
A VICTIM'S RESPONSIBILITY

Victims must provide a current address and telephone number to: The law enforcement agency, prosecuting attorney, and custodial authority in order to be notified.

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 including notification of specific actions 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.

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.

404-657-2222 or <http://cjcc.georgia.gov>

Important Numbers:

The following list details a few of the services available in the Cobb Community:

Cobb County Juvenile Court: 770-528-2252

Cobb Magistrate Court: 770-528-8900

Cobb County Sheriff's Office: 770-499-4600

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

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

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

Legal Aid of Cobb County: 770-528-2565

Cobb County Temporary Protective Order Office:
770-528-8024

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 24-hour Crisis Line (Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault): 770-427-3390

Please contact the Acworth Police Department and ask to speak to the Crime Victim Advocate if you have any questions or concerns.



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

ACWORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

JESSE D. EVANS, J.D.
CHIEF OF POLICE

4440 ACWORTH INDUSTRIAL DR.
ACWORTH, GA 30101
TELEPHONE: (770) 974-1232
WWW.ACWORTHPOLICE.ORG

Please contact the Acworth Police Department and ask to speak to the Crime Victim Advocate if you have any questions or concerns.

GEORGIA VICTIM BILL OF RIGHTS

(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 the arrest, release, or escape of the accused.
2. The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any scheduled court proceedings or any changes to such proceedings.
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.
5. The right to file a written objection in any parole proceedings involving the accused.
6. The right to confer with the prosecuting attorney in any criminal prosecution related to the victim.
7. The right to restitution and compensation as provided by law and when applicable.
8. The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.
9. The right to be treated fairly and with dignity by all criminal justice agencies involved in the case.

LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS

If a criminal act occurs and is reported to law enforcement, an investigation is initiated. This investigation can be conducted and concluded in multiple ways. If there is probable cause, an officer can make an arrest. If there is not probable cause, an officer cannot arrest but may suggest civil options. If there is additional investigation needed, the case will be referred to the Criminal Investigations Division (CID).

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

Temporary Protective Order (TPO)

A TPO is a legal document issued by the court to help victims obtain protection from persons abusing or stalking them. This order will generally state that one person is prohibited from having contact with another. There are three types of TPOs: Family Violence, Stalking and Dating Violence.

Cobb TPO Office: 770-528-8024

Monday- Friday 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

First come first serve, no appointments.

You must be to the office no later than 1:30PM for the best chance of seeing the Judge the same day. Please be prepared to stay a minimum of three hours.

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COURT PROCESS

The court process can be time consuming and confusing. The Cobb County Victim Witness Unit provides services to help victims if a case reaches prosecution:

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's 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 victims 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.

For questions regarding prosecution, please contact the Cobb County Victim Witness Unit

Unit

770-528-3047