



U.S. Department of Justice

William D. Weinreb
Acting United States Attorney
District of Massachusetts

Main Reception: (617) 748-3100

John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse
1 Courthouse Way, Suite 9200
Boston, Massachusetts 02210

Identification of Potential Victims

What Information Should I Provide?

If you believe you have suffered direct or proximate harm as the result of the charged conduct in the federal criminal case, provide in writing the information listed on the Potential Victim Information Sheet. If you claim a financial loss, you must provide written documentation showing the amount of the costs you incurred.

Where Do I Get the Potential Victim Identification Sheet?

It is located on the U.S. Attorney's Office website www.justice.gov/usao/ma/news.html Under Press Highlights on the News page. You may also link to it from the U.S. Department of Justice website www.justice.gov/largecases. Click on the case name. If you do not have access to a computer, call 617-748-3140 and ask for a copy to be mailed to you.

Where Do I Send My Information?

Return it by email, mail or fax to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Boston.

Email: USAMA.victimassistance@usdoj.gov.

Fax: 617-748-3951

Mailing Address: U.S. Attorney's Office
1 Courthouse Way, Suite 9200
Boston, MA 02210
Attn: VW Unit – KG

What Will Be Done With the Information I Submit?

The information you provided will be reviewed by the prosecution team (Assistant U.S. Attorneys, FBI case agent) to determine if the harm incurred is related to the charged conduct of the defendant. If it is, you will be designated as a victim of the crime and you may be eligible for restitution from the defendant. Your loss information, and victim impact statement if you submit one, will be shared with the defendant's attorney and the sentencing judge. The U.S. Attorney's Office provides victim impact and loss information to the U.S. Probation Officer preparing the presentence report for the court. The U.S. Attorney's Office takes measures to prevent the disclosure of victims' personal identifying information, such as address, email, phone numbers. However, your name may become part of the public record.

If I Am Determined to Be A Victim Of This Crime, May I Be Reimbursed for Pain and Suffering?

No. Restitution in a criminal case is not allowed for general pain and suffering. If you have paid specific out of pocket costs, or incurred expenses, that information will be reviewed by the prosecution team to determine if any of those expenses are eligible for restitution.

Who Pays Restitution?

The defendant convicted of the crime may be ordered by the court to reimburse victims for certain losses. In most circumstances, the court cannot consider the defendant's ability to pay when determining the restitution amount. Therefore, if restitution is ordered by the court there is no guarantee the restitution order will be paid, or paid in full. Restitution is not paid by the government. If the court orders restitution, a defendant makes restitution payments to the U.S. District Court Clerk's Office, and that office disburses payments to the victims identified in the restitution order.

May I Attend the Sentencing Hearing?

Yes, sentencing hearings are open to the public. If you plan to attend a court hearing, it is best to contact the Victim Witness Assistance staff at the U.S. Attorney's Office prior to going to court. Scheduled court dates and times may change on short notice. If you are determined to be a victim of the crimes for which the defendant will be sentenced, you have the right to make an oral victim impact statement at sentencing.

If I Have Other Victim Assistance Questions Who Should I Contact?

Send an email to USAMA.victimassistance@usdoj.gov or call the Victim Witness Specialist assigned to this case at 617-748-3140.

The U.S. Attorney's Office cannot provide legal advice to victims.