

VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

We want to provide you with a better understanding of how the federal criminal justice system works. Included is a description of your rights under federal law plus information and resources available to you as a victim of a federal crime.

THE INVESTIGATION

During the investigation you will be kept informed of the status of your case, if you so request. A federal investigation can be both complex and lengthy, and can involve several federal and local agencies. Your interests are important to us, as is your cooperation and assistance with your case: you have a vital role in the case and the criminal justice system. Your case agent will remain your principal contact throughout the process. We encourage you to contact him or her if you have any questions.

VICTIM INFORMATION

As federal law enforcement professionals, we are concerned about reactions often experienced by victims of crime. We know that most people have at least some reaction to having been involved in a crime---anger, confusion and fear are some of those responses. Other physical and emotional reactions include:

Physical: shock, lack of energy, eating or sleeping difficulties, nausea, anxiety, sweating, rapid breathing, muscle tension, increased heart rate, headaches, nightmares.

Emotional: disbelief, shame, denial, depression, questioning of faith, sorrow, feeling powerless.

These reactions are normal and will eventually pass. However, help is available. If you are having difficulty, your case agent can provide information and referrals. Information is available online at: victims.doi.gov, www.ncvc.org, www.trynova.org and many other websites.

IF YOU ARE INJURED

If you cannot pay the cost of your medical bills, the Crime Victim Compensation Fund may be able to assist. For information contact your case agent or visit www.crimevictims.gov. Also, if someone is prosecuted in your case, before passing sentence the judge will consider restitution. Restitution is a court-ordered payment paid to you by the offender for out-of-pocket expenses caused by the crime.

IF YOU ARE THREATENED OR HARRASSED

If you are being threatened or harassed because of your cooperation with this investigation, contact your case agent immediately to discuss protective measures.

IF PROPERTY WAS STOLEN

We hope to recover property and if so, we will make every effort to see that it is returned to you as quickly as possible. In cases where the property is needed as evidence, it will be safeguarded until released for return. Restitution may also be ordered for property not recovered or in need of repair.

IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your name, address, social security number, bank or credit card account number or other personal information without your knowledge to open accounts, commit fraud or other crimes. If you are a victim of identity theft, take the following steps as soon as possible:

1. Place a fraud alert on your credit reports and review your credit reports.
2. Close the accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
3. File a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.
4. File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.

Keep a record with the details of your conversations and copies of correspondence.

Resources include www.IDTHEFT.gov , 1-887-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338).

and:

Identity Theft Resource Center
A Nonprofit Organization
PO Box 26833, San Diego, CA 92196
(858) 693-7935 Email: itrc@idtheftcenter.org

Additional General Resources:

victims.doi.gov
www.ncvc.org
www.trynova.org

YOUR RIGHTS AS A FEDERAL CRIME VICTIM

As a federal crime victim, you have the following rights:

- ◇ The right to be reasonably protected from the accused.
- ◇ The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding, or any parole proceeding, involving the crime or of any release or escape of the accused.
- ◇ The right to attend public court proceedings, unless the court, after receiving clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding.
- ◇ The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, [or] sentencing, or any parole proceeding.
- ◇ The right to confer with the attorney for the government in the case.
- ◇ The right to full and timely restitution as provided in law.
- ◇ The right to proceeding free from unreasonable delay.
- ◇ The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

CASE AGENT

(Name)

(Bureau/Office)

(Telephone Number)

(Report Number)

(Offender's Name, if known)

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

(Name)

(Telephone Number)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information for Victims of Crimes



victims.doi.gov

U.S. Department of the Interior
Victim Assistance Program

1849 "C" St., NW
Mail Stop 7354
Washington, DC 20240

Phone: 1-877-246-1373
Fax: 202-208-3421

Email:
DOI_Watch_Office@ios.doi.gov