IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Listed below are some agencies that may be able to provide legal, medical and counseling services.

Abingdon Police	276-628-3111
Abuse Alternatives	*24-Hour Hotline* 1-800-987-6499 Or 276-628-6940
Children's Advocacy Center	276-645-5867
Crisis Center	*24– Hour Hotline* *276-628-7731* *Or 276-466-2312*
Damascus Police	*276-475-3341*
District 17 Adult Probation & Parole	*276-676-5477*
Glade Spring Police	*276-429-5134*
Court Services Unit (Juvenile Probation)	276-676-6284
Commonwealth's Attorney	*276-676-6291*
Health Department	*276-676-5604*
Highlands Community Counseling Center	*276-628-9504*
Magistrate	*276-676-6228*
Southwest Virginia Community Corrections	*276-628-7540*
Southwest Virginia Legal Aid	*TOLL FREE* *1-866-534-5243*
Southwest Virginia Regional Jail	*276-739-3520*
victim Assistance Program	*276-676-4200*
V-STOP Detective (Assistance for Crimes Against Women)	*276-676-6031*
Washington County Dispatch	276-676-6277
Washington County Sheriff Office	276-676-6000
Washington County Dept. of Social Services	276-645-5000

Types of Courts

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court

If the victim or the defendant is under the age of 18 or the case involves persons related by blood or marriage, it will be heard in this court.

Location: 1st Floor in the Courthouse
Telephone: 276-676-6282Judges:
The Honorable Judge Florence Powell

General District Court

If the victim or the defendant is over the age of 18, the case will be heard in this court.

Location: 3rd Floor in the Courthouse
Telephone: 276-676-6279
Judges: The Honorable Judge Sage Johnson
The Honorable Judge Joseph Tate

Circuit Court

Felony cases are heard in this court following the preliminary hearing, which occurs in either General District or Juvenile and Domestic Relations. Misdemeanor appeals are also tried in this court. The defendant's guilt or innocence is determined by a jury trial or bench trial.

Location: 3rd Floor in the Courthouse
Telephone: 276-676-6226
Judges: The Honorable Judge Isaac Freeman
The Honorable Judge Larry Kirksey
The Honorable Judge Randall Lowe

Tips on Testifying

1. Tell the truth. Honesty is the best policy.
2. Speak loud and clear enough to hear. There will be a microphone in front of you. Look directly at the Judge at all times when speaking and not at the attorneys.
3. Don't guess. If you don't know the answer, say you don't know.
4. Understand the question. If you don't understand the question ask for it to be repeated.
5. Answer the question then stop. If the question requires a "yes or no," give a "yes or no" answer.
6. Don't argue or lose your temper.
7. Avoid joking and wise cracks. Testifying is very serious. The defendant may be going to jail if convicted.
8. Give a positive answer. Testify to what you know or saw, avoiding phrases like, "I think or I believe."
9. Dress appropriately and respectfully (NO SHORTS ALLOWED IN ANY COURTS).
10. Be courteous; remain calm and patient.

The Court Trial Process

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Subpoena

An order from the court directing you to appear in court to testify (failure to appear may result in a separate charge against you).

Preliminary Hearing

A proceeding held when a person is arrested for a felony. A judge listens to the evidence of the crime and determines whether there is probable cause, or just enough evidence to prove that an offense has been committed. After an indictment, the case will be set for trial in the Circuit Court. It is usually necessary for the victim of a crime to testify at this hearing.

Grand Jury

A random selection of citizens whose duty is to hear the Commonwealth's evidence and decide if the defendant should be indicted, or formally charged. The Grand Jury meets to hear testimony on what evidence is available. This hearing is not open to the public. You will be notified if it is necessary for you to appear before the Grand Jury.

Circuit Court

The defendant stands trial and his guilt or innocence is determined by a judge or jury. At this time all witnesses will be sworn and in some cases will be asked to remain outside the courtroom during the actual trial. If the defendant is found guilty, he/she may be sentenced at the conclusion of this court hearing, or at a later date if a Pre-Sentence Report of the defendant's background is requested by the Judge.

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Department of Criminal Justice Services

Commonwealth of Virginia

Victim Assistance Program

Washington County

Courthouse

191 East Main Street

Abingdon, Virginia 24210

Sharon Reed

Program Director

DIRECT LINE: 276-676-4200

FAX: 276-676-6293

E-MAIL:

victim.witness@provenprosecutor.org

Message From The Commonwealth's Attorney

You may have many unsettling feelings and numerous questions as a result of becoming a victim or a witness of crime. Our Criminal Justice System belongs to you and to all citizens and everyone is entitled to be treated fairly. Please be aware that I, as Commonwealth's Attorney of Washington County, am concerned that justice is served in your case. My entire staff is dedicated to the same goal. Your participation is necessary to make this happen.

Nicole M. Price

Commonwealth's Attorney

Washington County, Virginia

Jennifer Brickey

Loretto Doyle

Gay Leonard

Marianne Woolf

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney

Sharon Reed

Director

Victim Assistance Program

About The Victim Assistance Program

The Victim Assistance Program is part of the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney and is supported by funding through a grant administered by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. The primary goals of the program are to insure that victims are treated with dignity, respect, and sensitivity; and that their privacy is protected to the extent permissible under law while participating in the Criminal Justice System. Your role is vital to the court process.

Services of the Program

As a victim or a witness of crime, you have certain rights under Virginia's Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act (§19.2-11.01).

Courtroom Assistance

- You may request a courtroom tour, escort to the courtroom, or moral support during the trial.
- You may request a closed preliminary hearing in specific situations.
- You may request your address and telephone number be kept confidential, except when necessary for the conduct of the criminal proceeding. *Contact the office for more information.*
- You may request the services of an interpreter and/or handicapping.

Financial Assistance

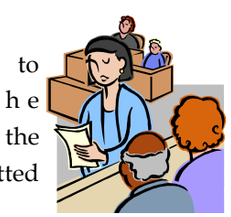
- You may request assistance with any community intervention/social services needed.
- If you have suffered personal injury, mental trauma or death directly related to a violent crime, you may be eligible to file a claim for compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. *Contact the office for more information.*
- You may request assistance in having any personal property returned to you.
- Restitution is made available for any damages or theft resulting from an offense and submitted when court-ordered.

Notices

- You may request a written excuse in obtaining time away from work or school. *It is unlawful for an employer to penalize an employee for appearing in court that has been summonsed or subpoenaed.*
- You may request to be notified of any changes in court dates.
- You may request to be notified if the defendant is transferred from one facility to another, escapes, changes his/her name, is released, discharged or is placed on probation. *Contact the office for more information.*
- You may request to be notified if your case is appealed or the defendant files a habeas corpus petition. *Contact the office for more information.*

Protection

- You are entitled to protection from harm and threats of harm arising out of your cooperation with law-enforcement, or prosecution efforts.
- Separate witness areas are made available to witnesses when testifying in the courtroom.
- The Washington County Sheriff's Office provides courtroom security daily. All persons entering the courthouse are subject to a security search.

Victim Input

- In felony cases, you are entitled to information regarding the disposition of the case, including any plea agreement.
- You may write a victim impact statement, if applicable, when the defendant is found guilty or enters into a plea without an agreement. The judge may withhold sentencing until a pre-sentence investigation is completed. This report provides information to the judge about the defendant's background and your statement regarding how the crime has changed your life.
- You have the right to remain in the courtroom during the criminal trial as permitted