



VICTIM'S RIGHTS

Prepared by office of
BERNIE McCABE
STATE ATTORNEY
Sixth Judicial Circuit
State of Florida

Message from the State Attorney



Trial by jury before an impartial judge is perhaps the greatest protection against tyranny in our democratic society. A jury composed of citizens from our community, impaneled to hear evidence, and sworn to return a verdict which speaks the truth, relies upon the testimony of witnesses in its search for truth.

As a victim or a witness, you perform a vital role in aiding the jury to understand those facts of which you have knowledge. Your several appearances in court will undoubtedly be a hardship, but without your help the system could not function. My entire staff will help you in any way possible, and we thank you for your cooperation.

BERNIE Mc CABE
STATE ATTORNEY
Sixth Judicial Circuit
Pasco and Pinellas Counties

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS

Applies to Adults and Juveniles Prosecuted as Adults:

*APPREHENSION AND/OR ARREST OF THE ACCUSED

The adult criminal justice process starts with the commission of a crime. There are three basic routes a case can take in order to be brought to court:

1. Arrest of the accused at the scene of the crime;
2. Arrest based on a warrant issued by the Court in response to a sworn complaint;
3. Arrest based on an indictment by a grand jury as the result of its investigation.

In all three instances, the evidence available must be sufficient to later convince the Court that there is "probable cause" to believe that a crime was committed and that the person arrested took part in committing the crime. The law enforcement agency making the arrest will notify the victim after the arrest is made.

*ADVISORY HEARING

Within twenty-four (24) hours of the arrest, the defendant may appear before a Judge for a first appearance called an advisory hearing.

At the advisory hearing the Judge will set the conditions, if any, for release of the defendant from jail. When a person who is accused of a crime has sufficient roots in a community to insure that he/she will return for trial, the Judge may release the accused on his/her own recognizance pending judicial proceedings. This means that the accused does not have to post bond. Some defendants can post bond prior to the advisory, based on certain conditions. Victims and witnesses are not required to be present at this hearing, but you have the right to attend, and to make the Judge aware of your feelings about the release of the accused if you desire to do so. Advisory Hearings are held daily but locations and times may vary. The law enforcement agency or jail can tell you when the person will be advised.

* ADVISORY HEARING SCHEDULE

WEEKDAYS: Monday through Friday

New Port Richey: 8:00 a.m. in the Government Center
Dade City: 8:00 a.m. in the Pasco County Courthouse
Pinellas: 8:00 a.m. for misdemeanor at the CJC
1:30 p.m. for felony at the CJC

WEEKENDS: Saturday, Sunday and HOLIDAYS

Pasco County alternates between the New Port Richey and Dade City locations. Advisory Hearings usually begin at 8:00 a.m.

Pinellas County advisory hearings are generally held at 8:00 a.m. at the CJC.

*EXPLANATION OF CASE LOCATION

The Sixth Judicial Circuit is comprised of Pinellas and Pasco Counties.

PINELLAS COUNTY: Although you may attend an investigation at a law enforcement agency, your case will probably be heard at the Criminal Justice Center

Pinellas County State Attorney's Office
14250 49th Street North
Criminal Justice Center - Clearwater

PASCO COUNTY: Pasco County is organized into two areas, East Pasco and West Pasco. There is no easily identifiable geographic separation line within the county, so the easiest way to determine if your case is an East or West Pasco case is by identifying the law enforcement agency involved.

EAST PASCO CASES

- *Dade City Police Department
- *Zephyrhills Police Department
- *Sheriffs Office-East Pasco
Patrol Division

WEST PASCO CASES

- *New Port Richey Police Department
- *Port Richey Police Department
- *Sheriffs Office- West Pasco
Patrol Division

If your case is being handled by an East Pasco law enforcement agency, then it will probably be heard in the Pasco County Courthouse located in Dade City. If your case is being handled by a West Pasco law enforcement agency, then it will probably be heard in the Pasco Government Center in New Port Richey.

Pasco Office Locations:

East Pasco - Dade City State Attorney's Office
142366 Street (East Pasco Government Center)
The Criminal Justice Center is at 38053 Live Oak Avenue

West Pasco - New Port Richey State Attorney's Office
7530 Little Road

***BOND HEARING**

For many crimes, including assaults with weapons, burglaries and thefts of items over a certain dollar value, bail bond amounts have been previously determined by the Courts and are contained in a list of standard bond amounts. If the accused is unable to post the standard bond amount or if the crime for which the accused has been arrested, such as murder, sexual battery, robbery or kidnapping, is not included in the standard bond list, the accused will go to an advisory hearing with 24 hours after arrest.

Some defendants will post bond immediately after arrest and will be released. The holding facility is required to notify you of the defendant's release for certain felony crimes. If you wish to determine if the defendant has been or may be released from custody you may contact one of the numbers below for custody information:

Pinellas County 727/464-6369
Pasco County 727/847-5878 x 6079

***STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATION**

At some time after the advisory hearing and before arraignment, you may be notified to appear at a State Attorney investigation to give sworn statements regarding the crime. Your attendance at this conference is very important. The case against the accused cannot proceed without your cooperation. At this conference you will be given the name and phone number of the attorney who will be handling the case for the State. The accused will not be present at this conference.

***INFORMATION / NO INFORMATION FILED**

After your appearance at the State Attorney investigation or the presentation of your case to the State Attorney, the Assistant State Attorney who is handling the case will make a determination, based upon the facts presented to him/her as to what action is appropriate. You as the victim, will be informed of the results of this decision. The State Attorney's Office may file an Information, a formal document filed with the Clerk's Office stating the charge(s) filed against the accused. Or, the State Attorney's Office may file a No Information, a formal document stating that the facts and circumstances as presented do not warrant prosecution at this time.

***IMPACT STATEMENT/VICTIM CONSULTATION**

A victim may file an Impact Statement with the Court at any time before sentence is imposed on the offender. At this time a victim may tell the judge exactly what impact the crime has had upon his or her life. Medical costs, mental anguish, lost wages and impaired mobility (to name only a few) are all relevant details that the Judge can take into account before sentencing the offender. The Victim Impact Statement Form may be obtained from the State Attorney's Office or the Victim/Witness service providers in your area. These providers are available to assist you in completing the

form. The completed document will then be placed in the court file to be presented to the Judge for consideration. Additionally, you may be present in Court to testify about the impact of the crime on you.

Victims of a felony involving physical or emotional injury or trauma or, in a case in which the victim is a minor child or in a homicide, the guardian or family of the victim will be consulted by the state attorney in order to obtain the views of the victim or family about the release of the accused pending judicial proceedings; plea agreements; participation in pretrial diversion programs; and sentencing of the accused.

There may be additional proceedings in your case including appellate review, subsequent modification of sentence, or collateral attack of a judgment. When a term of imprisonment or involuntary commitment is imposed, the defendant may be released from such imprisonment or commitment by expiration of sentence or parole. The victim will receive notification if any of the above proceedings are scheduled.

Incarcerated victims have the right to submit written statements at all crucial stages of the criminal and parole proceedings.

*** ARRAIGNMENT**

MISDEMEANOR ARRAIGNMENT - The victim is notified by letter that a misdemeanor arraignment hearing has been scheduled. The victim is not required to appear at this hearing unless he/she receives a subpoena, but he/she does have the right to be present if he/she desires. The defendant may plead guilty, and if so, the Judge may impose sentence at this time. Therefore, if the victim would like his/her feelings to be taken into consideration, it is important that he/she appear at this hearing.

FELONY ARRAIGNMENT - The victim will not receive notification regarding this hearing. This is due to the fact that normally the defendant's attorney will enter a written plea of not guilty in the defendant's absence, and the case will then be set for a pretrial hearing. At the arraignment, the defendant is told what he/she is charged with and the possible penalties. His/her ability to obtain an attorney is assessed, and a public defender or volunteer attorney may be appointed if he/she cannot afford a private attorney.

***DEPOSITION**

The attorney for the defendant can have a subpoena issued requiring a victim/witness to appear and answer questions under oath concerning their knowledge of the criminal offense. This proceeding, where testimony is given, is referred to as a deposition. An Assistant State Attorney will be present for this deposition. In addition, at the victim's request, a victim advocate may also be present at the deposition. Victims and witnesses who are not incarcerated are not required to attend depositions in any correctional facility.

***PRETRIAL INTERVENTION**

PreTrial Intervention is a program similar to probation whereby an accused accepts responsibility for the offense and is supervised for six months to a year.

Counseling, restitution to the victim, getting and keeping a job, and voluntary community service work are typical program requirements.

***PRETRIAL CONFERENCE**

At the pretrial conference, the defendant and/or his/her attorney will indicate to the Judge whether or not the defendant intends to plead guilty. If he/she does not plead guilty, a trial date is set and it is decided whether this will be a trial by jury. If the defendant pleads guilty at the pretrial conference, sentence may be imposed or a sentencing date will be scheduled. The victim will also be notified by letter of this scheduled hearing. As with misdemeanor arraignments, it is important that the victim appear at this hearing if he/she would like his/her feelings to be taken into consideration. Certain motions concerning legal issues may be heard at the pretrial conference. Occasionally, a witness may be needed on a pretrial motion. If your presence is required, you will be subpoenaed well in advance of the hearing.

***THE TRIAL**

At the trial, the Judge or a jury of citizens will decide whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty. First, the State will present its evidence, which may include your testimony. The defense will present its evidence. Attorneys for each side will have a chance to ask questions of every witness.

The burden of proof is on the State to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. This burden is designed to be difficult so that innocent people will not be found guilty. The State cannot carry the burden of proof without the effective cooperation of witnesses.

Some victims and witnesses of sexual offenses can request that the courtroom be cleared of certain individuals during testimony. Should you need to testify in court, the State Attorney can go into further detail on this issue. A victim or a victim's next of kin may not be excluded from any portion of any hearing, trial or proceeding pertaining to the offense based solely on the fact that such person is subpoenaed to testify, unless, upon motion the court determines such person's presence to be prejudicial.

***DELAYS**

You have the right to a prompt and timely disposition of the case in order to minimize the period during which the you must endure the responsibilities and stress involved, to the extent that this right does not interfere with the constitutional rights of the accused. Our courts are seriously overcrowded. Delays are often caused when various court proceedings are continued (that is, postponed) for any number of reasons. Sometimes these delays may even mean an unnecessary trip to court for you. Please remember that every effort is made to keep you informed of the proceedings in advance and that your patience and cooperation are essential to successful prosecution.

In order for you to receive proper notification, you must keep the State Attorney's Office informed of any address or telephone number changes. There is a

tear sheet at the back of this booklet for your use in notifying Victim/Witness of address or telephone changes.

***PRE-SENTENCE INVESTIGATION**

In a significant number of cases, pre-sentence investigations are conducted. The pre-sentence investigation consists of an interview with the defendant, a review of his/her criminal record, and a review of the specific facts of the crime. The probation department then makes a recommendation to the Judge about the type and severity of the sentence. The Judge always makes the final decision about the sentence.

The "Blair Benson Act" provides that upon request, the State Attorney shall permit the victim, or an appropriate party if the victim is a minor, or is deceased, to review a copy of any pre-sentence investigation report completed prior to the sentencing hearing. Any confidential information that pertains to medical history, mental health, or substance abuse and any information that pertains to other victims, shall be redacted from the copy of the report. Any person who reviews the report must maintain the confidentiality of the report and shall not disclose its contents to any person except through statements made to the state attorney or the court.

***SENTENCING**

Many times sentencing of a defendant who pleads guilty or is found guilty takes place at the pretrial or trial proceeding. If it is determined that sentencing will occur at a later time, the victim will receive notification of the scheduled date. Because the sentencing can occur at any stage, it is important to have the Victim Impact Statement Form as well as the Restitution Statement Form (if applicable) completed and returned to the State Attorney's Office as soon as possible. Before deciding on the sentence, the Judge may order a pre-sentence investigation.

***RELEASE or ESCAPE OF DEFENDANT**

Upon the release of a defendant from custody, you will be notified in writing, provided your current address is on file with Victim/Witness Management. A change of address form has been provided for your convenience. If you should move, or change your telephone number, please indicate the changes on the form and forward it to the Victim/Witness Team so they can update the pertinent information. If the defendant has been sent to state prison you must notify the Department of Corrections. For state offender information, call VINE at 1 (877) 846-3435. VINE is a free, 24-hour telephone program that provides information and notification on offenders in the custody of the Florida Department of Corrections. Victims may register at any time for notification. When an offender is released, transferred, escapes, or dies, registered persons will receive automatic telephone notification. Should the defendant escape, the State Attorney will also make every effort to advise you.

The victim or victim's guardian if the victim is a minor, the lawful representative of the victim or the next of kin if the victim is a homicide victim will receive notification from the appropriate agency when an inmate has been approved for community work release.

***RESTITUTION**

In addition to any punishment, the Court may order an adult defendant to make restitution to the victim for damage or loss caused directly or indirectly by the defendant's offense. Restitution may be monetary or non-monetary. The Court may make the payment of restitution as a condition of probation. The State Attorney has the responsibility to present to the Court the dollar amount and items to be considered in any restitution hearing. For this reason the Victim Impact Statement Forms and Restitution Statement Forms must be filled out and documentation supplied to the Assistant State Attorney handling the case at the earliest possible time. In addition to the right to request and receive restitution, the victim has a right to enforcement in the event an offender does not comply with a restitution order.

***THE JUVENILE JUSTICE PROCESS**

The Juvenile Division of the State Attorney's Office is responsible for the prosecution of all felonies and misdemeanors involving defendants under the age of 18. The primary purpose of juvenile justice is rehabilitation rather than punishment. Numerous programs are available to the defendants. In some juvenile cases, commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is recommended. Children over the age of 14 who are deemed to be past the point of rehabilitation can be referred to the Adult Division for prosecution. Victims of crimes committed by juveniles have the right to request the Court to order, at sentencing or disposition, that the offender be required to attend a different school than the victim or siblings of the victim.

***APPREHENSION AND/OR ARREST OF THE ACCUSED - JUVENILE**

The juvenile justice process starts with a commission of a crime. Following a law enforcement investigation, there are four basic routes that a juvenile case can take:

1. The juvenile may be counseled and released to his/her parents;
2. The juvenile may enter a diversion program through the police department;
3. The case may be referred to the Juvenile Division of the State Attorney's office for further investigation;
4. The juvenile may be arrested and the case investigated by the State Attorney's Office (refer to DETENTION OF THE ACCUSED).

***THE DJJ ROLE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS - JUVENILE**

A DJJ counselor is assigned to each case referred to the Juvenile Division of the State Attorney's Office. The counselor is responsible for interviewing the child and his family and making an appropriate recommendation to the State Attorney's Office regarding filing of formal charges. However, the State Attorney's Office has the ultimate authority regarding which charges, if any, will be filed. The State Attorney's

office may refer the defendant directly to a diversion program which will not require a court appearance, or the State Attorney's Office may elect to file a charging document with the Court, or the State Attorney's Office may elect not to proceed with the case.

***ARRAIGNMENT- JUVENILE**

Upon filing of the formal charges, referred to as a Petition in the Juvenile Division, an arraignment date is scheduled by the Clerk's Office (approximately three weeks into the future). A summons is sent to the defendant and/or his/her parents or guardian. Notices of hearing are sent to the victim, the DJJ counselor, and the defendant's attorney (if any). At the time of arraignment, if the defendant decides to admit to the charges or enter a plea of nolo contendere (no contest), the DJJ counselor will submit a recommended disposition to the Court. Possible dispositions range from the least serious (such as Court ordered diversion programs), to the most serious (such as commitment to DJJ).

***PRETRIAL HEARING - JUVENILE**

If the defendant denies the charge, the case is scheduled for a pretrial hearing. Prior to the pretrial, the defendant's attorney reviews the discovery (evidence) provided by the State and discusses the case with the defendant. It is possible upon reviewing the information, the defendant could change his/her plea to an admission of guilt or nolo contendere. If the defendant changes his/her plea to an admission of guilt or nolo contendere, the defendant is then sentenced accordingly.

***TRIAL - JUVENILE**

If the defendant continues to plead not guilty, the case is scheduled for the next available trial docket (approximately three weeks into the future). Subpoenas are sent to the victims/witnesses. All juvenile trials are bench trials (held before a Judge only, without a jury). At the conclusion of the testimony and the legal argument, the Judge announces his/her verdict. If the defendant is found not guilty, he/she is discharged. If the defendant is found guilty, the Judge imposes the sentence (disposition).

***RESTITUTION - JUVENILE**

Restitution is addressed at each disposition hearing. DJJ and the State Attorney's Office work together to determine the amount of restitution. If the victim disagrees with the amount set, a restitution hearing is scheduled and the Judge determines the exact amount to be paid. See RESTITUTION under the ADULT CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS in this booklet for additional information.

***CERTIFICATION/WAIVER HEARINGS - JUVENILE**

Defendants between the ages of 14 and 16 who are believed to be beyond the point of rehabilitation are eligible to be prosecuted as adults. The State Attorney's Office files a Motion for Involuntary Waiver at the time of the filing of the Petition. A Certification or Waiver Hearing is set and held before the Judge. Testimony is

presented at the hearing by professionals to determine whether or not the defendant should be transferred to the Adult Division (i.e. the defendant should be certified). If it is determined that the defendant should stay in the Juvenile Division, the case proceeds until disposition in the juvenile system. If it is determined that the defendant should be certified, the case is transferred to the Adult Division and all further prosecution is handled by the Adult Division. The defendant can also waive his/her right to the certification and waiver hearing and request that his/her case be transferred to the Adult Division.

***DIRECT FILES - JUVENILE**

Some cases that start in the Juvenile Division with defendants who meet certain criteria are automatically filed in the adult criminal division. All future hearings are held in adult court once that occurs.

***VICTIM NOTIFICATION - JUVENILE**

Victims and witnesses are sent letters or advised via telephone of the status of the case at crucial stages. As with cases handled by the Adult Division, Victim Impact and Restitution Statements are provided to victims of juvenile crimes and should be filled out as soon as possible.

***DETENTION OF THE ACCUSED - JUVENILE**

A juvenile offender may be taken to the county detention center. The DJJ counselor makes a determination based on statutory detention criteria whether the detention center should continue to hold the defendant. All defendants who are held in the detention center are advised why they are being held within 24 hours. The Judge then makes a determination whether the defendant should be held at the DJJ counselor's discretion and possibly released or whether the defendant should be held at the Judge's discretion (and kept in detention). There is no bond in juvenile cases. There is a possibility that a defendant held at the Judge's discretion may be released upon motion by the defense attorney, or upon the expiration of length of detention time allowed by statute.

**MORE INFORMATION FOR YOU,
THE VICTIM OR WITNESS**

***POSSIBILITIES OTHER THAN TRIAL**

Plea negotiations may take place between the State Attorney and the defendant and his/her attorney. In the plea negotiation of his/her charge(s), the defendant may be offered a specific disposition in exchange for a guilty plea. However, the final sentencing decision in the case is still up to the Judge.

***NOTIFICATION TO EMPLOYER and
EXPLANATION TO CREDITORS**

A victim or witness who so requests shall be assisted by law enforcement or the State Attorney's Office in informing employers of the need of his/her cooperation in the prosecution of the case which may also necessitate some absences on the part of the employee from his/her place of employment. A victim or witness, who, as a direct result of a crime is subjected to serious financial strain shall be assisted by law enforcement agencies and the State Attorney in explaining to the creditors the reason for such serious financial strain.

***RETURN OF PROPERTY**

Upon your request, the police will attempt to return your property to you promptly and substitute photographs in its place unless there is a compelling reason for retaining it until after the trial process is over. Questions may be directed as follows:

East Pasco County352/521-4333
West Pasco County727/847-8158
Pinellas County727/464-6090

***SUBPOENA**

You may receive a subpoena for certain hearings and the trial. A subpoena is a court order to appear at the time and date indicated. The telephone number of the Victim/Witness Management Team will be on the subpoena, and you are required to call them upon receipt. Your phone number(s) will be taken in order to inform you of changes in the court date or case status. Many cases do not go to trial, and we will do our best notify you of changes if you provide us with a contact number. You will also be receiving notices of various hearings that will occur during the course of the criminal process. These notices will differ from your subpoena since they are merely to inform you of the activity of the case and your opportunity, if you wish, to be present at these hearings.

***DRESS REQUIREMENTS**

Subpoenas and notifications will remind you that you are required to dress appropriately for the courtroom. Although we live in a casual atmosphere here in

Florida, proper attire is required in court. For example, tank tops, shorts, or miniskirts would be inappropriate. Courtrooms are usually quite cool, so you might want to bring a light jacket or sweater. If you have any questions about what to wear, please feel free to call the Victim/Witness Management Team at 727/464-6090

***TDD**

The State Attorney's Office has a TDD in order to communicate with the hearing impaired. The telephone number is 727/464-7328 and is answered weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Should a hearing impaired person need to contact this office after hours, they may use a relay service to communicate with our office through our twenty-four hour number (727/464-6221).

***HIV TESTING**

Victims of crimes involving the transmission of body fluids from one person to another, may request that the court order the defendant in a filed on case to undergo HIV testing. Victim includes the victim's legal guardian or the parent or legal guardian of the victim if the victim is a minor .

***VICTIM COMPENSATION**

If you are the victim of a crime, you may be eligible for monetary reimbursement of medical bills incurred and loss of wages through the Florida Victim Compensation Program. The purpose of the program is to provide compensation to innocent victims of crimes or their families who suffer physical injury or death as a direct result of a crime. This is different than restitution paid by the defendant.

In order to apply for Victim Compensation, you must complete the appropriate forms and mail them to the Victim Compensation office in Tallahassee. These forms are available through hospitals, police departments and the State Attorney's Office. If you desire assistance in obtaining or completing the forms, please contact:

- Pinellas County Victim/Witness Management ...727/464-6090
- East Pasco State Attorney's Office352/521-4333
- West Pasco State Attorney's Office727/847-8158

***PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION**

Victims of specific crimes have the right to request an exemption prohibiting the disclosure of information to the public which reveals the victim's name, home and work telephone numbers, home and work addresses, and personal assets not otherwise held confidential under the Public Records Law.

***TREATMENT FOR YOU AS THE VICTIM**

The State Attorney's Office and police agencies will be as helpful as possible to you during the progress of the case. There may be times, however, when you feel that you may need further psychological or medical treatment to help you recover completely from your victimization in the crime.

The following is a list of some of the community based treatment programs available to you. For more information, call the Helpline phone number listed on the following page. The Helpline operates twenty-four (24) hours a day and provides current information and phone numbers for services available within the community.

REFERRAL NUMBERS for PINELLAS COUNTY CASES

Helpline (INFORMATION & REFERRAL)	211
.....	TDD 727/550-4028
Abuse Registry (Elderly & Children)	800-96 ABUSE
Attorney General	800/226-6667
Domestic Violence Division (State Attorney)	727/464-6013
Guardian Ad Litem Program (Children)	727/464-6528
Law Enforcement Victim Assistants/Advocates:	
Clearwater Police Department	727/562-4350
Gulfport Police Department	727/550-4248
Largo Police Department	727/587-6770
Pinellas County Sheriffs Office	727/582-6259
Pinellas Park Police Department	727/541-0766
St. Petersburg Police Department	727/893-7780 or 551-3318
State Attorney Victim Advocate	727/464-6090
Mental Health:	
Directions for Mental Health (North Pinellas)	727/524-4464
Suncoast Center (South Pinellas)	727/327- 7656
Office of the State Attorney (Main Office)	727/464-6221
Office of the State Attorney Victim Witness	727/464-6090
TDD Line	727/464-7328
Prisoner Release (Probation & Parole Tallahassee)	850/488-9166
Toll Free Number	877/884-2846
Florida Department of Corrections VINE Program	I 877/VINE 4 FL
SAFE (Rape Crisis)	727/535-9811
Spouse Abuse Shelters:	
North Pinellas County	727/442-4128
South Pinellas County	727/898-3671
Nights & Weekends	727/442-4128
Florida Domestic Violence Hotline	800/500-1119
Victim Compensation Bureau	850/414-3300 or 800/226-6667
Victim/Witness Management	727/464-6090

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR
PASCO COUNTY
 REFERRAL NUMBERS
 BOTH
 NEW PORT RICHEY
 AND
 DADE CITY

REFERRAL NUMBERS FOR EAST PASCO

Helpline (INFORMATION & REFERRAL)	211
TDD	727/550-4028
Abuse Registry (Elderly & Children)	800-96 ABUSE
Attorney General	800/226-6667
Domestic Violence Division (State Attorney-Clearwater)	727/464-6013
Domestic Violence Shelter - Sunrise	352/521-3120
Florida Domestic Violence Hotline	800/500-1119
Law Enforcement Victim Assistants/ Advocates:	
Dade City Police Department	352/567-5194
Land O'Lakes Sheriff's Sub Station	813/949-3502
Pasco County Sheriff's Office	352/521-5131
Also	800/854-2862
Zephyrhills Police Department	813/780-0050
Prisoner Release (Probation & Parole Tallahassee)	877/884-2846
Florida Department of Corrections VINE Program	I 877/VINE 4 FL,
SAVE (Rape Crisis)	727/834-3236
State Attorney (Dade City)	352/521-4333
TDD	727/464-7328
Victim Compensation Bureau	800/226-6667 or 850/414-3300

REFERRAL NUMBERS FOR WEST PASCO

Helpline (INFORMATION & REFERRAL)	211
TDD	727/550-4028
Abuse Registry (Elderly & Children)	800-96 ABUSE
Attorney General	800/226-6667
Domestic Violence Division (State Attorney-Clearwater)	727/464-6013
Domestic Violence Shelter - Salvation Army	727/856-5797
Florida Domestic Violence Hotline	800/500-1119
Law Enforcement Victim Assistants/Advocates:	
Pasco County Sheriff's Office	727/847-5878
New Port Richey Police Department	727/841-4550
Prisoner Release (Probation & Parole Tallahassee)	877/884-2846
Florida Department of Corrections VINE Program	I 877/NINE 4 FL
SAVE (Rape Crisis)	727/834-3236
State Attorney (New Port Richey)	727/847-8158
TDD	727/464-7328
Victim Compensation Bureau	800/226-6667 or 850/414-3300

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ARRAIGNMENT - The initial court appearance of the offender, held for the purpose of having him or her enter a plea to the charge.

ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY - An attorney empowered to prosecute criminal cases on behalf of the State.

BOND - Bond is generally required only to assure a defendant's appearance in Court. The amount will vary depending upon the seriousness of the charge and the offender's past criminal record, if any.

BAILIFF - A duly appointed officer of the Court.

CERTIFICATION - The process of determining that a juvenile defendant should be transferred to the Adult Division for prosecution.

CHANGE OF PLEA - The act of changing one's plea of not guilty to guilty or no contest.

CONTINUANCE - The act of postponing a scheduled court date.

VICTIM'S COMPENSATION - A state funded program designed to reimburse qualified victims for medical expenses and/or loss of wage.

DEFENDANT - The person who has been charged with committing a Crime.

FELONY - A crime that is punishable in excess of one year imprisonment.

GUILTY - Admitting responsibility for the criminal act.

JUDGE - A duly elected official presiding over court cases and determining sentence.

JURY - A group of citizens selected to determine guilt or innocence of defendant in a court proceeding.

MISDEMEANOR - An offense punishable by a year or less in jail.

NOLO CONTENDERE - A defendant's formal answer in Court to the charge in which the defendant states that he does not contest the charges; the nolo contendere plea is not an admission of guilt, but carries the same legal consequences as a guilty plea.

NOT GUILTY PLEA - A denial of responsibility for the criminal charge.

PROBATION - A specified period of supervision by a probation officer.

PUBLIC DEFENDER - A Court appointed attorney assigned to represent a defendant who cannot afford private counsel.

RESTITUTION - A sentence imposed by the Court requiring the defendant to pay for the victim's monetary loss due to the crime.

SENTENCING - The judgment of a Court concerning the defendant's punishment.

TESTIMONY - Statements made in Court by witnesses who are under oath.

ADDRESS AND/OR TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGE FORM

Please Print Clearly!!!

Your Name:

Your Date of Birth:

Your **Old** Address:

Street Number

Apt. Number

City

State

Zip

Your **Old** Telephone Number(s):

Home

Business

Your **NEW** Address:

Street Number

Apt. Number

City

State

Zip

Your **NEW** Telephone Number(s):

Home

Business

Case #:

Defendant's Name:

Upon completion, send this form to:

THE STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Victim/Witness Management

P.O. Box 5028

Clearwater, Florida 33758-5028

or if the defendant has already been sent to State Prison, send it to:

THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

2601 Blairstone Road

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2500