

## ***IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE***

The City or the County Prosecuting Attorney can help you. They may file a criminal complaint against your abuser after investigation by local law enforcement agencies. You yourself have the right to file a petition in superior court, requesting an order, which will protect you from domestic abuse. This protection may include orders for any of the following:

- a) Restraining your abuser from further acts of abuse.
- b) Directing your abuser to leave your household.
- c) Preventing your abuser from entering your residence, school, business or place of employment.
- d) Awarding you or the other parent custody of or visitation with your minor child or children.
- e) Restraining your abuser from molesting or interfering with minor children in your custody.

The forms you need in order to obtain such protection are available at the Superior Court in Cowlitz County. For additional information, please call the Superior Court Clerk at (360) 577-3016.

## ***STATE OF WASHINGTON CRIME VICTIM'S PROGRAM***

If you are the victim of a physical or sexual assault you may be eligible for benefits from the **State's Crime Victim's Program**. Such benefits may take the form of payment for hospital and doctor bills resulting from the crime, as well as for counseling benefits in some cases.

Please call the **Cowlitz County Victim/Witness Program** at (360) 577-3080 for help and information.

## ***CRIME VICTIM'S BILL OF RIGHTS***

As a crime victim, survivor of a crime victim, or witness to a crime, Washington State Law provides that reasonable efforts be made to ensure the following rights:

1. If you are a victim of a violent and/or sex crime, to receive from law enforcement officials, a written statement of the rights of crime victims.
2. Access to immediate medical assistance without unreasonable delay.
3. To receive protection from harm and threats of harm arising out of cooperation with law enforcement and prosecution and to be made aware of the level of protection available.
4. If you are a victim of violent and/or sex crimes, to have a victim advocate from a victim/witness program present at any prosecutorial or defense interviews with you: this applies if practical and if it does not cause any unnecessary delay in the investigation or prosecution.
5. To be informed of the date, time and place of trial and of any sentencing hearing for felony convictions upon request.
6. To have, whenever practical, a secure waiting area provided for you during court proceedings.
7. To have any stolen or personal property returned as soon as possible after completion of the case.
8. To have your employer contacted to minimize any problems when you are required to be absent from work to appear in court.
9. To be informed of changes in court dates to which you have been subpoenaed.
10. To be present in court during trial if your testimony has been given and no further testimony is required.
11. To receive any witness fees to which you are entitled.
12. To submit a victim impact statement to the court which shall be included in the pre-sentence report and made a part of the offender's file.
13. If you are a victim or survivor of a victim, to present a statement personally, or by representation, at the sentencing hearing when there is a felony conviction.
14. If you are a victim or survivor of victim, to have restitution ordered when there is a felony conviction, unless the court judges this to be inappropriate.
15. To be informed of the final disposition of the case.

## ***CHILD VICTIM'S BILL OF RIGHTS***

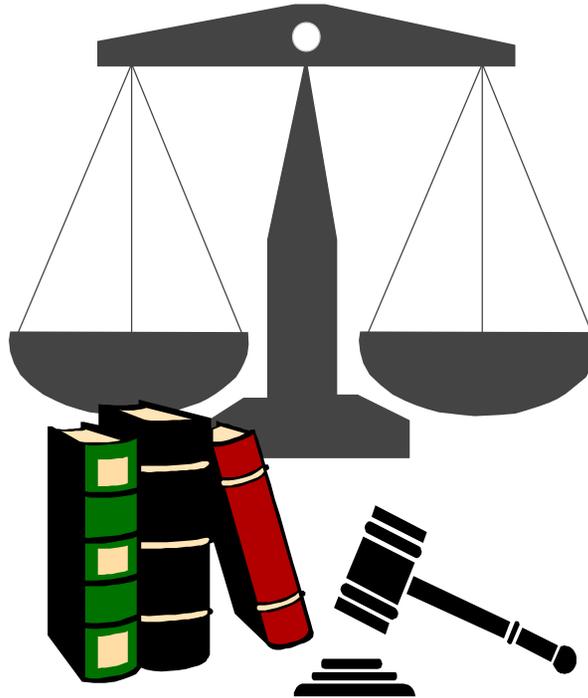
In addition to the rights that have been provided for all crime victims and witnesses, Washington law states that reasonable efforts be made to ensure the following rights for child victims of violent or sex crimes or child abuse and witnesses under the age of eighteen:

1. To receive from law enforcement officials a written statement of the rights of child victims.
2. To have an advocate from a victim/witness program present at any prosecutorial or defense interviews with the child victim; this applies if practical and if it does not cause any unnecessary delay in the investigation or prosecution of the case.
3. To have all proceedings explained in language that can be easily understood by the child.
4. To have, whenever possible, a secure waiting area provided for the child during court proceedings and to have a support person remain with the child.
5. Not to have the name, address or photograph of the child victim or witness disclosed to any agency outside the criminal justice system without the permissions of the child or the child's parents or legal guardians.
6. To allow an advocate to make recommendations to the prosecuting attorney about the child's ability to cooperate with the prosecution and its potential effects upon the child.
7. To allow an advocate to inform the court about the child's ability to understand the nature of the proceedings.
8. To be provided information and referrals to agencies to assist the child and/or the child's family in dealing with the emotional impact of the crime and the subsequent legal proceedings.
9. To allow an advocate to be present in court to provide emotional support to the child during testimony.
10. To inform the court as to the need to have other supportive persons present during the child's testimony.
11. To allow law enforcement agencies to enlist the services of other professional personnel such as Child Protective Services or prosecutorial staff trained to interview child victims.

**NOTE:** Chapter 7169 of the Revised Code of Washington states: "The failure of a person to make a reasonable effort to ensure the victims, survivors and witnesses under this chapter have the right enumerated in RCW 7.69.0 shall not result in civil liability against that person."

**RESOURCES** (prefix 360)

- Victim Witness Program..... 577-3080
- Superior Court Clerk..... 577-3016
- District Court Clerk ..... 577-3073
- Emergency Support Shelter..... 425-1176
- 24 Hour Crisis Line ..... 636-8471
- Emergency Mental Health Center..... 425-5380
- Child Protective Services ..... 577-2152
- St. John Medical Center..... 414-2000
- Salvation Army ..... 423-3990
- Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Legal Aid..... 425-3430
- Cowlitz County Sheriff..... 577-3092
- Longview Police..... 577-3157
- Kelso Police ..... 423-1270
- Kalama Police ..... 673-2165
- Woodland Police ..... 225-6965
- Castle Rock Police..... 274-4711
- Washington State Patrol..... 577-2050
- Juvenile Services ..... 577-3100



**SUSAN I. BAUR**  
**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

**COWLITZ COUNTY**

**VICTIM-WITNESS  
PROGRAM**

**360-577-3080**

**FRAN GRANT  
COORDINATOR**

**OFFICER'S NAME:**

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**Case Number:** \_\_\_\_\_