

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 contact a local law enforcement agency.

Crime Victim Compensation

The Crime Victims Compensation Board may reimburse innocent victims of crime for certain expenses, including medical and/or psychological expenses, loss of income, and funeral expenses. To learn more, contact the Board at (502) 573-2290 or (800) 469-2120. You may also visit cvcb.ky.gov.

Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)

The VINE system provides, upon request, information on the status, location, parole eligibility, housing location, and release of an inmate, including juvenile violent offenders. You may register by calling 800-511-1670 or online at www.vinelink.com or www.corrections.ky.gov.

Sex Offender Registry/Alerts

Updated information regarding the release of registered sex offenders is available by calling (866) 564-5652 or visit kspr.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 many other ways. For more information, call (800) 221-5991 or (502) 564-3620 or visit justice.ky.gov/Pages/Parole-Board.aspx.

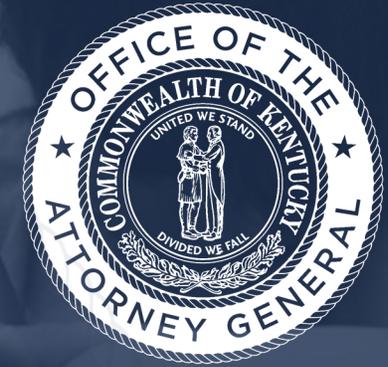
THE CRIMINAL PROCESS



The Commonwealth of Kentucky does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ancestry, age, pregnancy or related medical condition, marital or familial status, disability, veteran status, political affiliation, or genetic information in accordance with state and federal laws.

Printed in part with state funds KRS 57.375

This product was supported in part by grant number VOCA-2019-OAG-00057, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this product are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



VICTIMS' RIGHTS

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

Attorney General
DANIEL CAMERON
ag.ky.gov

RIGHTS FOR KENTUCKY CRIME VICTIMS

PURSUANT TO KRS 421.500

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 misdemeanors, proceedings under the Unified Juvenile Code, as well as dependency, neglect, and abuse actions that occur in his or her county. Some County Attorneys also handle the county's felony preliminary hearings.

The Commonwealth's and County Attorneys represent the Commonwealth in all criminal proceedings, unless a special prosecutor from the Attorney General's Office is handling the case.

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 individual accused of a crime (defendant) and to protect the rights afforded to them by the United States and Kentucky Constitutions. The defendant or his or her 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

If a defendant seeks appellate review of a case and the Attorney General's Office represents the Commonwealth, the office will, when possible, notify the victim of the initial appeal, the status of the case, and the decision of the appellate court. If a Commonwealth's or County Attorney is unable to prosecute a case due to a conflict, the Attorney General's Office of Special Prosecutions will assume prosecution of the case.

Each year, the Office of Victims Advocacy hosts the annual [Victim Assistance Conference](#). The free conference serves as a forum for victim service providers and allied professionals to share current developments and build new partnerships. Training sessions highlight practical information and emphasize a multidisciplinary approach to sharing victim-centered programs and practices. For more information, visit ag.ky.gov.

Prosecutors shall ensure that victims/witnesses receive available information regarding:

- Protective, emergency, social, and medical services;
- Obtaining assistance from a victim advocate;
- Community-based treatment programs;
- 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;
- Protection from intimidation, harassment, or retaliation;
- 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 and 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 ensure 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;
- Make reasonable efforts to ensure that victims receive prompt notification from the Attorney General if an appeal of a conviction is pursued by the defendant;
- Promptly return victims' 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;
- 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;
- Defendant's entry into a Pre-trial Diversion Program.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting Hotline**
(877) KYSAFE1 (597-2331)

Kentucky Assoc. of Sexual Assault Programs
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