

TESTIFYING

One of the basic rules in a criminal case is that both sides have the chance to question the witness. Questions asked by both attorneys have the same goal: to find out what is true.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TESTIFYING:

- Tell the truth.
- Speak clearly and loudly enough so that all can hear.
- Do not try to memorize your testimony, but prepare yourself by thinking about the answers you will give to the questions you will probably be asked.
- Dress properly and have a neat appearance.
- Listen carefully to the questions that are asked.
- Limit your testimony to the facts as you know them to be. Don't testify about what someone else told you or your opinions or feelings unless you are asked.
- Answer all questions as simply and directly as possible. If you can answer a question with a single yes or no, do so.
- Answer only the questions asked. Do not volunteer information.
- If you don't know the answer to a question, say so.
- If you don't understand or don't hear the question, asked that it be explained or repeated.
- Do not lose your temper or argue while testifying. Be courteous when responding to questions by both attorneys.
- Stop speaking immediately when a judge interrupts or an attorney objects to a question. You will be told when to continue testifying.

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
VICTIM RIGHTS COORDINATOR
201 N. SHIAWASSEE STREET
SURBECK BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR
CORUNNA, MI 48817
(989) 743-2468

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TERMS

MISDEMEANOR	Less serious crimes, punishable by a fine and/or not more than one year in jail.
DISTRICT COURT	Handles misdemeanor cases from arraignment through sentence and the first stages of felony cases.
DEFENDANT	A person charged with a crime.
WARRANT	A written document prepared by the prosecutor and approved by the District Court which authorizes the police to arrest a person accused of having committed a crime.
ARRAIGNMENT	Court hearing where the defendant is informed of the charges and can plead guilty, not guilty, or stand mute. The amount of bond, if necessary, is set by the Judge or Magistrate.
BOND/BAIL	Financial security required by the court to ensure the defendant's appearance at later court proceedings.
STAND MUTE	One of the possible pleas at arraignment, effectively a non-plea after which the court enters a not guilty plea.
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION	A hearing in a felony case where the District Court Judge decides whether there is enough evidence to believe a crime was committed by the defendant
SUBPOENA	A legal order which requires a person to appear at the time and place stated.
PRETRIAL CONFERENCE	A meeting between the attorneys to discuss possible settlement of a case and to notify the judge of the status of the case.
MOTION	Request by one of the parties for the court to decide or rule on an issue related to the case.
ADJOURNMENT	A delay in the court proceedings requested by the Judge, the defendant, or the prosecution.
PROBATION	A sentence that permits the defendant to remain in the community under the supervision of a probation officer.
PAROLE	Conditional release of a defendant from prison after the prisoner has completed the minimum (but not yet the maximum) sentence imposed by the court.

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Crime Victim Assistance



Victim Rights Notice: *The Crime Victim Rights Act requires that the court notify you of your rights as a crime victim. This notice is intended to fulfill these requirements.*

989.743.2373

Victim Rights Office: 989.743.2468
SCOTT A. KOERNER, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

201 N. SHIAWASSEE STREET
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VICTIM ASSISTANCE

As a crime victim, you may be experiencing both distress caused by the criminal act and uncertainty about the criminal process. Victim assistance is an effort to help you through this difficult time.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Providing information and aid in filing for Michigan Crime Victim Compensation.
- Making referrals to other community agencies for emergency services and additional help.
- Explaining the criminal justice system and court procedures.
- Accompanying a victim to court, upon their request.
- Helping solve difficulties with employers created by necessary court attendance.
- Assisting with return of personal property.
- Providing information about restitution.

If you, as the victim of a crime, are threatened or intimidated by the defendant or any other person in relation to court case, **CONTACT THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY**. Be sure to explain that you are a crime victim and that you have been threatened in relation to the crime.

MICHIGAN CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION FUND

If you qualify, the state fund provides financial help to victims who suffer personal injury because of a crime. Please review the Crime Victims Compensation Board brochure for conditions of eligibility and a description of what compensation may be awarded. Property losses are not covered. For more information and a claim form, contact:

CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION BOARD

PO Box 30026
Lansing, MI 48909
Or

BARBARA J. HABER-GRINNELL
Victim Rights Coordinator

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
201 N. Shiawassee Street
Surbeck Building, 2nd Floor
Corunna, MI 48817
989-743-2468

CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS – UPON YOUR REQUEST

PRE-PROSECUTION RIGHTS:

- To be notified by the police agency of emergency and medical services.
- To be informed of victims compensation benefits for physical injury and the address of the Crime Victims Compensation Board.
- To be notified of the telephone number of the police agency to call to determine if the defendant has been released from custody.
- To receive an explanation of court procedures.

RIGHTS DURING PROSECUTION:

- To have your property promptly returned, if not needed for evidence.
- To be present during the entire trial unless you are to be called as a witness.
- To be provided a separate waiting area, if one is available.
- To consult with the Prosecuting Attorney to give your views about the disposition of this crime.
- To receive the name of the person to contact within the Prosecutor's Office for information about your case.
- To receive notice of any scheduled court proceedings and any changes in that schedule.
- To confer with the Prosecuting Attorney prior to jury selection and trial.
- To receive notice if the defendant escapes custody awaiting trial.
- To receive written notice of the final disposition of your case.
- To receive the address and telephone number of the probation department preparing the pre-sentence report.
- To make an oral impact statement to the pre-sentence investigator and, if so desired, to the Court at the time of sentencing.

- To have your written impact statement included in the pre-sentence report, if one is prepared.
- To be notified of the time and place of sentencing.

POST-SENTENCE RIGHTS:

- To be notified of the location where the defendant is to be confined.
- To receive within 30 days of your request a confirmation of your request and a notice of the earliest possible release date of the defendant.
- To be notified of release or pending release of the defendant to a community residential program, extended furlough, or transfer to community status.
- To be notified of a reduction of defendant's sentence as a result of the Prison Overcrowding Emergency Powers Act.
- To be promptly notified of the defendant's escape.
- To submit a written statement to the parole board or member of the panel having authority over the defendant's release or parole.
- To be notified of hearing on reprieve, commutation, or pardon of sentence.

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE POST-SENTENCE RIGHTS, YOU MUST, IN WRITING, INFORM THE SHERIFF (IF DEFENDANT WAS JAILED) OR THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (IF DEFENDANT WAS IMPRISONED) THAT YOU WISH TO BE NOTIFIED. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP THEM ADVISED OF YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS.

APPEAL RIGHTS:

- To be notified that the defendant has filed for an appeal.
- To an explanation of the appeal process.
- To be advised if the Defendant has been released on appeal bond.
- To be notified of the time and place of appellate court proceedings.
- To be advised of the result of the appeal.