



WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

303-658-4210



CONTENTS

- 05 | What is Trauma
- 06 | How to Help Your Child Cope With Trauma
- 07 | Domestic Violence Information
- 09 | So What Happens Now?
- 15 | Understanding Protection Orders
- 17 | Sexual Assault Information
- 20 | At Risk Adults and Elder Abuse
- 20 | Colorado Victim Rights Act
- 26 | Helpful Numbers and Resource Guide



INTRODUCTION

You have been identified as the victim of a crime. We are so sorry that you are going through this experience. This booklet was created to help you through this process.

Help is there when you need it



TRAUMA

Trauma is defined as the experience of an inescapable stressful event that overwhelms one's existing coping mechanism.

A common reaction to trauma is to first experience SHOCK, which can last for several hours or days. You may feel immobile, powerless or have a sense that things don't seem real. As trauma victims recover from their experience, they may recognize certain stress reactions. These reactions may persist for a few hours or may last as long as a few months. They are repeated, in no particular order, and for varying periods of time. This can be very confusing for the victim. Expect that you may be bothered by unusual feelings or that you may not feel like yourself. Maintain a healthy diet, drink plenty of water to flush out the unused adrenaline in your body and exercise. Allow trusted friends to support you. Be patient with yourself and take it one step at a time. If your trauma symptoms persist, you may consider meeting with a therapist about ways to cope with and manage these symptoms to help you return to your normal life.

Some Common Trauma Reactions Include

Physical reactions:

- Extreme fatigue or exhaustion
- Insomnia or hypersomnia (sleep disruption—too much or not enough)
- Appetite changes or digestive problems
- Severe headaches

Psychological reactions:

- Fear, anxiety, feeling disoriented or a sense of helplessness or confusion
- Guilt, depression, emotional sensitivity or emotional numbness
- Anger, irritability, intrusive thoughts or frustration
- Amnesia of the incident or violent fantasies

Behavioral reactions:

- Under activity, hyper activity or extreme alertness
- Difficulty concentrating or memory disturbances
- Nightmares or flashbacks
- Exaggerated startled reactions or social isolation
- Inability to attach importance to anything other than the incident

How to Help Your Child Cope with Trauma

A child's response to a traumatic incident will vary according to the age and maturity of the child. The following traumatic responses are considered normal for a brief duration. Children are impacted by their exposure to traumatic events, even if you think they are sleeping or were in another room. If the response continues for more than a week or two, perhaps professional help should be sought. **However, any verbalization of suicidal ideations requires immediate intervention.**

Infant age: 0-12months

- Inconsolable crying and whimpering
- Flailing or extreme body tension, physical rigidity
- Demanding physical closeness, but not soothed by closeness
- Calm, quiet, docile, lethargic or glassy-eyed
- Disobedience or fighting or acting out
- Withdrawal from or lack of interest in activities
- Change in school performance

Children ages: 1-11

- Regression and toileting accidents
- Bedwetting, crying, or thumb sucking
- Sleep problems
- Inability to sleep alone or without a light
- Night-terrors or nightmares
- Excessive clinginess
- Fear of being left alone or left behind
- Speech difficulties
- Eating problems
- Fear of animals or crowds
- Irritability or confusion
- Sensitivity to noises

Children ages: 11-18

- Unusual withdrawal or isolation
- Headaches, stomach pain
- False bravado or challenging authority
- Crying, hyperventilating
- Constipation or diarrhea
- Sleep problems (including increased sleep)
- Night terrors or nightmares
- Depression or extreme sadness
- Suicidal ideations, inability to control emotions
- Stealing, risk taking
- Aggressiveness or fighting
- Refusal to go to school or poor performance in school
- Irritability or confusion

How to Support Your Child During a Trauma Response

- Listen to your child. Be aware of what their behavior says, as well as their words. Watch for anger, sadness, anxiety, fears, worries, withdrawal, regression or confusion as these could be warning signs.
- Help your child feel safe, they can benefit from extra cuddling, hugs or just your reassurance that they are safe. Act calm, do not share your own anxiety.
- Ask your child what they are feeling, and listen. Do not assume that you know how they feel or that they feel the same way that you do. Allow your children to have feelings or responses that are different from your own, even if it is difficult for you. Acknowledge their feelings and do not criticize.
- Use support systems and don't be afraid to ask for help. Seek support from friends, family, clergy, neighbors, teachers or health care professionals.
- Please contact the Victim Services Unit at 303-658-4210 for therapy referrals or any other questions or concerns.
- If your child was the victim of a crime and is sharing new information with you, listen without questioning and contact the detective that is assigned to their case

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Some domestic violence cases and arrest records could be sealed in the future. The Victim Rights Amendment entitles you, as the victim, to a free copy of the basic police report. You may obtain a copy of the basic report from the Westminster Police Records Department. Some reports may not be available until the case is adjudicated or until the final report has been approved. We encourage you to obtain a copy of this free basic report in the event you may need it for other legal matters. The Records Department is open Monday through Thursday, from 7am to 6pm at 9110 Yates Street.

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of both emotionally and physically abusive or intimidating behaviors that one person uses against another to exercise control in an intimate relationship. It can be a new, past or current relationship. These abusive behaviors can be dangerous to you and your children and are intended to coerce, control or retaliate against you or your children. Domestic violence behaviors are taken seriously by law enforcement. If the responding officer determines that there is probable cause that a crime has occurred, they must take action.

Does your partner ever...

- Keep you from seeing friends or family?
- Leave you out of decision making in the household that affect you or your children or your finances?
- Seem overly protective or jealous or accuse you of being unfaithful?
- “Keep tabs” or “checkup” on you or use technology to track you?
- Insult you or call you “bad or hurtful” names or humiliate you in front of others?
- Blame you for their problems, mood or behavior?
- Threaten to hurt a child or family pet?
- Touch you or insist on intimate physical acts that make you feel uncomfortable?
- Threaten to report you to social services or other government agencies, if you call the police?
- Exclude you from ownership of property, bank accounts or hold you financially liable for property?
- Restrict your use of the phone or access to finances?
- Monitor your social media or text messages?

Emotional mistreatment and control *is* abuse! This may include insults, rejections, threats and accusations, emotional blackmail, distortion of reality, and possessiveness.

Strangulation or “choking” may be a part of the physical violence in domestic abuse. This is a potentially lethal form of assault and people are often unaware of their loss of consciousness. Frequently there is no outward visible sign of the strangulation as the injuries are internal. If you are experiencing any of these warning signs, please seek immediate medical attention: hoarseness or changes in your voice, difficulty or pain in swallowing, loss of memory, neck pain or swelling, involuntary incontinence, blood shot eyes, nausea or vomiting, changes in breathing, changes in your mental status and changes in your vision or hearing. This is not a complete list, if you feel something is different seek medical help. **Strangulation injuries left untreated can lead to stroke or even death.**

So What Happens Now?

My partner was not arrested on scene...

First and foremost, the primary concern is the safety of you and your children. It is important to implement a well thought out safety plan for yourself and your children right away. Be prepared to utilize your safety plan while your case is under investigation. A victim advocate may be called at the time of the crime to provide information, advise you of your rights, and help develop a safety plan.

In cases where the suspect is not apprehended while the officer is still on duty, or further investigation is needed, a report is forwarded to the Investigations Sergeant. The case report will be assigned to a detective. This case assignment is made within 24 hours or the next business day after the original report was taken. You will be contacted by the detective and a staff Victim Advocate as soon as possible. They will provide more information and walk you through the investigative process.

In the meantime, use your safety plan and call 911 if your partner returns or continues to threaten you in any way.

Items you will need when making an escape...

Have the items hidden in one central place (garage, closet, trunk of car).

1. Money or a credit card of your own and a safe pre-paid cell phone
2. Keys—have an extra set made for both your car and home.
3. Extra clothing—have a bag of weather appropriate clothing ready for both you and your children.
4. Important documents—make copies of Social Security cards, birth certificates, pay stubs, bank accounts, insurance policies, marriage license, driver's license, any papers showing mutual ownership, and copy all of your monthly bills.
5. Be prepared to secure account information and protect your online accounts. Do not post on your social media and consider blocking access to these accounts or closing them.

Remember none of these items are more important than your life! Getting out safely is your number one priority!

Tips for safety planning...

- If you are not safe in your home, please consider a safe shelter or stay with a friend or family member.
- Know how to identify or recognize your partner's increasing pattern of violence and leave before it occurs.
- Notify a neighbor to be alert to strange noises or the returning offender and ask the neighbor to call the police when this happens.
- If it is safe, get rid of all weapons in your home.
- If it is safe, teach your most responsible child to call the police if a violent incident occurs. If you feel this would place your child in danger, teach them to go to a safe place.
- Know the local shelter information. (see page 28)
- Password protect your cell phone, laptop, and social media accounts.
- Plan where you will go in an emergency or during a dangerous situation. If you think your partner will come to your workplace, ask your employer to talk with you before giving any information to your partner.
- Ask a coworker to walk with you to your car when you leave at night.
- You may obtain a Civil Protection Order. Discuss this process with the Victim Advocate assigned to your case.
- Consider setting up a smart 911 profile on your cell phone.
(www.Smart911.com)

What you can do during a violent incident...

- Call 911, especially if children are present.
- Leave the physical presence of the batterer if possible.
- Leave the home and locate your escape items.
- Get to a room with a lock on the door and keep your phone with you.
- If your child has been prepared, have them call the police if you are unable to do so yourself.
- Scream so your neighbors can hear and they can call the police.
- If you cannot leave, protect yourself to the best of your ability.
- Check yourself and children for injuries and go to the hospital, if necessary.
- If you are being followed, call 911 and follow their directions.

Important Telephone Numbers:

Westminster Victim Services:
303-658-4210

Family Tree Legal Advocacy:
720-854-2344

United Way Helpline: 211

Project Safeguard: 303-637-7761

My Partner Has Been Arrested...

I'm told this is a misdemeanor charge and that the case will be going to the Westminster Municipal Court "Fast Track" Domestic Violence Program.

Westminster Fast-Track Domestic Violence Program Muni Court

- The Defendant is held on a "No Bond Hold" until their first court appearance.
- You will be given a notice of hearing with the time and date of the court appearance. **Your attendance is not mandatory but you are welcome to appear virtually or in person.** Advisements will be scheduled for the next business day after arrest.

Adams County Advisements

3:30pm Monday-Thursday
10:00am Saturday.

Jefferson County Advisements

1:30pm Monday-Thursday
9:00am Saturday.

- The defendant will appear by video from the Adams or Jefferson county jail. The judge will advise the defendant of their rights and the charges filed against them. **The judge will address the protection orders and the bond during this same hearing.**
- The defendant will have an opportunity to meet with the Public Defender while they are in custody. After they are released from custody they will be able to apply for a Public Defender to represent them at the next hearing. They will also have the opportunity to meet with the City Prosecutor about a plea bargain, enter a plea of guilty or not guilty, and/or continue the court appearance to another date.
- There will be a Court Victim Advocate assigned to your case to help you answer any questions you might have and help you navigate the court process.
- A likely sentence for a misdemeanor Domestic Violence conviction:
 - Domestic Violence Treatment with a state certified treatment provider
 - Fine (can be up to \$2,500)
 - 12 months probation and/or one year jail (jail may be suspended as long as defendant is in compliance with probation)

My Partner Has Been Arrested...

I'm told this is a misdemeanor or Felony charge and that the case will be going to the Adams County Court

Adams County Court Domestic Violence Charge

- The Defendant is held on a “No Bond Hold” until their first court appearance.
- Advisements will be scheduled for the next business day after arrest. **Your attendance is not mandatory but you are welcome to appear virtually or in person.**

Adams County Virtual Advisements

9:00am Monday-Thursday

9:00am and 3:00pm Friday

10:30am on Sunday.

- The defendant will appear by video from the Adams county jail. The judge will advise the defendant of their rights and the arresting charges filed. **The judge will address the protection orders and the bond during this same hearing.**

For your safety, you can sign up for VINE to receive notifications if the defendant has been released from custody, call 888-263-8463 or visit their website www.VineLink.com to sign up to receive notification. You can also contact the jail for bond information at 303-654-1850.

My Partner Has Been Arrested...

I'm told this is a misdemeanor or Felony charge and that the case will be going to Jefferson County Court

Jefferson County Court Domestic Violence Charge

- The Defendant is held on a “No Bond Hold” until their first court appearance.
- Advisements will be scheduled for the next business day after arrest. **Your attendance is not mandatory but you are welcome to appear if you choose to virtually or in person.**

Jefferson county Virtual Advisements

10:00am Monday-Friday

3:00pm Saturday

- The defendant will appear by video from the Jefferson county jail. The judge will advise the defendant of their rights and the arresting charges. **The judge will address the protection orders and the bond during this same hearing.**
- **You may view these Advisements from PorchLight Family Justice Center, at 11100 West 8th Ave Suite 200 in Lakewood.** PorchLight will assist you in navigating the court system as well as help you get connected to other community resources. The offender will remain in custody and appear virtually from Jefferson County Jail. You are asked to arrive at PorchLight at 8:30am and Advisements are usually scheduled for 10:00am Monday through Friday. This option is not available on Saturdays as PorchLight is closed but you can still view the advisements virtually.

For your safety, you can sign up for VINE to receive notifications if the defendant has been released from custody, call 888-263-8463 or visit their website www.VineLink.com to sign up to receive notification. You can also contact the jail for bond information at 303-271-5444.

Common Questions About Court

Does the victim have to go to court?

It is unlikely that you will be required to go to court. We no longer issue subpoenas for advisements so it is not mandatory that you be at court for the first appearance. You have the option to appear in person or virtually if you choose to. In the courtroom, you have the opportunity to address the judge regarding the protection order and sentencing. You may also have the advocate address the judge on your behalf, while you wait in the victim services office.

Can the victim have the case dismissed?

NO. Only the Judge can dismiss a case and must have a valid legal reason to do so. The victim's lack of desire to prosecute is not a legal reason to dismiss. This is meant to remove the burden of prosecuting the case from the victim. You are not "pressing charges," the city or state is pursuing charges.

Will the Judge issue a protection order?

The city prosecutor may request a Protection Order (PO) or the judge may determine a PO is necessary and issue a PO even if the victim does not want one. You have the right to address the judge about the PO. If the victim requests one, the court will likely issue a PO.

What will bond be?

Bonds can differ depending on how severe the crime is and whether it is a felony or misdemeanor charge.

Personal Recognizance bond (PR bond):

A PR bond is a signature bond that involves no money or property as long as the defendant appears at all future court dates. The defendant's signature acts as the promise to appear in court.

Surety Bond:

A bond posted through the service of a state licensed bondsman of your choice. The bondsman may require a co-signer and/or collateral to secure the bond.

Cash Bond:

The defendant or another person can pay in cash the full amount of the bond to release the defendant from custody.

Will I be notified if they are released from custody?

You can sign up for **VINE** to receive notifications when they are released from custody. You can call 888-263-8463 or visit their website www.VineLink.com to sign up to receive notification.

UNDERSTANDING PROTECTION ORDERS

What is a Protection Order?

A Protection Order is a court order issued by a Judge or Magistrate in either a criminal or civil court. The order generally prohibits the restrained party from having any contact with the protected party or may limit the type of contact with the protected party. There are several types of protection orders and each type can be used to hold a person accountable in the event of a violation.

What Can a Protection Order Do for Me?

As part of a safety plan a protection order is a tool for victims to use to keep themselves safe. It sends a message to the abuser that the victim wants the violence to stop. After the abuser has been served with the protection order, any attempt to contact the victim may be considered a “Violation of a Protection Order” and should be reported to law enforcement immediately. Law enforcement must enforce the protection order under federal law nationwide, regardless of where the order was issued. It is important to have a safety plan as well! This is a court order, but NOT an ultimate guarantee of safety.

Are There Different Types of Protection Orders?

A civil protection order is ordered by a Judge or Magistrate in a Civil Court. Often people seeking this type of order are victims of elder abuse, domestic abuse, stalking and assaults, or threats of bodily harm. This type of order may also be a part of a divorce, or child custody proceeding for the safety of a party. This protection order may also grant temporary care and control of minor children, and can order the defendant out of the home. The order is first granted on a temporary basis and the victim must appear in court for a hearing to have it made permanent and the other party should be present.

A criminal protection order is ordered by a Judge or Magistrate in a Criminal Court. The order will demand the defendant to refrain from any contact with the victim and can also exclude the defendant from the home, prohibit the possession of firearms, and anything else deemed appropriate by the court. Children may be named as protected parties if they were present or injured during the criminal event. The restrained party needs to provide proof of surrendered firearms and ammunition to the court. A violation of a criminal protection order can result in revocation of bond or new criminal charges. These orders are in effect for the duration of the bond or until the criminal justice process is complete.

How do I Get a Protection Order?

Victims of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault, may contact Project Safeguard in Adams County at 303-637-7761 or Family Tree Legal Advocacy Center in Jefferson County at 720-856-2344. Both programs offer a protection order clinic to help victims with the process of obtaining a protection order.

In non-domestic violence related cases, the victim can contact their local county court for information such as when protection order requests are heard and fees associated with filing and serving the protection order. In Jefferson County call 720-772-2501 and in Adams County call 303-659-1161.

Important Information Regarding Protection Orders

- Review your protection order to make sure it contains all the basic elements for effective enforcement such as the names of the parties involved, the date the order was issued, a Judge's signature, and terms and conditions.
- Carry a copy of the protection order with you at all times and leave a copy at important places such as home, work, children's school or daycare if they are included in the order, and in the glove box of your car.
- Get written proof that the order was served to the other party, if it is a civil Protection Order
- Document and report all violations to law enforcement.
- Most importantly, make a safety plan. A protection order should be used as part of a safety plan, do not depend on it alone to keep you safe.



SEXUAL ASSAULT INFO

Whether the sexual assault just occurred or happened in the past, it is important to realize that it was not your fault. You are probably going to feel some very different emotions for the next few days and weeks. These emotions could vary, and may include, numbness, anger, depression, sadness, shame, and even guilt. Please remember, this is not your fault.

You may experience a roller coaster of feelings over the next month or so. Some of your reactions may be emotional, some physical, and others might affect your behavior. Please see the Trauma Section to learn more about the reactions you may experience. Please remember, if you are experiencing some, all or none of the following, YOU ARE NORMAL. Even though many of these reactions are unpleasant and painful, they are part of the formula that your body and mind uses to heal.

Your immediate physical, and mental safety is the main concern. You have already made a courageous step in reaching out for help. It's important for you to understand that healing is a process and you may find support from family and friends, law enforcement victim advocates, community resources, or even therapy. Options for safety and support can be explored more with the Victim advocate.

Strangulation or “choking” can be a part of a sexual assault. Frequently there are no outward visible signs of strangulation. If you are experiencing any of these warning signs, please seek immediate medical attention: hoarseness or changes in your voice, difficulty or pain in swallowing, loss of memory, neck pain or swelling, involuntary incontinence, blood shot eyes, nausea or vomiting, changes in breathing, changes in your mental status, or changes in your vision or hearing. This is not a complete list, if you feel something is different, please seek immediate medical help. **Strangulation injuries left untreated can lead to stroke or even death.**

You Have Choices

Information is a powerful tool in taking back control. It's imperative for you to know that you now have choices in how you report a sexual assault.

Law Enforcement Report

You may choose to file a police report and participate in the ensuing criminal investigation. A victim advocate is available to you as you move through this process. When filing a law enforcement report, you have the opportunity to apply for Crime Victims' Compensation funds which can be used for costs related to mental health, medical expenses, doors, locks and windows, lost wages, and compensable expenses related to the criminal event.

Medical Report

You may go to the hospital and obtain a SANE exam without immediate participation in the criminal justice system. Evidence and information is collected and released to law enforcement with your name and contact information. You may choose to have evidence tested, and if evidence isn't tested it is held for two years by law enforcement. You have the option of changing your mind at any time and continuing onto the investigative process.

Anonymous Report

You may want to go to the hospital and have a SANE exam without initiating an investigation. If evidence is collected during the exam, it is stored for two years by law enforcement and you are given a unique identifying number. If you later choose to make a police report, that number is used to locate the evidence collected from your exam. It's important to retain this number.

My Child Has Been Sexually Assaulted

It is important to note is that after your initial report is taken, please don't ask your child about the incident. Of course you are concerned about your child, however, **do not engage your child in conversation or probe about the event. It is imperative to have a forensic interview as soon as possible to get the details of the incident in the proper way.**



Asking your child about the incident and making them tell you exactly what happened could taint the investigation. If your child brings up the incident, listen and provide support, but don't ask questions. A detective will be contacting you shortly to set up the interview and continue this process. You will have a Victim Advocate to work with during the entire process. The advocate will work with you on safety planning and support resources. Please see the trauma section in this booklet to recognize trauma responses in your child.

DO Acknowledge your own and your child's reaction to the trauma. Understand that children process events and thoughts differently from adults. Children may alternate between periods of talking about, or acting out the trauma, and times where they are behaving "normally" and not dealing with issues. Validate your child's feelings and provide comfort. Stick with a normal schedule, routine, and limits. **GET SUPPORT FOR YOUR CHILD AND YOURSELF.**

DON'T Assume your child will "just forget" the trauma, even if they don't bring it up for a while. Don't try to rationalize or talk your child out of their feelings. Don't make promises you can't keep. **DON'T MAKE THIS SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO HANDLE ON YOUR OWN.**

Important Numbers You May Need

The Blue Bench:

24-Hour hotline 303-322-7273

CCASA (Colorado Coalition

Against Sexual Assault)

303-839-9999

***RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest
National Network)***

1-800-656-4673

Confidential testing sites for sexually transmitted diseases

Planned Parenthood

303-425-6624

***Colorado Department of
Health***

303-692-2674

Empowerment Program

303-320-1989 (Women only)

***Jefferson County Department
Of Health***

303-232-6301

***Tri-County Health
Department Westminster***

303-452-9547

AT-RISK ADULTS AND ELDER ABUSE

At-risk adults are persons age 18 and older who are unable to provide or obtain services necessary for their health, safety, and welfare OR who lack the capacity to make or understand responsible decisions. Conditions that increase risk include dementia, physical or medical frailty, developmental disabilities, brain injury, behavioral disorders, and mental illness. Approximately 51% of at-risk adults served by APS have multiple conditions.

At-risk Elders are elderly people over the age of 70

If you are an at-risk adult or an elder person experiencing abuse, please know you have rights. The criminal acts against you should be reported to law enforcement or adult protective services. A victim advocate can work with you to help you access community resources that may be helpful in your circumstance. They can assist you with applying for crime victim compensation if you are the victim of a crime.

Spotting the Signs of Elderly Abuse and Neglect

- The individual seems depressed, confused or withdrawn
- They are isolated from family and friends
- they have unexplained bruises, burns, or scars
- They appear dirty, underfed, dehydrated, over or undermedicated, or they are not receiving care for medical problems
- They have bed sores or other preventable conditions
- They have recent changes in banking or spending patterns

COLORADO VICTIM RIGHTS ACT

Crimes Covered by the Victim Rights Act

Colorado Revised Statutes Title 24 Article 4.1 guarantees certain rights to victims of the following crimes ~

- Murder, manslaughter, or homicide
- Criminally negligent homicide and vehicular homicide or assault
- Assault
- Menacing
- Kidnapping
- Sexual assault on an adult or child
- Sexual exploitation of children
- Incest and aggravated incest
- Indecent exposure
- Crimes involving child prostitution
- Child Abuse
- Crimes against At-Risk adults and at-risk juveniles
- Crimes involving domestic violence
- Careless or reckless driving resulting in death or serious bodily injury
- Hit and run resulting in death
- Harassment by stalking
- Human trafficking
- Ethnic intimidation or any bias motivated crime
- First degree burglary
- Tampering with or retaliation against a victim or witness
- Robbery – aggravated, aggravated if a controlled substance
- Violation of a criminal protection order issued against charged with a sexual assault, stalking, or domestic violence
- Intimidating and aggravated intimidation of a victim or witness
- Invasion of privacy or indecent exposure for sexual gratification
- Retaliation against a judge, prosecutor, or juror
- Any criminal attempt, conspiracy, criminal solicitation, or accessory involving any of the crimes specified above.
- Failure to stop at the scene of an accident that results in serious bodily injury
- Violation of a criminal protection order issued against a person charged with stalking
- Posting a private image for harassment or pecuniary gain

If a victim is deceased or incapacitated, these rights may be exercised by the victim's spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, significant other or other lawful representative.

For a complete list of the rights afforded to crime victims, see Colorado CRS 24-4.1-302.5

The Rights of Crime Victims Includes, But Is Not Limited to the Following:

- To be treated with fairness, respect, and dignity.
- To be informed of all “critical stages” of the criminal justice process (victims of crime must request notification, in writing, for post sentencing critical stages).
- To be present for specified critical stages of the criminal justice process.
- To be free from intimidation, harassment, or abuse.
- To be informed about protective services, if there is any intimidation or harassment by a person accused or convicted of a crime or anyone acting on that person’s behalf.
- To be present and heard regarding bond reduction or modification, a subpoena for the victims records, acceptance of a plea agreement, sentencing, or modification of a sentence.
- To be heard by phone or similar technology when a victim cannot appear in court.
- To be informed of the existence of a criminal protection order and upon request of the victim, the procedure for modifying the protection order if a procedure exists.
- To receive a free copy of the initial incident report from the investigating law enforcement agency (the release of a document associated with the investigator is at the discretion of the enforcement agency based on the status of the case or security and safety concerns in a correctional facility).
- When any person attempting defense initiated victim outreach contacts any victim of any crime, the person shall immediately provide full and unambiguous disclosure of the person’s legal name and the fact that the person is acting as an agent for the defense team of the accused.
- Notification of any change in the status of the accused.
- To be heard at any court proceeding that involves a bond reduction or modification, the acceptance of a negotiated plea agreement or sentencing, or any modification of sentence.
- The release of property after the case is settled that is no longer needed as evidence.
- To consult with the district attorney prior to any disposition of the case or before the case goes to trial and be informed of the final disposition of the case.
- To be informed of the status of the case and any scheduling changes or cancellations, if known in advance.
- To receive and prepare a victim impact statement and to be present and/or heard at the sentencing hearing.

- To have the court determine restitution and to be informed of the right to pursue a civil judgement against the person convicted of the crime.
- To be informed about the possibility of restorative justice practices.
- To be informed of the availability of financial assistance and community services.
- To be provided with appropriate employer intercession services regarding court appearances and meeting with the criminal justice officials.
- Notification of all case dispositions including appeals.
- Timely notifications of all court dates.

Victim Services can help you by providing information about your criminal case and helping you understand the criminal justice system process. Victim Services can also provide crisis intervention services, emergency resources, legal resources, mental health services and information, and applications for Crime Victim Compensation, community referrals and emotional support. Please feel free to contact the Westminster Police Department Victim Services Unit at 303-658-4210 or VictimServices@CityofWestminster.us. The victim advocate can help you obtain a copy of the police report and employee intercession.

Your Rights to Receive Information

Critical Stages of the Criminal Justice Process Are Identified as Follows:

- Filing of charges or the decision not to file charges
- Preliminary hearing
- Any bond reduction or modification hearing
- Arraignment
- Motions hearing
- Disposition hearing
- Trial
- Any subpoena for a victim’s mental health, medical, education or victim compensation records
- Sentencing
- Modification of sentence
- Appellate review

To ensure that you receive notification of the status of the offender enroll yourself in V.I.N.E, 888-263-8463, www.vinelink.com.

If you are the victim of domestic violence and are in need of emergency safehouse services, see the resource guide, page 28, for a list of safehouses and other resources.

Law enforcement based Victim Advocates are not protected by confidentiality. This means that any information provided to advocates that pertains to a criminal case must be reported to the investigating officer. Victim advocates are required by law to report any incidents of child abuse, elder abuse and at-risk adult abuse.

Crime Victim Compensation

Crime Victim Compensation is a monetary fund for victims of crime. Funds can help with the replacement of doors, locks or windows that were damaged during a criminal incident, medical expenses or mental health counseling needed as a result of a crime. All incidents need to be reported to a law enforcement agency within 72 hours of the crime. Victim relocation for safety purposes is an application process and awards cannot be guaranteed. To receive an application or for further questions please contact the Victim Services Unit.

Obtaining a police report

Colorado State law allows for victims of crimes covered under the Victim Rights Amendment to receive a copy of the initial police report for free. Victims must contact the Records Division at 303-658-4380 to verify if the report they are requesting is available for release. Under state law, not all police reports are able to be released.

If you feel your rights have not been upheld:

Contact the person whom you feel has not provided you with your rights and explain what has specifically not been done or seek assistance from your victim advocate or counselor. You may also seek assistance from an official of the agency you feel is not providing your rights. Colorado state law provides that affected persons may enforce compliance with the provision of the Constitutional Amendment by notifying the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board by contacting the Victim Rights Act Specialist.

Colorado Department of Public Safety

Division of Criminal Justice

Office for Victims Program
700 Kipling Street Ste 1000
Denver, Colorado 80215-4856
303-239-5719
1-800-282-1080 (toll free)

For more information about your rights as a crime victim, please visit:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dcj/victim-rights>

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Address Confidentiality Program

303-866-2208

Smart911

www.smart911.com

United Way Help Line

Resources dial 211

POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND VICTIM SERVICES

Westminster Police

303-658-2400

Westminster Police Victim Services Unit

303-648-4210

Northglenn Police Department

303-450-8892

Northglenn Victim Services Unit

303-450-8759

Thornton Police Department

720-977-5124

Thornton Victim Services Unit

720-977-5172

Arvada Police Department

720-898-6900

Arvada Victim Services, Victim Outreach

303-202-2196

Broomfield Police Department

303-438-6400

Broomfield Victim Services Unit

303-438-6429

JAIL AND VICTIM NOTIFICATION

VINE: Notification for Victims

888-263-8436

www.VineLink.com

Adams County Jail

303-654-1850

Adams County Jail - Online inmate search

www.search.adamscountysheriff.org/inmatesearch.php

Adams County Youth Detention

303-659-4450

Jefferson County Jail - Inmate info

303-271-5444

Jefferson County Jail Victim Notification

303-271-5445

Jefferson County Jail, online inmate search

Inmatelookup.jeffco.us

Jefferson County Mount View Youth

Detention Center

303-987-4525

DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND VICTIM/WITNESS ADVOCATES AND CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION

Adams County District Attorney Office

303-659-7720

1000 Judicial Center Drive

Brighton, CO 80601

Adams County Victim Witness Office

303-659-7735

Adams County Juvenile

Assessment Center - The Link

720-292-2811

Adams County Crime Victim

Compensation

303-835-5615

Jefferson County District Attorney Office

303-271-6800

Jefferson County Victim Witness Office

303-271-6550

Jefferson County Juvenile

Assessment Center

720-497-7770

Jefferson County Crime Victim

Compensation

303-271-6846

WESTMINSTER MUNICIPAL COURT

9110 Yates Street

Westminster, CO 80030

General Information

303-658-2250

Prosecutors Office

303-658-2262

Victim Advocate

303-658-2265 or 303-658-2296

COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES, LONG TERM ASSISTANCE

County Human Services for food, housing, employment and child assistance

Adams County Human Services
303-227-2700

Adams County Adult and Child Protection
303-412-5212

Senior HUB (support and resources)
303-426-4408

Jefferson County Human Services
303-271-1388

Jefferson County Adult and Child Protection
303-271-4357

Jefferson County Action Center (food and support)
303-237-7704

Adams County Coroner's Office
303-659-1027

Jefferson County Coroner's Office
303-271-6480

Hunger Free Colorado
855-855-4626

Colorado Shines (Childcare)
877-338-2273

CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS

Project Safeguard, Adams County
303-637-7761

Women in Crisis, Jefferson County
303-271-6559

MENTAL HEALTH AND 24 HOUR CRISIS SERVICES

Adams County Community Reach
303-853-3500

Jefferson Center for Mental Health
303-425-0300

Colorado Crisis Services 24/7
844-493-8255

National Runaway Safeline
1-800-786-2929

Suicide/Depression Hotline – National
1-800-273-8255

Youth Support - Boys Town
1-800-448-3000

LEGAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING

Legal Advocacy Clinic, Family Tree
303-271-6559

Colorado Legal Services
303-837-1313

Justice and Mercy Legal Aid Clinic
303-839-1008/ 303-586-5983

Servicios de la Raza
303-458-5851

Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center
303-692-1165

Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center
303-295-2001

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES

Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence
303-831-9632

Domestic Violence Initiative, women with disabilities
303-839-5510

DOVE (deaf overcoming violence through empowerment)
303-831-7874

Denver Asian Pacific Development Center
303-923-2920

Family Tree Outreach
303-463-6321

Karlis Center, supervised child visitation
303-462-1060

National Domestic Violence Hotline
800-799-7233

Servicios De La Raza, Inc. Latino Community
303-458-5851

Survivors Organization for Liberation LGBTQ
888-557-4441

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAFE HOUSE AND SHELTER PROGRAMS

Family Tree (Adams and Jefferson County)

Roots of Courage ROC

303-420-6752 / 303-420-0412

Gateway Battered Women's Services (Arapahoe)

303-343-1851

Safehouse Progressive Alliance (Boulder)

303-444-2424

Safehouse Denver, Inc.

303-318-9989

Crisis Center (Douglas)

303-688-8484

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCES

Blue Bench

303-322-7273

National Sexual Assault Hotline

800-656-4673

Project PAVE (relationship violence among youth)

303-322-2382

Ralston House (children and teens)

720-898-6741

Wings Foundation (adult survivors of childhood sex assault)

303-238-8660

Planned Parenthood

800-230-PLAN

Adams County, 303-321-2458

Jefferson County, 303-425-6624

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance

303 861-1160

Crisis Line: 1-888-999-0246

Colorado Department of Health

303-692-2680

CoNEHT (Colorado Network to End Human Trafficking)

866-455-5075

Polaris Be Free

Textline: BeFree

Hotline: 888-373-7888

Open Door Ministries

303-830-2201

Safe Streets (FBI)

303-313-6800



