

VICTIM SERVICES



R.J. Larizza
State Attorney
7th Judicial Circuit

I believe that victims of crime should be treated with dignity and respect. Your assistance and cooperation is crucial to the successful prosecution of crime. Florida law entitles you to certain basic rights. This pamphlet will help you to understand your rights and some of the services available to victims of crimes in this circuit.

R.J. Larizza, State Attorney

As a crime victim, you are entitled to certain rights as provided by the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida. You are entitled to:

- Be informed of protection available for victims or witnesses from intimidation by the accused, his/her family or friends.
- Notification of the arrest, release and/or escape of the accused.
- Be informed about your role as the victim/witness in a criminal or juvenile case.
- Be physically present and heard at all crucial stages of court proceedings.
- Receive advanced notice of all court proceedings.
- Be notified of any schedule changes.
- Have a victim advocate present during depositions and court hearings.
- Consult with the prosecutor regarding disposition of the case in which you are a victim.

- The prompt and timely disposition of the case, while also protecting the defendant's constitutional rights.
- Notification to your employer regarding your required appearance at court proceedings and explanation to creditors of serious financial deficiencies caused by your victimization.
- Review the pre-sentence investigation report.
- Speak or submit a written statement at sentencing.
- Request in sex offenses, under certain circumstances, that the court order the accused to undergo HIV testing regardless of whether the offense involves the transmission of bodily fluids (whenever the victim is under the age of 18 or is a disabled adult or elderly person).

Your State Attorney has established a Victim's Advocate Program to assist you through the criminal justice process. The victim's advocate staff can provide you with the following services:

- Information about the criminal justice system and victim's rights.
- Orientation of courthouse facilities and accompaniment to legal proceedings.
- Case status updates.
- Crisis intervention and referral.
- Information concerning community and State services.
- Assistance in filing claims under the Florida Crimes Compensation Law.
- Assistance in obtaining the return of your property.
- Provide domestic violence victims with information regarding address confidentiality program.

For information or assistance, call the office nearest you:

Volusia	(386) 239-7710
Toll Free	(888) 502-5668
Flagler	(386) 313-4300
St. Johns	(904) 209-1620
Putnam	(386) 329-0259