

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Area Agency on Aging.....	570-775-5550
Catholic Social Services.....	1-800-916-1913 or 296-1054
Children & Youth Services.....	296-3446
Crisis Intervention.....	421-2901
After Hours: 1-800-338-6467	
Day Care Program.....	296-3447
Drug & Alcohol Commission.....	296-7255
Carbon, Monroe & Pike Counties Job Training.....	296-2909
Legal Aid Services.....	570-424-5338
Mental Health Services.....	421-2901
Millford United Methodist Counseling/Outreach Program.....	296-6124
PA Crime Victims' Compensation.....	1-800-233-2339
Pike County Victim/ Witness Coordinator.....	296-6620
Probation (Retitution).....	Adult: 296-7412 Domestic: 296-6511 Juvenile: 296-1945
Salvation Army, Fort Jervis, NY.....	845-856-4089
Survivors' Resources.....	296-2827
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Issues 24-Hr. Hotline.....	After 4 pm: 296-HELP 491-5151
Tri-States Pregnancy Center..... Maitimores, PA	296-6221
WIC Program & Family Health Services (Women, Infants & Children)	

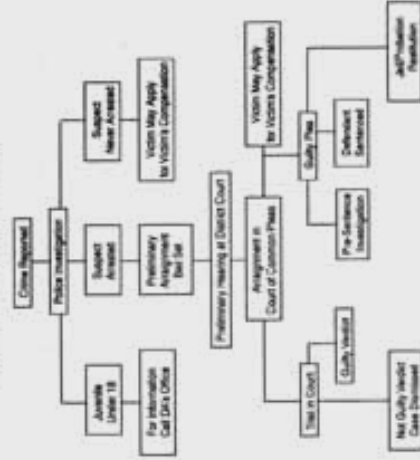
POLICE

Emergency	911
Maitimores Borough.....	296-7700
Millford Borough.....	296-7700
Pennsylvania State Constable.....	828-1747
Pennsylvania State Police.....	206-6451
Blooming Grove.....	226-1862
Lords Valley.....	775-7374
Shohola Township.....	296-7700
Westfall Township.....	296-7700

Basic Bill of Rights for Victims

- To receive basic information on the services available
- To be notified of significant criminal justice proceedings
- To be accompanied at all public criminal proceedings
- To have the opportunity to offer prior comment on the reduction/dropping of a charge or change in a plea when a personal injury crime is involved
- To have prior comment on sentencing decisions to include the submission of a "Victim Impact Statement"
- To be restored to the pre-crime economic status through restitution, compensation through the Crime Victims' Compensation Program and the expeditious return of property
- To be given the opportunity to provide prior comment on and notice of post-sentencing release decisions of an offender from a state correctional institution when a personal injury crime is involved
- To receive notice of the date of the release of an offender from a local correctional facility when a personal injury crime is involved
- To receive immediate notice of the release of an offender on bail from a local correctional facility
- To know when the offender either violates a Protection from Abuse Order or commits a personal injury crime against a victim protected by this order
- To receive notice when an offender is transferred from a state correctional institution to a mental health facility and of the discharge, transfer or escape of the offender from the mental health facility
- To have assistance with the Crime Victims' Compensation claims process.

CRIMINAL PROCESS CHART



AS A VICTIM, you will receive notice of all court hearings and the outcomes of such from the Victim/Witness Coordinator of Pike County. Please keep her informed of any address/phone number changes. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the case or the court system, you may contact the Victim/Witness Coordinator at (570) 296-6620.

PIKE COUNTY Victim/Witness Program



THIS HANDOUT has been developed to assist anyone who may have been victimized due to a criminal act. It is hoped that the information contained in this handout will answer some of the questions you may have regarding victim's rights, the court system, involvement of law enforcement agencies, witness cooperation, restitution and the legal process.

Pike County has now joined with many other Pennsylvania counties by providing this community with a Victim/Witness Program designed to address a variety of issues, concerns and needs of people who find themselves, due to a criminal act, placed in a victim's arena. Important also, is the contribution, cooperation and involvement from victims and witnesses that our office relies upon to ensure our criminal justice system continues to prevail.

The District Attorney's Office now has a Victim/Witness Coordinator available to provide assistance, support and information to those victims or witnesses whose lives have been changed by crime. We welcome you to call our office any weekday at (570) 296-6620 and speak with the Victim/Witness Coordinator regarding any concerns or questions you might have. Our office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PIKE COUNTY COURT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT JUDGE:

The Honorable Harold A. Thomson
Pike County Courthouse
412 Broad Street
Milford, PA 18337
Telephone

570-296-6216

296-3536

296-6277

296-3520

296-3513

Court Administrator

Court Reporter

Jury Commissioners

Probationary

Clerk of the Courts/Orphans Court

DISTRICT JUSTICES:

The Honorable Alan B. Cooper
502 Little Walker Road
Shohola, PA 18458

570-296-7726

Districts: Dingman, Shohola & Lackawaxen Twp.

The Honorable Stephen McBride
HC 67 Box 22 Silver Lake Road
Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328
Telephone

570-828-2880

Districts: Delaware, Lehman & Porter Twp.

The Honorable Charles F. Lieberman
103 West High Street, P.O. Box 632
Milford, PA 18337

570-296-8108

Districts: Milford & Matamoras Boro,
Westfall & Milford Twp.

The Honorable William N. Sanquilly
P.O. Box 626, SR 6
Hawley, PA 18428
Telephone

570-226-9650

Districts: Blooming Grove, Greene & Palmyra Twp.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS for Victims & Witnesses of Crime

What can I expect as a victim or witness of a crime?

A. If you are a victim/witness of a crime, you are expected to report the crime to your local police department or the Pennsylvania State Police. You should tell the police everything that you can remember about the crime. The police will then conduct an investigation and may file what is known as a *criminal complaint*. A complaint is a statement of the facts which formally charges a person with a crime. An *arrest warrant* is issued so that the police may arrest the person who they believe has committed the crime.

What happens if the suspect is arrested?

A. After the accused is arrested, they will appear before a *District Justice* at a Preliminary Arraignment. At the Preliminary Arraignment, bail will be set. The accused, now the *defendant*, will be told of the charges against him, of his right to legal counsel and the date of the *Preliminary Hearing*. The victim **MUST** be present at the Preliminary Hearing.

What is bail?

A. Bail can be set at the defendant's Preliminary Arraignment. It must be set at a reasonable amount based upon the defendant's employment, ties to the community, age and any previous contacts with the criminal justice system. Bail is not a form of punishment. It is only to assure that the defendant will be at the Preliminary Hearing. The District Justice will also consider if the defendant has family or any other factors relevant to whether the defendant will flee the jurisdiction. If the defendant fails to appear at a court proceeding, a bench warrant will be issued for his arrest and he will be brought before a judge.

What happens if I change my mind and want to drop charges?

A. Once the police have filed charges, it will be difficult for you to drop charges. The complaint is now the *State's* case and the whole community has an interest in prosecuting criminals. Only the district attorney may withdraw charges.

What can I expect at the Preliminary Hearing?

A. A Preliminary Hearing is held when a person is charged with a felony or a misdemeanor. It is usually scheduled within three to ten days after the person is arrested. The hearing is held in the *district court* and it is usually completed in one to two hours. The people present at the Preliminary Hearing are the *defendant*, his *attorney*, the *District Justice*, the *assistant district attorney*, the *arresting officer*, any *witnesses* to the crime and the *victim*. When the victim files his/her own charges, the District Justice's office sends out a hearing notice by mail.

The witness(es) and victim(s) are sworn in and questioned about the facts of the crime. At the end of the Preliminary Hearing, the District Justice will decide if a crime was committed and if the defendant has probably committed a crime. If the District Justice decides that a crime was committed, the case will be bound over for trial. This simply means that the case will be referred to the *Court of Common Pleas*. Arraignment is the procedure used to tell the defendant of his/her trial rights, enter a plea, and receive a trial date. If the defendant does not want a Preliminary Hearing, he may waive his right and the case will be referred to the Court of Common Pleas.

What happens if I am threatened by the defendant?

A. Notify the police and the District Attorney's Office. Criminal charges may be pressed against the person making the threat.