

## VICTIM WITNESS SERVICES

- Provide information about the criminal justice and juvenile justice systems
- Information on the status and disposition of the case in which you are involved
- Crisis Intervention
- Transportation
- Provide secure waiting area before and after court appearance
- Property return assistance
- Assistance with completing and providing a Victim Impact Statement
- Accompaniment to the courtroom
- Child care while you are testifying, if necessary
- Information and assistance with applications to the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO)
- Assistance in receiving restitution and other funds that apply
- Employer, school and creditor intercession services
- Counseling referrals for problems that are directly related to the crime or court appearance
- Referrals to social service agencies
- Assistance obtaining notification when a defendant is released from custody
- Interpreting services

In a case involving a victim of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault:

- Upon request the victim has the right to obtain an approved serological test for AIDS or HIV or any other related virus identified as a probable causative agent of AIDS
- Upon request, the victim has the right to apply for a court order requiring the offender to submit to an approved serological test for AIDS or HIV in the event that the offender is formally charged
- The victim has the right to be notified of the offender's test results

## SERVICE AGENCIES

The following is a brief list of service agencies that may be of assistance to victims & witnesses:

Victims of Crime Compensation Office  
877-658-2221  
[www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)

New Jersey State Parole Board  
Victim Service Unit, Trenton  
609-292-4582

Monmouth County Division of Probation  
Adult Supervision Unit  
732-869-5600

Juvenile Probation Unit  
732-869-5600 Opt. #3

Division of Child Protection and Permanency  
(Formerly DYFS)  
Hotline - 800-422-4453

Adult Protective Services  
732-531-9191

Domestic Violence; 180 Turning Lives Around  
888-843-9262

Sexual Assault  
732-264-RAPE

V.I.N.E.  
Victim Information Notification Everyday  
To register with V.I.N.E. in NJ call:  
1-877-VINE-4NJ (1-877-846-3465)  
[www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)

For information or assistance call:  
Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy  
732-431-6459

# Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office

## Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy



**CHRISTOPHER J. GRAMICCIONI**  
**ACTING PROSECUTOR**

Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office  
Victim-Witness Advocacy Unit  
132 Jerseyville Avenue  
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732-431-6459

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## YOUR RIGHTS AS A CRIME VICTIM:

### The Victims' Rights Amendment NJ Constitution Article 1, Paragraph 22 (Effective December 5, 1991)

“A victim of crime shall be treated with fairness, compassion and respect by the criminal justice system. A victim of a crime shall not be denied the right to be present at public judicial proceedings except when, prior to completing testimony, as a witness, the victim is properly sequestered in accordance with law or the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey. A victim of a crime shall be entitled to those rights and remedies as may be provided by the Legislature. For the purpose of this paragraph, victim of a crime means: a). A person who has suffered physical or psychological injury or has incurred loss of or damage to personal or real property as a result of a crime or an incident involving another person operating a motor vehicle while under the influence or drugs or alcohol; and b). the spouse, parent, legal guardian, grandparent, child or sibling or the decedent in the case of a criminal homicide.

The Constitutional Amendment is supported by both a Crime Victims Bill of Rights and a Drunk Driving Victims Bill of Rights.

### New Jersey Crime Victim's Bill of Rights N.J.S.A. 52:4B – 36 (Amended October 6, 2012)

#### 1.

- a. To be treated with dignity and compassion by the Criminal Justice System;
- b. To be informed about the Criminal Justice process;
- c. To be free from intimidation, harassment or abuse by any person including the defendant or any other person acting in support of or on behalf of the defendant, due to the involvement of the victim or witness in the criminal justice process;
- d. To have inconveniences associated with participation in the justice process minimized;
- e. To make at least one telephone call provided the call is reasonable in length and location;
- f. To medical assistance reasonably related to the incident;
- g. To be notified in a timely manner, if practicable, if presence in court is not needed or if any scheduled court proceeding has been adjourned or cancelled;
- h. To be informed about available remedies, financial assistance and social services;
- i. To be compensated for loss sustained by the victim whenever possible;
- j. To be provided a secure but not necessarily separate, waiting area during court proceedings;
- k. To be advised of case progress and final disposition and to confer with the prosecutor's representative so that the victim may be kept adequately informed;
- l. To the prompt return of property when no longer needed as evidence;
- m. To submit a written statement, within a reasonable amount of time, about the impact of the crime to a representative of the prosecuting agency which shall be considered prior to the prosecutor's final decision concerning whether formal criminal charges will be filed, whether the prosecutor will consent to a request by the defendant to enter into a pre-trial program, and whether the prosecutor will make or agree to a negotiated plea;
- n. To make, prior to sentencing, an in-person statement directly to the sentencing court;

o. To have the opportunity to consult with the prosecuting authority prior to the conclusion of any plea negotiations, and to have the prosecutor advise the court of the consultation and the victim's position regarding the plea agreement, provided however that nothing herein shall be construed to alter or limit the authority or discretion of the prosecutor to enter into any plea agreement which the prosecutor deems appropriate.

p. To be present at any judicial proceeding involving a crime or any juvenile proceeding involving a criminal offense except as otherwise provided by Article I, paragraph 22 of the New Jersey Constitution;

q. To be notified of any release of escape of the defendant;

r. To appear in any court before which a proceeding implicating the rights of the victim is being held, with standing to file a motion or present argument on a motion filed to enforce any right conferred herein or by Article I, paragraph 22 of the New Jersey Constitution, and to receive an adjudicative decision by the court on any such motion.

#### 2.

a. A victim's survivor may, at the time of making the in-person statement to the sentencing court authorized by subsection. n. section 3 of P.L. 1985, c.249 (C.52:4B-36), display directly to the sentencing court a photograph of the victim taken before the homicide including, but not limited to, a still photograph, a computer generated presentation, or a video presentation of the victim. The time, length and content of such presentation shall be within the sound discretion of the sentencing judge.

b. A victim's survivor may, during any judicial proceeding involving the defendant, wear a button not exceeding four inches in diameter that contains a picture of the victim, if the court determines that the wearing of such button will not deprive the defendant of his right to a fair trial under the Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I of the New Jersey Constitution. Other spectators at such judicial proceedings may also wear similar buttons if the court so determines. If the victim's survivor seeks to wear the button at trial, the victim's survivor shall give notice to the defendant and to the court no less than 30 days prior to the final trial date.