

## Crime Victims' Rights

The first hearing in a case can occur within hours of an arrest. If you are concerned about someone's release from jail, contact your local District Attorney's Office *immediately* at (541) 565-3534.

If you are a crime victim,  
you have the right to ...

- a support person
- be treated with dignity and respect
- reasonable protection from the offender
- fair and impartial treatment
- a meaningful role in the justice system

If the state pursues criminal prosecution,  
you have the right to...

- speak at the pre-trial release
- request a no-contact order
- keep your contact information confidential
- request criminal and conviction history
- request an HIV test (in certain cases)
- be notified of case proceedings in advance

To apply for financial help if you are the victim of a crime that harmed you, or resulted in the death of a family member, call your local victim advocate or Crime Victims' Compensation Program  
1-800-503-7983

To learn about jail or prison custody status, call your local sheriff at (541) 565-3622 or Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE)  
1-877-674-8463

## Victim Services & Resources

Sherman County District Attorney's Office  
(541) 565-3534

Sherman County Juvenile Department  
(541) 565-3461

Oregon Department of Justice  
Crime Victims' Assistance Division  
1-800-503-7983

HAVEN from Domestic Violence  
(541) 296-1662

Oregon Legal Aid Services  
[www.oregonlawhelp.org](http://www.oregonlawhelp.org)  
1-800-228-6958

National Domestic Violence Hotline  
1-800-799-SAFE

National Sexual Assault Hotline  
1-800-656-HOPE

Oregon State Police Sex Offender Information  
1-800-551-2934

### SHERMAN COUNTY VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

500 Court Street  
PO Box 393  
Moro, OR 97039

Phone: (541) 565-3534  
24-Hour Hotline: (541) 980-8674  
Fax: (541) 565-3178  
E-mail: [sherman.vap@gmail.com](mailto:sherman.vap@gmail.com)

## SHERMAN COUNTY VICTIM ASSISTANCE

### Victims' Rights Guide

### Advocating on your behalf—

**Every victim,  
Every crime,  
Every right,  
Every time.**



Sherman County District Attorney  
Victim Assistance Program  
Phone: (541) 565-3534  
24-Hour Hotline: (541) 980-8674

# SHERMAN COUNTY VICTIM ASSISTANCE

## What We Do

- Provide comprehensive services to all victims and witnesses of all types of crime with particular emphasis on serious crimes against persons and property
- Provide information, updates and advanced notification of case status
- Provide advocacy and support services 24 hours per day
- Advocate for and enforce your rights as a crime victim
- Provide notification of and accompaniment to Grand Jury, critical stage hearings and Trial
- Provide emergency legal advocacy to assist with restraining order and stalking petitions
- Make referrals to public and private social service agencies
- Verify and document financial loss so restitution can be ordered
- Assist in the return of property being held as evidence
- Assist with the application process for Oregon Crime Victims' Compensation benefits
- Provide emergency shelter for victims of sexual assault or domestic violence
- Provide transportation to and from court hearings

## What We Don't Do

- Provide professional counseling
- Provide financial assistance
- Give legal advice



## Navigating the Justice System

The legal system can be intimidating and frustrating in its attempt to blindly administer justice, a goal of ultimate importance. Our advocates are available to assist victims and witnesses navigate the criminal justice system.

Our mission is to make a positive impact in Sherman County by providing comprehensive services to all crime victims. Our goal is to provide enforcement of crime victims' rights, reduce psychological consequences of criminal activity and enhance a victims sense of safety and faith in the justice system.

Upon specific request, the victim has a right to be informed, in advance, of any critical stage of the court proceedings. The victim also has the right to be present at any court hearing or trial. The victim has the right to appear and speak at sentencing hearings. The victim has the right to obtain information about the conviction, sentence, criminal history, imprisonment and future release from custody of the criminal defendant or convicted criminal. Our advocates will inform you of all of your rights, work to enforce your rights, act as your liaison to the Court and prepare you for all court hearings to the best of our ability.

## If you are a victim...

### Do not blame yourself

Victims are innocent people who suffer when someone else breaks the law. It is essential for a victim to recognize that he or she is not at fault.

### Talk about your feelings

Find someone who is willing to listen. Victims usually do not need advice, but rather just someone to talk to.

### Do not be afraid to ask for help

There are times when the healing process requires help from a professional. Clergy, therapists, counselors and others may be valuable.

### Be realistic about the justice system

Certain aspects of the criminal justice system can be trying. Be prepared for delays, changes in court dates and other unexpected events that can, and often do, occur.

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