ISABELLA COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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Victim Services

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AS A VICTIM OF CRIME

You are not Alone

Being a Victim of crime can be a stressful experience.
The Victim Services staff is here to assist you.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

This brochure will provide a brief over-view of our court system, the criminal process and your rights. It will also explain our victim/witness services. During the prosecution of your case, please do not hesitate to call us if you need further information or assistance.

VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE

The Victim Services Staff is here to assist you by providing the following information and services during your involvement in the criminal justice process:

- Information and assistance in applying for Michigan Crime Victim Services Commission Funds.
- Referrals to other community agencies which may provide counseling or other services.
- Information about the court process and case progress. Also, staff is available to accompany victims to court.

YOUR RIGHTS

You have the following rights under Article I, Section 24 of the Michigan Constitution, Amended 1988, as well as under the Crime Victim Rights Act of 1985: Sec. 24 (1) Crime victims, as defined by law shall have the following rights, as provided by law: The right to:

- be treated with fairness and respect throughout the criminal justice process.

- a timely disposition of the case following arrest of the accused.
- be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice process.
- notification of court proceedings.
- attend trial and all other court proceedings the accused has the right to attend.
- confer with the prosecution.
- make a statement to the court at sentencing.
- restitution.
- information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, and release of the accused.

YOUR RIGHTS AFTER SENTENCING

provided only upon written request

These rights are provided to you only upon request to the Sheriff (if defendant was jailed) or the Department of Corrections (if defendant was sent to prison).

You have the right:

- to be notified of the location where the defendant is to be confined.
- to receive, within 30 days of your request, notice of the earliest release date of the defendant from jail or prison.
- to be notified of a transfer or pending transfer of defendant to a minimum security facility and the address of that facility.
- to be notified of the release or pending release of the defendant to a community residential program, extended furlough program or any transfer to community status.
- to be notified of a reduction of the defendant's sentence as a result of the Prison Overcrowding Emergency Powers Act.

- to be promptly notified of the escape of the defendant.
- to address or submit a written statement to the parole board or to a member of any panel having authority over a defendant's release on parole.
- to be notified within 14 days of the decision of a parole review.
- to be notified 90 days before the defendant's release from prison, if practical.
- to be notified of any hearing regarding a reprieve, commutation or pardon of sentence by the Governor.

Criminal Justice Terms

Adjournment - delay in the proceedings of a case , which is agreed to by the judge.

Arraignment - defendant is formally charged and can plead either guilty, not guilty or stand mute.

Bound Over - (felony case) there is a preliminary examination - if the judge finds it reasonable to believe that the defendant committed the crime, the defendant is ordered to stand trial and is bound over to Circuit Court.

Bond - the amount of money, determined by the court, required for the release of a person from custody as assurance that the defendant will appear in court when required to do so.

Defendant - person who is charged with a crime.

Felony - a crime punishable by one year or more in a state prison or County jail.

Misdemeanor - generally a less serious crime, punishable by a fine or a penalty of one year or less in the County jail.

Parole - when convicted of a felony, this is the release from prison, under conditions of supervision.

Probation - a sentence which places the defendant under the close supervision of a probation officer, may or may not include jail time.

Restitution - court determined amount of money to be paid to the victim by the defendant, for property loss or injuries resulting from the crime.

The following is an example of the steps usually involved in the trial process:

1. **Crime committed** - Police are notified and begin an investigation.
2. **Police request charges** - Police officer feels there is probable cause that an individual committed a crime, they request that the prosecutor authorize an arrest warrant listing all charges.
3. **Warrant is issued** - Prosecutor evaluates the case and a warrant is issued.
4. **Arrest** - Suspect is arrested and arraigned. In most cases the arraignment is within 24 hours of an arrest.
5. **Preliminary Examination** - The prosecutor must prove to the satisfaction of a District Court Judge that a crime did occur, and that evidence exists which indicates that the defendant committed the crime charged. All the evidence and witnesses are not presented at this time. Felony cases will get a bind over to the Circuit Court.
6. **Arraignment in Circuit Court** - The defendant is formally charged in the Circuit Court with a felony charge.
7. **Plea/Sentence** - a defendant may enter a plea, which then leads to sentencing before the judge, who announces the sentencing decision in open court.
8. **Trial** - a jury or non-jury trial are the options if no plea is entered.

The above steps are standard for most cases. Particular cases, including misdemeanors, may vary.

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Crime Victim Services Commission

Michigan Department of Community Health

320 South Walnut
Lansing, Michigan 48913
(517) 373-7373

Isabella County Sheriff's Department
207 North Court Street
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858
(989) 772-5911

Department of Corrections
Crime Victim Services
P.O. Box 30003

Lansing, Michigan 48909

(517) 373-4467

(877) 866-5401 Toll Free