

Franklin County State's Attorney Victim Services

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF A CRIME

- CONTACT THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY WHERE THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED AND FILE A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AGAINST THE OFFENDER(S).
- When a complaint has been filed the law enforcement agency will investigate the crime and determine who they believe is responsible for the crime. Please be aware that this process could take several weeks, depending on the crime itself and the investigation process.
- The offender may be taken directly into custody or the criminal report/investigation could be sent to the State's Attorney to determine what charges are appropriate to be filed.
- Once the report is received by the State's Attorney's Office the State's Attorney or one of his assistance will review the report and determine what charges to file.

At this point several things could happen.

1. The State could file criminal charges against the defendant and a warrant for the arrest of the defendant could be issued or summons to appear could be filed. At this point you will be contacted by this department with information regarding the charges and the upcoming court dates.
2. The State could determine that they do not feel there is enough information to proceed with charges and a finding not to file criminal charges could be found. Resulting in no criminal charges being filed against the defendant. The State's Attorney has the ultimate decision on whether to file criminal charges against a defendant.
3. The State could determine that they do not want to make a decision at this time and hold this report for further information or decisions.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHERE YOUR COMPLAINT IS IN THIS PROCESS.
This department will help you at any point in the above process, please call and ask to speak with an advocate.

Victim advocates may be reached by calling 618-439-4316, Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. (The office is closed from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. for lunch).