

If an Arrest Is Made

Every effort will be made to notify you if a suspect is apprehended. If criminal charges are filed and a determination is made to go forward with a case, you will be contacted by the U.S. Attorney's Office assigned to handle your case. Each U.S. Attorney's Office has a Victim/Witness Coordinator to help answer your questions and deal with your concerns.

Limited Confidentiality Statement

The ATF Victim/Witness Coordinator is here to assist you as you go through the criminal justice process. However, you should know that they work as part of a team with the ATF Agent and personnel from the U.S. Attorney's Office. Discussions that you have with a Victim/Witness Coordinator may not be considered completely confidential. As part of the team, there are times when they may need to share information you provide with the other team members. This is especially important if you share information regarding your safety, a medical emergency, when the information relates to child abuse and/or when the nondisclosure of the information could interfere with the investigation or prosecution of the case.

Emotional Impact

Many victims and witnesses are emotionally affected by crime. While everyone reacts differently, many victims and witnesses report some type of trauma. Everyone copes with emergencies and tragedy differently. There is no time limit to how long the trauma may last; many people continue to be affected long after the incident. Some common reactions may include:

- Anger
- Panic or anxiety
- Increased concern for personal safety and that of loved ones
- Nightmares, sleep disturbance
- Depression, feeling overwhelmed
- Self doubt, shame and guilt
- Continuously reliving the incident, flashbacks



Remember, your interests are important to us. If you have any questions we encourage you to contact the ATF Victim/Witness Coordinator listed below. They are here to help provide you with referrals and practical assistance.

Cut here ✂

Important Contact Numbers

ATF Victim/Witness Coordinator:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

ATF Special Agent:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Investigation Case Number: _____

U.S. Attorney Office Victim/Witness Coordinator:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Victim Compensation:

Phone: _____

Website: www.nacvcb.org/progdir.html

Emergency Phone Numbers:

ATF Victim/Witness Assistance Program



Victim/Witness Assistance Program

Introduction

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is responsible for investigating and reducing Federal crimes involving firearms and explosives, acts of arson, and illegal trafficking of alcohol and tobacco products. Part of ATF's work involves providing information and assistance to victims of those crimes. Crime can have a devastating effect on victims and their families who maybe in need of help to cope with the impact of victimization. ATF Victim/Witness Coordinators are available to assist you and coordinate with other agencies in providing you with the support, information, and resources that can effectively meet your needs.



A Federal investigation can be both complex and lengthy. It may involve several agencies, some Federal and some local. This brochure provides information to help you deal with the needs and questions that often arise during an investigation. It describes your rights under Federal law and the types of services that may be available to you. Please contact your ATF Victim/Witness Coordinator if you have any questions.

Crime Victim Rights:

ATF Victim/Witness Coordinators and Agents will make their best efforts to ensure you are afforded the rights described below. Most of these rights pertain to events occurring after the indictment of an individual for the crime, and it will be the responsibility of the prosecuting U.S. Attorney's Office to ensure you are afforded those rights.



Crime Victim Rights under Federal Law 18 United States Code, Section 3771:

- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused.
- The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding, involving the crime or of any release or escape of the accused.
- The right not to be excluded from any such public court proceeding, unless the court, after reviewing clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at the proceeding.
- The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving the release, plea, 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 by law.
- The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.
- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.

If You Are Threatened or Harassed

Your safety is paramount. If anyone threatens you or you feel that you are being harassed because of your cooperation with this investigation, there are available remedies. If you are in imminent danger, contact your local law enforcement agency immediately. Also, you should contact your ATF Victim/Witness Coordinator or the Case Agent and inform them of the situation. There are penalties for harassment and other threats; therefore, it is important that you report any incident as soon as possible.

If You Need Financial Help or Support Services

All states have crime victims compensation programs that help cover some expenses resulting from violent crimes. Your state program may pay for medical and mental health care costs, lost wages and support, and funeral and burial expenses not covered by insurance or other benefits. Your ATF Victim/Witness Coordinator may be able to provide assistance in working with employers and creditors. In addition, they can refer you to other types of programs and services, such as emergency housing, counseling, support groups, and credit counseling. If the offender is convicted or pleads guilty, the court may order payment by the offender, called restitution, which may help cover expenses and losses caused by your victimization.

If Your Property Was Stolen or Held As Evidence

If your property was stolen, we hope to recover it as part of our investigation and return it as soon as possible. If your property is held as evidence, we will notify you, and make every effort to see that it is returned to you as quickly as possible when it is no longer needed as evidence.