM)

VINE

(Victim Information and Notification Everyday)

The VINE system is a 24-hour automated system which provides information and automatic offender release notifications. To register for this service, please call:

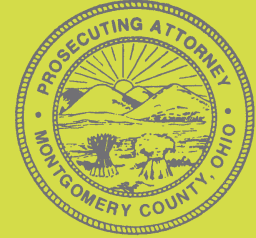
1-800-770-0192

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

What can you do to help?

The Victim/Witness Division could not provide 24-hour services without the help of our dedicated network of volunteers. Volunteers operate as telephone advocates on the crisis telephone line or as hospital advocates responding to area emergency rooms to assist victims of sexual assault cases.

Volunteers also assist with special projects coordinated by the Victim/Witness Division. For more details, contact us at 225-5623.



MATHIAS H. HECK, JR.
Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney

Support Services of the Victim/Witness Division

Prosecutor's Office

Dayton-Montgomery County Courts Building
P.O. Box 972 • 301 West Third Street • 5th Floor
Dayton, Ohio 45422
(937) 225-5757

Victim/Witness Division

Montgomery County Courts Building
P.O. Box 972 • 41 North Perry Street • Room 212
Dayton, Ohio 45422

(937) 225-5623
(24-Hour)





A Message from the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney



I am proud to be able to offer many different support services through our Victim/Witness Division. It is very important that our community, and especially victims of crime, know that **VICTIMS HAVE RIGHTS TOO!**

The Victim Advocates of our Victim/Witness Division are available to work with you to help you understand those rights and can provide you with an "Information for Crime Victims" Booklet.

As Prosecuting Attorney, I am aware of the fact that victims and witnesses are more effective in the criminal justice process when they understand what is happening and why. My office and I are dedicated to doing whatever we can to lessen the trauma that the victimization may have caused. I am hopeful that the information in this brochure will provide you with some understanding of what services are available to you and that you will feel free to call upon us for assistance.

Very truly yours,

MATHIAS H. HECK, JR.
Prosecuting Attorney
Montgomery County, Ohio

VICTIM/WITNESS DIVISION

(937) 225-5623

(24-Hour)

SERVICES PROVIDED TO VICTIMS OR WITNESSES OF ANY FELONY OFFENSE WHO MAY NEED/REQUEST SERVICES INCLUDE:

Crisis-Intervention & Supportive Services

When victimization occurs, it is not uncommon to have difficulty handling stress and new information. Advocates work with victims to address these issues.

Explanation of the Criminal Justice Process

Advocates can address and answer questions or direct victims to those who can.

Advocacy & Assistance during Court Proceedings

Victims have the right to have an advocate present with them during court appearances.

Assistance with Notification Process

Advocates can provide details of case developments and court proceedings.

Assistance with Crime Victim Compensation

The Victim/Witness Division have application forms and information about this program. Advocates can assist victims with the preparation and filing of the application.

Assistance with Post-Conviction Issues

Advocates can provide an explanation of the parole consideration process, help victims and survivors provide input to the Parole Board and accompany victims and survivors to hearings.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES

Sexual Assault Cases

Advocates provide 24-hour outreach to sexual assault victims by responding to area hospital emergency rooms. Supportive services and advocacy are provided regardless of whether an offender is identified and/or prosecuted.

Homicide Cases

Advocates work with survivors to attend to the needs of those who have lost someone to violence. Survivors are offered all the services provided to victims of crime. In addition, the Victim/Witness Division offers a support group for survivors of homicide victims to address the aspects of grieving a violent death.

Felony Domestic Violence Cases

Our Advocates provide assistance for domestic violence victims whose cases are being prosecuted through the Common Pleas Court. Advocates also network with and provide referrals to Artemis Center and the YWCA Shelter and Housing Network. (Call the 24-hour D.V. hotline – 222-SAFE for services.)

CARE House and Juvenile Court

The needs of juvenile victims are very important to us. An advocate is located at the CARE House to provide services to child victims of physical and sexual abuse.

An advocate is also assigned to work with victims of crimes committed by juveniles that are handled in the Family Court Center.