
A Victim's Responsibility

Victims must provide a current address and telephone number to:

The law enforcement agency
Prosecuting attorney
Custodial authority

In order 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 proceedings wherein the release of the accused will be considered.

PLEASE UPDATE EACH AGENCY WITH CHANGES TO YOUR ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE NUMBER.

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

GEORGIA'S VICTIM 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 or visit <http://cjcc.georgia.gov>

Important 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:

Cobb County Jail Bonding:
770-499-4255

Cobb Magistrate Court:
770-528-8900

Dept. of Corrections and Parole Board Victim Services:
404-651-6668

District Attorney- Victim Witness
(for victim of felony crimes) 770-528-3047

Legal Aid of Cobb County:
770-528-2565

Protective Order Office:
770-528-8024

Solicitor General- Victim Witness
(for victims of misdemeanor crimes):
770-528-8500

Crime Victims' Compensation Fund: 404-657-2222

Domestic Violence Statewide Hotline:
1-800-33-HAVEN

SafePath Children's Advocacy Center:
770-801-3465

liveSAFE Resources:
770-427-3390

Acworth Police Department:
770-974-1232



ACWORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

G. Wayne Dennard, Jr.
Chief of Police

4440 Acworth Industrial Dr. Acworth, GA 30101
Telephone: (770) 974-1232
www.acworthpolice.org

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 the 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;



If you have any questions, please call the Cobb County Victim Witness Unit: 770-528-3047 and ask for the advocate assigned to your case.

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;

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



O.C.G.A. 17-17-8.1 (a) allows the victim certain rights related to defense attorney interviews.

1. 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.
2. 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 interviews.

3. The right to file a written objection in any parole proceedings involving the accused;
4. The right to confer with the prosecuting attorney in any criminal prosecution related to the victim;
5. The right to restitution and compensation as provided by law and when applicable;
6. The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay; and
7. The right to be treated fairly and with dignity by all criminal justice agencies involved in the case.

VINE

VINE is an automated service that lets you track the custody status of offenders in jail via the phone or the 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 status of the inmate. You can register online:

www.vinelink.com