

SC Constitutional Amendment
Passed January 22, 1998 at 1:50 PM

Victim Assistance Program

If you are an innocent victim of a crime, the South Carolina Bill of Rights for Victims and Witnesses states that you have:

The Right to...

- Treatment with Dignity and Compassion
- Protection from Intimidation and Harm
- Knowledge of the Criminal Justice Process
- Reparation
- Preservation of Property and Employment
- Due Process in Criminal Court Proceedings
- Special Recognition for the Very Young, the Elderly, the Handicapped and others
- A copy of your incident report at no charge.

We are able to provide these services through funding by the Victims Bill of Rights Implementation Bill. These funds are generated from criminal assessments and surcharges.

These funds are not tax dollars.

"Section 24. (A) To preserve and protect victims' rights to justice and due process regardless of race, sex, age, religion, or economic status, victims of crime have the right to:

- (1) be treated with fairness, respect, and dignity, and to be free from intimidation, harassment, or abuse, throughout the criminal and juvenile justice process, and informed of the victim's constitutional rights, provided by statute;
- (2) be reasonably informed when the accused or convicted person is arrested, released from custody, or has escaped;
- (3) be informed of and present at any criminal proceedings which are dispositive of the charges where the defendant has the right to be present;
- (4) be reasonably informed of and be allowed to submit either a written or oral statement at all hearings affecting bond or bail;
- (5) be heard at any proceeding involving a post-arrest release decision, a plea, or sentencing;
- (6) be reasonably protected from the accused or persons acting on his behalf throughout the criminal justice process;
- (7) confer with the prosecution, after the crime against the victim has been charged, before the trial or before any disposition and informed of the disposition;
- (8) have reasonable access after the conclusion of the criminal investigation to all documents relating to the crime against the victim before trial;
- (9) receive prompt and full restitution from the person or persons convicted of the criminal conduct that caused the victim's loss or injury including both adult and juvenile offenders;
- (10) be informed of any proceeding when any post-conviction action is being considered, and be present at any post-conviction hearing involving a post-conviction release decision;
- (11) a reasonable disposition and prompt and final conclusion of the case;
- (12) have all rules governing criminal procedure and the admissibility of evidence in all criminal proceedings protect victims' rights and have these rules subject to amendment or repeal by the legislature to ensure protection of these rights.

S U M M E R V I L L E
P O L I C E
D E P A R T M E N T

V I C T I M S E R V I C E S



300 West 2nd North Street
Summerville, SC 29483

(843) 873-1262 Office
(843) 851-3328 Fax
(843) 875-1650 Dispatch

EMERGENCY DIAL: 911

Important Numbers

Summerville Police	
- Dispatch	(843) 875-1650
- Emergencies	DIAL 911
- Records	(843) 851-4100
- Victim Advocate	(843) 873-1262
Summerville Municipal Court	(843) 875-2010
S.C. Office of Victim Assistance	(803) 734-0303
First Circuit Solicitor's Office	(843) 871-2640
Dorchester County Family Court	(843) 832-0360
Dorchester County Mental Health	(843) 873-5063
Elder Support Line	(843) 723-3313
People Against Rape	(843) 745-0144
My Sister's House	(843) 744-3242
The Harvest Home	(843) 771-3869
Trident United Way	(843) 821-5000
Salvation Army	(843) 851-2368

Law Enforcement Victim Advocate

The Summerville Police Department employs one full time and one part time Law Enforcement Victim Advocate.

Our Victim Advocates provide assistance to victims of crime and their families. They are trained and dedicated to serve those who are victims of crime, family members of victims of crime, and witnesses to crime and are often one of the first to respond to a crime scene to assist victims and survivors.

During this critical time, victims may experience a wide range of feelings and emotions. Our Victim Advocates can assist victims of violent crimes in many ways.

- ◆ Provide emotional and moral support
- ◆ Refer victims to the appropriate service agencies
- ◆ Ensure victim's legal rights are protected
- ◆ Advise victims of case status and progress as well as maintain contact with victims and / or family members throughout the justice process as needed
- ◆ Provide applications and information to victims concerning South Carolina Crime Victim's Compensation; explain the purpose, procedures and policies and assist them in completing the forms.
- ◆ Upon request, may intervene on behalf of victims with creditors, employers, etc.
- ◆ Conduct on-the-scene crisis intervention
- ◆ Act as a liaison between victim, police officers, investigators and community based agencies.
- ◆ Help prepare victims for court and provide court advocacy and accompaniment.
- ◆ Increase the community's awareness of the victim assistance program to encourage timely reporting and assistance

A Message from Police Chief Bruce Owens

When a crime has been committed, one of the major concerns of the Summerville Police Department is the well being of the victim.

We have one full time Victim Advocate as well as one part time Victim Advocate who provide services during our regular office hours of 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

No appointment is necessary, walk-ins are welcome. For your convenience, we will schedule an appointment for you in order to prevent a possible waiting time.

Anytime the Victim Assistance Program can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Owens
Chief of Police

Summerville Police Department's Victim Assistance Program is dedicated to serving all victims of crime to include:

- ◆ Child Victims of Sexual/Physical Abuse
- ◆ Adult Victims of Sexual/Physical Abuse
- ◆ Vulnerable Adults
- ◆ Victims of Domestic Violence
- ◆ Survivors of Homicide Victims
- ◆ All Victims of Violent Crimes

Services Provided Include:

- ◆ Crisis Intervention
- ◆ Criminal Justice Support
- ◆ Financial Assistance with Medical Bills
- ◆ Information and Referrals
- ◆ Court Accompaniment
- ◆ Assistance with Orders of Protection
- ◆ Assistance with Restraining Orders