

The Office of Victim Services (OVS), Connecticut Judicial Branch, offers many types of support to crime victims and their families. It has **Victim Services Advocates** to help crime victims with criminal justice system procedures. Advocates also reassure crime victims and refer them to resources that may reduce the trauma associated with crime.

Advocates provide information about:

- the criminal justice system
- victim rights
- a specific case
- other victim services

Advocates may assist victims by:

- providing an escort to court
- advocating for them during court procedures

Advocates may help with:

- getting property back
- obtaining restitution
- social service referrals
- writing a victim impact statement

Other help available from the Office of Victim Services includes **notification** about the convicted person's status, and **financial compensation**.

Call **1-800-822-8428** toll-free.
Outside of CT: **(860) 747-3994**
Office hours are 8:30 a.m.
to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Talking with people outside the courtroom:

Crime victims are the State's primary witnesses. The **prosecutor** represents the State's interests. Victims are important to the prosecutor's case. Assistant state's attorneys also work with crime victims.

Others may try to contact victims to get information. There is **no obligation** to talk to the defendant, defense counsel or defense investigators. It is your choice. The victim should ask what office each person represents, and their name. Victims and family members also have **no obligation** to communicate with media representatives. Call your local victim advocate or OVS (1-800-822-8428) if you have questions.

Guidelines for Court Testimony

Very few crime victims are asked to testify in court. Here are some helpful tips if you testify:

- be prepared to wait
- always tell the truth
- stop speaking when someone says "objection"
- keep calm
- if a question is unclear, say so
- do not volunteer extra information
- speak clearly and loudly so the juror farthest away can hear
- dress neatly
- be polite

SPECIFIC CASE INFORMATION -
for Victims and Family Members

State vs. _____

Docket number: _____

File number: _____

Prosecutor's name and number: _____

Victim Services Advocate's name and number:

Notes:

VICTIM SERVICES
ADVOCATES

OFFICE
OF
VICTIM
SERVICES

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

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