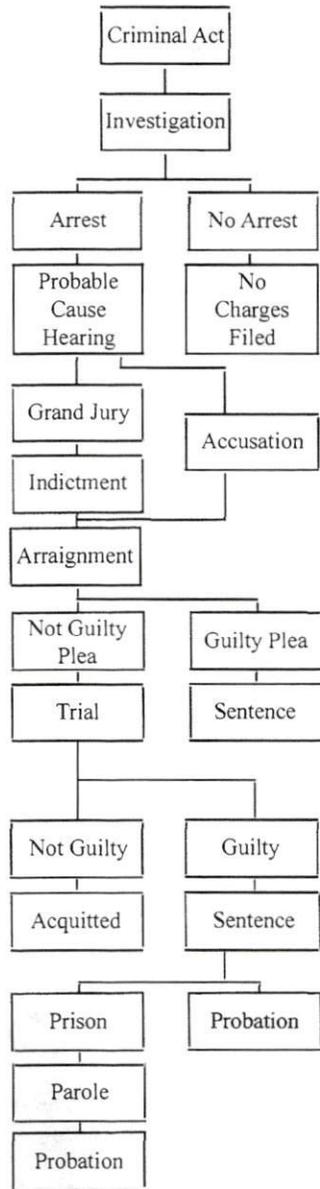


Criminal Justice Process



The Victim Witness Unit does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the delivery of program services. To report an alleged act of discrimination by this agency or its employees, please contact the District Attorney, the Cobb County Department of Human Resources or the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, or the USDOJ Office for Civil Rights. <http://www.ojp.gov/about/ocr/complaint.htm>.

Important Phone Numbers

As a victim of crime, you may be in need of additional services or information. The following list details a few of the services available in the Cobb community:

Community	General assistance to families in need: past due rent, utilities, prescriptions, food, clothing, etc.	
	Cobb Family Resources	770-438-2601
	Must Ministries	770-427-9862
	Salvation Army	770-724-1652
	Storehouse Ministries	770-428-8410
	Sweetwater Valley Camp (Austell, Clarkdale, Mableton & Powder Springs Communities)	770-819-0662
	Traveler's Aid (for new residents of Cobb - within 3 months)	770-428-1883
Court/Legal	Cobb County Jail (for bail/bond information general)	770-499-4255 770-499-4600
	Cobb Magistrate Court	770-528-8900
	Dept. of Corrections and Parole Board Victim Services	404-651-6668
	District Attorney - Victim Witness (for victims of felony crimes)	770-528-3047
	Juvenile Court	770-528-2252
	Legal Aid of Cobb County	770-528-2565
	Probation	770-528-6620
	Protective Order Officer	770-528-8024
	Solicitor General - Victim Witness (for victims of misdemeanor crimes)	770-528-8500
Special Services	Crime Victims' Advocacy Council (homicide support groups)	770-333-9254
	Crime Victims' Compensation Fund (assistance with crime related expenses)	404-657-2222
	Domestic Violence Statewide Hotline (English and Spanish)	1-800-33-HAVEN
	Latin American Association	404-638-1800
	Mother's Against Drunk Driving	1-888-833-6033
	RAKSHA, Inc.	404-876-0670
	SafePath Children's Advocacy Center (sexually and physically abused children)	770-801-3465
	liveSAFE Resources (Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services)	770-427-3390
General	Cobb Community Transit	770-427-4444
	Cobb County Health Dept.	770-514-2300
	Cobb/Douglas Mental Health	770-422-0202
	Dept. of Family & Children's Services	770-528-7683
	GA Department of Labor	770-528-6100
	Cobb Works/Workforce Development	770-528-4300
	Senior Services	770-528-5355
	Social Security Office	800-772-1213

Important Information for Victims of Crime



Office of the District Attorney
Joyette M. Holmes
Cobb Judicial Circuit
70 Haynes St., Marietta, GA 30090
770-528-3047
victimassistance@cobbcounty.org
cobdda.com

Para asistencia en español por favor llame al 770-528-3045.

VINE: Victim Information and Notification Every day

VINE is an automated service that lets you track the custody status of offenders in the county jail via phone or Internet. If the person arrested for committing the crime against you is in jail in Cobb County, please be sure to register with the VINE system to be notified of the release status of the inmate. You can register online or via telephone at www.vinelink.com or 1-800-785-VINE.

Georgia's Crime Victims Compensation Program

The State of Georgia has a program to assist victims of violent crimes with out-of-pocket, crime-related expenses. It may help compensate for medical bills, counseling expenses, funeral expenses, loss of wages or loss of economic support not covered by insurance or other sources, or the professional cleanup of a crime scene (private residences only). Certain eligibility requirements exist. Some witnesses to serious violent felonies may also qualify. Call the Compensation Program at 404-657-2222, the Victim Witness Unit or visit www.cjcc.georgia.gov for more information.

A Victim's Responsibility

Victims must provide to the law enforcement agency, prosecuting attorney and custodial authority a current address and telephone number to be notified of specific actions in a criminal case against the accused, an arrest of the accused and the accused's release from custody or any judicial proceeding wherein the release of the accused will be considered.

Please update each agency of changes to your address and/or phone number.

Failure to do so may result in the lack of notification about any step in the criminal case.

General Information for Victims of Crime (O.C.G.A. Title 17, Chapter 17)

The Georgia General Assembly declares it to be the policy of this state that victims of crimes should be accorded certain basic rights just as the accused are accorded certain basic rights. These rights include:

1. The right to reasonable, accurate and timely notice of any scheduled court proceedings or any changes to such proceedings.

2. The right to reasonable, accurate and timely notice of the arrest, release or escape of accused.
3. The right not to be excluded from any scheduled court proceedings, except as provided in this chapter or as otherwise required by law.
4. The right to be heard at any scheduled court proceedings involving the release, plea or sentencing of the accused.
5. The right to file a written objection in any parole proceedings involving the accused.
6. The right to confer with the prosecuting attorney in any criminal prosecution related to the victim.
7. The right to restitution and compensation as provided by law and when applicable.
8. The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.
9. The right to be treated fairly and with dignity by all criminal justice agencies involved in the case.

Additionally, O.C.G.A. § 17-17-8. 1(a) allows the victim certain rights related to defense attorney interviews:

- ◇ As the victim of a crime, you have the right to agree or refuse to be interviewed by the accused, the accused's attorney or anyone who represents or contacts you on behalf of the accused in this case.
- ◇ If you agree to be interviewed, you may set conditions for the interview such as the time, date and location of the interview, who may be present, any security arrangements for the interview and whether or not the interview may be recorded. You also have the right to terminate the interview at any time or to refuse to answer any question(s) during the interview.

If My Rights Have Been Violated:

O.C.G.A. 17-17-15 allows a victim to file a motion to be heard in a criminal matter under certain circumstances. For specific details regarding the filing of this motion, please see the referenced code section.

Property Taken During Investigation by Law Enforcement

As provided by O.C.G.A. §17-5-50, in the event your property was taken during the course of the investigation, you may make application for the return of that property. Please note that some property may be needed for trial purposes and therefore may not be released to you at this time.

The Criminal Justice Process

The court process can be time-consuming and confusing. The Victim Witness Unit provides services to help victims through the system by:

- ▶ Explaining the steps of the court process; providing the victim with notice of hearings and status updates on the progression of the case.
- ▶ Assistance in completing restitution and compensation paperwork.
- ▶ Assisting in preparing victims for court appearances and providing orientation and accompaniment when necessary.
- ▶ Matching the victim needs with available community services and resources.
- ▶ Assisting in the return of the victim's property from police or court evidence, when allowed.
- ▶ Interceding with employers and creditors when necessary.
- ▶ Providing a place for victims to wait before testifying.
- ▶ Coordinating an on-call system for court appearances to aid victims and witnesses in avoiding lengthy absences from work.
- ▶ Helping the victim if they feel intimidated, harassed or afraid.
- ▶ Providing supportive counseling and being an understanding, caring listener.

The District Attorney's Office will continue the task of keeping our communities safe. We will also collaborate with organizations in the community who are committed to being proactive in the fight against crime and those willing to be a resource when appropriate. Please do not hesitate to contact the Victim Witness Unit should you need assistance or have questions.



Joyette M. Holmes
District Attorney
Cobb Judicial Circuit