



A MESSAGE FROM THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Most citizens view the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office (BCPO) as an agency devoted exclusively to the investigation and prosecution of crimes. While that is our primary purpose, we also assist those residents who may be the victim of or witness to a crime.

Our Office of Victim/Witness Advocacy (OVWA) provides support and guidance to both victims and witnesses in the criminal process. The OVWA's mission is to serve the needs of victims and witnesses and to ensure that their legal rights are preserved.

This brochure is intended to give you a brief description of some of the services that the OVWA provides. We want your experience with the BCPO and our Criminal Justice System to be the best it can be under these unfortunate circumstances, and we trust that the OVWA will provide the necessary support and resources to you.

- BERGEN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE



OFFICE OF VICTIM/WITNESS ADVOCACY

SERVICES OFFERED:

- Referrals to social service agencies and mental health services
- Orientation to the Criminal Justice System
- Notification on the status and disposition of cases
- Information and assistance with applications to the Victims of Crimes Compensation Office
- Assistance in obtaining restitution and other forms of compensation, if possible
- Assistance with property return
- Court accompaniment
- Employer, school, landlord, and creditor intercession
- Private reception and waiting areas separate from defendant, defendant's family members, defense witnesses and counsel
- Victim impact statement assistance
- Referral information on available medical testing for those victims of criminal acts involving risk of the transmission of disease

The Crime Victim's Bill of Rights is available online at:

www.state.nj.us/lps/dcj/victimwitness/bill-of-rights.htm