

VICTIMS AND WITNESSES HAVE RIGHTS!

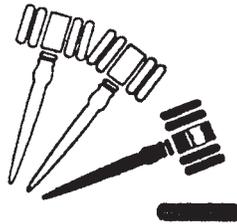
- ❖ The right to apply for financial assistance for losses resulting from a violent crime. Assistance does not cover property losses. For application and information call (651) 201-7300 or toll free 1-888-622-8799.
- ❖ The right to ask the prosecutor to make a demand for a speedy trial.
- ❖ The right to be notified of the content of any plea agreement recommendation, including the amount of jail time recommended.
- ❖ The right to be present at the hearing at which the plea agreement is presented to the court. You have the right to object, either orally or in writing, to the plea agreement or proposed disposition. The prosecutor is required to communicate to the court any objection made by the victim.
- ❖ The right to have input in a pre-trial diversion program decision (for victims of specified violent crimes).
- ❖ The right to a safe waiting area, separate from the defendant during court.
- ❖ The right to not give your home or work address in open court unless the judge finds that this is necessary.
- ❖ The right to take time off from work to testify without your employer disciplining you.
- ❖ The right to request the court to order the defendant to pay for the actual loss you suffered (restitution). You have a right to ask the offender's probation officer to request a probation review hearing if the offender fails to pay the restitution as ordered.
- ❖ The right to know when the offender is released from custody or transferred to a minimum security setting, or if the offender's custody status is reduced. You must request this in writing and send the request to the Commissioner of Corrections or to the head of the facility where the offender is confined.

provided by
the office of

**Ron
Hocevar**

SCOTT COUNTY ATTORNEY

Form #321-B



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VICTIMS AND WITNESSES HAVE RIGHTS!

(Continued)

- ❖ Victims of A VIOLENT CRIME may ask the prosecutor to request the court to order the convicted offender to submit to testing for the virus that causes AIDS. Test results are available, on request, to the victim or his/her parent or guardian. This is a right that is available ONLY IF certain conditions occurred during the crime. Your victim advocate or prosecutor can explain these to you.
- ❖ Victims of domestic assault and harassment have a right to receive notification from the prosecutor if a decision is made not to prosecute, or if charges against the defendant are dismissed. If charges are dismissed, a record must be made of the specific reason for the dismissal. The prosecutor shall inform the victim as to how to obtain an order for protection, which can be obtained free of charge, or contact the Court Administrator (952) 496-8200 or Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women (952) 873-4214 for further information on obtaining an order for protection.
- ❖ Tampering with a witness is a crime. If you are threatened, call local law enforcement immediately, and notify the prosecuting attorney.
- ❖ If you feel your rights as a victim have been violated, call the Crime Victim Justice Unit at (651) 201-7300, ext. 3.

VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

*The Scott County Attorney's Office has developed a Victim/Witness Assistance Program to better serve the needs of people who are victimized by crime. The goal of this program is to aid you in understanding the criminal justice process and inform you that if you are the victim of a crime, **YOU HAVE RIGHTS**. For further information about our program, you should call (952) 496-8240.*

Ron Hocevar
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