

Will I have to testify?

If the case goes to trial, you may need to testify. If you are required to testify you will be contacted by the prosecution team. You will be able to meet with the prosecutor and the victim witness specialist prior to your appearance in court. Logistical information and assistance will be provided to you at that time.

What do I need to know about restitution?

Restitution can be part of a sentence that requires the defendant to "make amends" to their victim(s) for loss, damage, or injury resulting from the crime.

Victim Impact Statement

If the defendant has been convicted, you will have the opportunity to provide a victim impact statement at a sentencing hearing.

If you have any questions, your Victim Witness Specialist will be able to assist you.

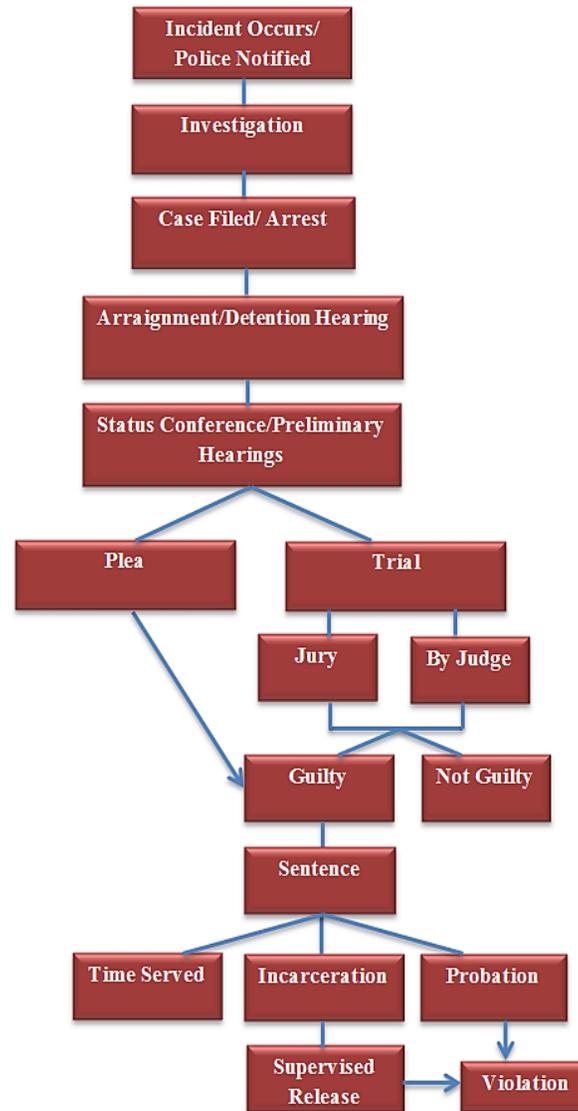
Victim Witness Specialist:

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Criminal Justice Process



John Joseph Moakley Federal Courthouse
1 Courthouse Way, Suite 9200
Boston, Massachusetts 02210
617-748-3100
<http://www.justice.gov/usao/ma/>

Information for Federal Crime Victims



The United States Attorney's Office is committed to ensuring the rights of federal crime victims while treating them with fairness and respect. This brochure provides victims of federal crime with general information about victim rights, services, and available support. For additional information, contact the victim witness assistance staff.

How can the Victim Witness Assistance staff help me?

The Victim Witness Assistance staff can provide you with information about:

- The status of the case
- Notifications to employers if cooperation in the prosecution of the crime causes absence from work
- Opportunities to provide victim impact statements, and to be reasonably heard
- The restitution process
- Accompaniment to federal court
- Referrals to community-based services

Who is a federal crime victim?

- A federal crime victim is a person who has been directly and proximately harmed (physically, emotionally, or financially) as a result of the commission of a federal offense.
- If a crime victim is under 18 years old, incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased, the legal guardians, representatives of the crime victim's estate, family members, or other persons appointed by the court, may assume the crime victim's rights.

Federal crime victims have the following rights: (18 U.S.C. § 3371)

- Be reasonably protected from the accused
- Be notified of public court and parole proceedings
- Not to be excluded from public court proceedings
- Be reasonably heard at public proceedings
- Confer with the attorney for the Government
- The right to full and timely restitution
- Proceedings free from unreasonable delay
- Be treated with fairness and respect

If you believe that you have not received the rights above, you have the right to file a complaint. Please visit our website for more information.

<http://justice.gov/usao/ma/vwa/VROComplaintFormMA.pdf>

What should I know about the prosecution process?

- In general, the length of time between charges being filed and sentencing exceeds one year.
- You will be notified about court proceedings relating to the case.
- The majority of cases are not resolved by trial; most defendants choose to plead guilty.
- The defendant may decide to plead guilty at any time after charges are filed.
- If the defendant does not plead guilty, your case will go to trial.

What if I am harassed?

- If you are a victim or witness in a federal case and you are threatened or harassed because of your cooperation in the case, remedies are available.
- If the situation is immediate, call 911 for assistance.
- You should report threats or harassment to the federal investigative agent or agency with whom you have had prior contact.
- It is important to report incidences of harassment or threats as soon as possible.