

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why is it necessary for me to come to the Office of Attorney General (OAG) the next morning following the crime?

It is essential for you to speak with the Assistant Attorney General (AAG), MPD officer and Victim Witness Program Specialist (VWPS) in order for your case to proceed through the judicial system. The attorney will listen to your version of the incident along with the police to determine the charges. The VWPS will inform you of your rights, conduct a needs assessment to determine what services you will need and keep you informed and updated on the case status through its entire process.

I was injured during a robbery and I do not have medical insurance, who will pay for my medical expenses?

The Crime Victims Compensation (CVC) program will pay up to \$25,000.00 towards crime related medical expenses after all other options have been exhausted e.g. personal medical insurance and workmen's compensation etc. CVC will pay the billing agency upon your submission of bills. You will be compensated for any out of pocket medical related expenses with confirmation of receipt.

My ipod and cell phone were stolen and/or damaged, who will pay for personal property loss/property damages?

There is no agency in the District of Columbia that will compensate you for stolen goods or reimburse you for personal property loss or damage. However, you can request [restitution](#) from the respondent(s) via the assigned AAG.

Who is the respondent?

Respondent is the term used in the District of Columbia to describe the juvenile perpetrators of the crime; this is the person(s) who committed the crime.

What type of protection will I receive from retaliation?

A "Stay Away" Order can be granted by the Judge at the request of the AAG. This order will stipulate that the respondent cannot have any contact with you the victim, including face to face, emails, or any third party contact, text messages, etc. The respondent may also be ordered to stay away from the crime scene area or your neighborhood if the respondent is aware of your address. If the Stay Away Order is violated, you are to immediately notify MPD and inform them of the respondent's failure to comply with the Stay Away order.

What do I wear to court?

There is no enforced dress code for court; however, you are encouraged to dress presentable. No **revealing**, tight fitting clothing, jeans, T- shirts or ripped clothing should be worn. A nice pair of pants/slacks and dress top/blouse is acceptable. You are not expected to wear a suit or dress. It is a good idea to bring a jacket; the court room can get very cold even during the summer months.

How will I know when or if I need to come to court?

If your matter proceeds to court and your presence are required you will be served with a subpoena which is a court ordered document mandating you to appear in court. You will also receive notification from the VWPS and the AAG of the dates and times to report to court.

What does it mean when the respondent accepts a plea?

When the respondent agrees to a plea, it means the respondent(s) admits and accepts responsibility for the crime s/he is charged with. The plea is usually for a lesser charge than the initial charges and if there are multiple charges, then one or more charges may be dropped. It also means that there will be no trial.

Who is a Defense Counsel?

The Defense Counsel is an attorney who represents the respondent. The Defense Counsel will be responsible for defending the respondent against all pending charges related to your matter. The Defense Counsel or an investigator from that office may also make attempts to contact you to talk about the details of the case. You are under no obligation to speak to anyone from that office. It is strictly your choice to speak to whomever you wish. OAG will not divulge any of your personal information.

What is a Victim Impact Statement (VIS)?

The **Victim Impact Statement** is a statement permissible by the court which allows you to express to the judge, respondent and everyone in the court, verbally or in writing, how the ordeal of the crime has had an impact on you and possible family members. It also allows you to speak reasonably and constructively about what you would like to see happen to the respondent in terms of consequences for the crime. This is not an opportunity to berate and belittle the respondent. The VIS is usually done at the disposition hearing (sentencing). The VWPS is available to assist in writing as well as reading the statement to the court per your request.