

## Protection from Intimidation

Any victim or witness who is subjected to intimidation harassment or retaliation should promptly notify the Prosecutor handling the case for information on potential remedies for protection. If you are in immediate danger call 911 or a local law enforcement agency.

## Crime Victim Compensation

An application for Crime Victim Compensation is available from the Kentucky Crime Victims Compensation Board. To obtain a form or for additional information the Board may be contacted at (502) 573-2290 or (800) 469-2120. Applications, answers to questions or any other information can be found at [www.cvcb.ky.gov](http://www.cvcb.ky.gov).

## Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)

For information and notifications regarding currently incarcerated offenders or notifications regarding upcoming court events you may register by calling the Office of Victims Services at (800) 511-1670 or online at [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com) or [www.corrections.ky.gov](http://www.corrections.ky.gov).

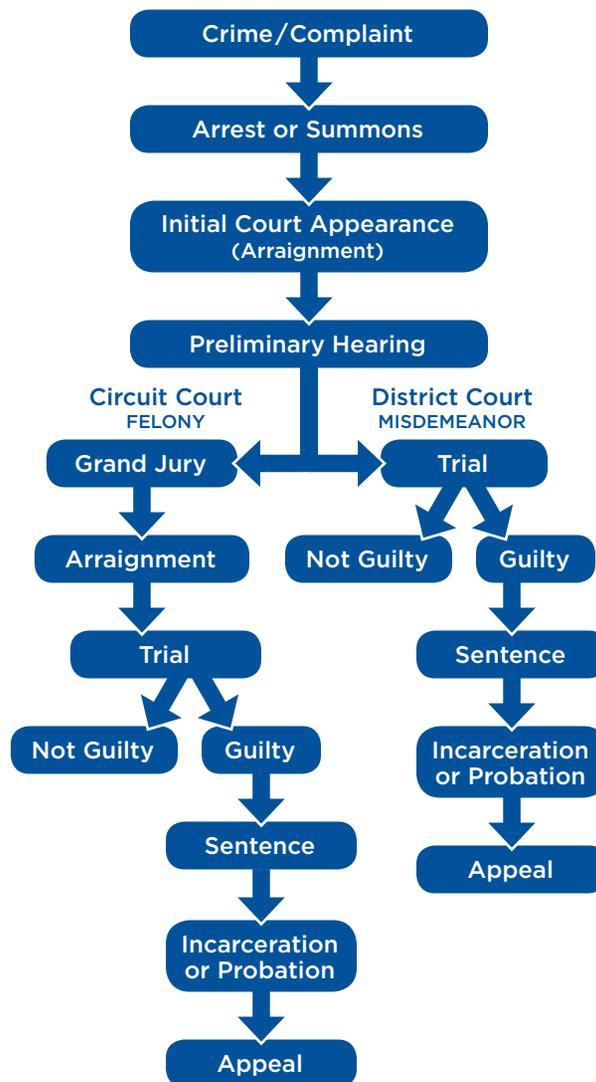
## Sex Offender Registry/Alert Line

Up-to-date information regarding the release of registered sex offenders into local communities is available by calling (866) 564-5652 or by visiting online at [kspor.state.ky.us](http://kspor.state.ky.us).

## Parole Victim Services

Parole Victim Services staff members are responsible for notifying victims of upcoming parole hearings, processing victim impact statements, scheduling hearings and assisting victims in general ways. More information (800) 221-5991 or (502) 564-3620 or at [justice.ky.gov/Pages/Parole-Board.aspx](http://justice.ky.gov/Pages/Parole-Board.aspx).

## VICTIMS HAVE RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE CRIMINAL PROCESS



## Victims Rights

Serving Victims  
Building Trust  
Restoring Hope

OFFICE OF VICTIMS ADVOCACY  
(502) 696-5312 or (800) 372-2551



We are here to support you.  
You are not alone.

**Andy Beshear**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Office of the Attorney General does not discriminate on the basis of protected classes: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, age, disability, veteran status, or genetic information in employment or in the provision of services and provides upon request, reasonable accommodation necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities.

## Prosecutor’s Role

The Commonwealth’s Attorney prosecutes all felony crimes, committed by persons 18 years of age or older, which occur in the judicial circuit of that prosecutor. In some specific instances, they can also prosecute juveniles charged with felony cases. Commonwealth’s Attorneys are also responsible for presenting evidence of such crimes to the Grand Jury (KRS 15.725).

The County Attorney prosecutes all violations of criminal laws, except KRS 131, within the jurisdiction of the District Court and all proceedings under KRS 610, (Unified Juvenile Code), which occur in the county of that prosecutor. These cases include felony crimes through preliminary hearing, misdemeanor crimes, juvenile crimes, and dependency, neglect, and abuse cases.

Both Commonwealth’s Attorneys as well as County Attorneys represent the Commonwealth, not the crime victim.

## Defense Attorney’s Role

The Constitutions of the United States and Kentucky require that all persons accused of a crime have a fair trial. The role of the defense attorney is to provide representation for an accused person and protect their right to a fair trial. The Defendant, or his attorney has the right to question all witnesses at trial or in other Court proceedings (except a Grand Jury). A victim or witness is not required to discuss the crime outside of court unless served with a Court Order.

## Attorney General’s Role

To provide, where possible, notification to the victim of the Defendant’s initial appeal, status of the case and the decision of the appellate court, if a defendant seeks appellate review of a conviction and the Commonwealth is represented by the Attorney General.

## Victims of Crime Have Certain Rights:

### Prosecutors shall insure that victims/witnesses receive available information regarding:

- ◆ Protective, emergency, social and medical services;
- ◆ Obtaining assistance from a victim advocate;
- ◆ Community-based treatment programs and;
- ◆ Where applicable, restitution and crime victim compensation.
- ◆ Registration and notification of when a person has been released from a prison, jail, juvenile detention facility, psychiatric facility or under limited circumstances, a forensic psychiatric facility;
- ◆ How to be protected from intimidation, harassment, or retaliation; and
- ◆ The Victim, Witness and Family Protection Program.

### Victims/Witnesses Shall Receive Notification regarding:

- ◆ Defendant’s release on bond and any special conditions of release;
- ◆ Charges filed against the Defendant;
- ◆ The Defendant’s pleading to the charges;
- ◆ Trial date (including any changes);
- ◆ Trial verdict;
- ◆ A scheduled hearing for Shock Probation or bail pending appeal and any resulting orders;
- ◆ Changes in custody of the Defendant;
- ◆ Sentencing date, and any Parole Board hearings held for the Defendant.

### Prosecutors shall :

- ◆ Make reasonable efforts to insure that victims and witnesses who are required to attend criminal justice proceedings are notified promptly of any scheduled changes that affect their appearances;
- ◆ Notify the victim that upon conviction of the Defendant that he/she has the right to submit a written impact statement; and
- ◆ Make reasonable efforts to insure that victims receive prompt notification that the Attorney General will notify the victim if an appeal of the convictions is pursued by the Defendant;
- ◆ Promptly return victim’s property held for evidentiary purposes unless there is a compelling reason for retaining it;
- ◆ Provide information on obtaining protection from harm and threats of harm arising out of cooperation with law enforcement and prosecution efforts; and
- ◆ Upon request by a victim or witness, assist in informing employers that the need for victim or witness cooperation in the prosecution of the case may necessitate absences from work.

### Prosecutors shall consult with Victims on the case disposition including:

- ◆ Case dismissal;
- ◆ Release of the Defendant, pending Judicial proceedings;
- ◆ Any conditions of release;
- ◆ A negotiated plea; or
- ◆ Defendant’s entry into a Pre-trial Diversion Program.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Kentucky Assoc. of Sexual Assault Programs**  
1-866-375-2727 or 502-226-2704

**Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence**  
502-209-5382

**Kentucky Assoc. of Children’s Advocacy Centers**  
859-699-1191

**Kentucky MADD**  
502-871-4210

**Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky**  
1-800-244-5373 or 859-225-8879

**Cabinet for Health and Family Services Ombudsman**  
1-800-372-2973 or 502-564-5497

*This project is supported by a National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Community Awareness Project sub-grant awarded by the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators under a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.*