

# BASIC RIGHTS

FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

TO:

Receive information about the services available.

Be notified of significant actions, proceedings and disposition of the case.

Be accompanied, if requested, at all court proceedings.

Have the opportunity to offer prior comment on the reduction of certain charges or change in a plea.

Have prior comment on sentencing decisions to include the submission of a victim impact statement.

Be restored, to the extent possible, to the pre-crime economic status through restitution, return of property and/or compensation through the Victims Compensation Assistance Program

Be given the opportunity to provide comment on the post sentencing release decisions of an offender from the state correctional facility or work release application.

Receive notice of the release of an offender in the county correctional facility.

Have assistance with the Victims Compensation Assistance Program claim process.

## DEFINITIONS

### ADJUDICATION

A fact finding hearing that determines if a Juvenile committed the act(s) as charged.

### ARD

Offered to some first time offenders who receive a probation period, if followed, charges are dismissed.

### BAIL

Security money posted in order for the person to remain in the community while case is pending.

### CONTINUANCE

Rescheduling of court to a later date.

### DETENTION

A temporary, secure holding facility for the Juvenile.

### DISPOSITION

A hearing that determines what kind of treatment is best for the Juvenile. The Juvenile Probation Office makes this recommendation to the Court.

### DISPOSITIONAL REVIEW

A hearing where the Court considers the Juvenile's adjustment to treatment. This can be done at anytime.

### FELONY

A legal term used to define the most serious criminal offenses.

### HOME PASS

When a juvenile is allowed to visit home for a short time.

### JUVENILE DELINQUENT

An individual who has committed a criminal offense, but who is under the legal age to be held criminally responsible.

### MISDEMEANOR

A legal term used to determine most minor criminal offenses.

### PLACEMENT/ INSTITUTION

A place where a Juvenile is sent to receive treatment. The amount of time spent in placement depends on the type of program and how well the Juvenile adjusts in the program.

### PROBATION

A sentence where the offender is under the supervision of a probation officer, while remaining in the community.

### RESTITUTION

Repayment of financial loss to the victim by the juvenile/adult. Sometimes collected in lump sum, more often in small payments over period of time.

### TRANSFER

The decision to process the juvenile in the adult system. Also, the case can be transferred to another county.

### VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

A statement to the Court submitted by the victim explaining the impact of the crime. This may include any physical/psychological/financial harm/loss.

## PIKE COUNTY

# VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM



**SARA LOEB**

*Victim / Witness Director*

Pike County District Attorney  
506 Broad Street, Milford, PA 18337  
570-296-3482

**PIKEPA.ORG**

# MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of this program is to help reduce the trauma of crime by assisting crime victims and witnesses during their involvement in the Criminal Justice. Through advocacy, support, information and referrals we strive to prevent further victimization by intervening on behalf of the victim to address problems that are caused by their involuntary involvement in the justice system.

## INFORMATION

- Criminal Justice System
- Juvenile Justice System
- Community Services
- Upcoming hearings, case status
- Restitution and Property Return
- Victims Compensation Assistance
- PA SAVIN Program
- Court Accompaniments, if requested

## CRIME VICTIM'S COMPENSATION

### MAY COVER:

- Medical Expenses
- Counseling
- Loss of Earnings or Support
- Stolen Cash
- Funeral expenses in the case of a homicide

### WILL NOT COVER:

- Pain and Suffering
- Property Loss
- Vehicle related injuries, unless inflicted in a DUI crash
- Lost Wages of less than two weeks

## CRIME VICTIM'S RESTITUTION

### CAN COVER:

- Medical Expenses
- Insurance Deductible
- Property Loss

### DOES NOT COVER:

- Pain and Suffering

# SUGGESTIONS FOR TESTIFYING

You may be required to testify to facts regarding a crime. An effective witness will speak out about a crime that has occurred to police and the court and testify honestly at all hearings.

BE PREPARED, by becoming familiar with any documents and refresh your memory regarding any event you may testify to. Try to recall the scene and testify in your own words.

DRESS NEATLY, but do not over dress. A neat appearance will reflect your respect for the court. Avoid any undignified behavior such as loud laughter or talking or gum chewing.

WHEN CALLED, as a witness you will remain standing and be sworn in. Once you answer “I do” you are sworn to tell the truth. Speak loudly and clearly so that everyone can hear you.

REMAIN CALM, even if an attorney seems rude or makes you angry, be polite and not argumentative or sarcastic and don’t talk back.

LISTEN CAREFULLY, to each question before answering. Take your time. Do not volunteer information. Try to answer yes or no. If you don’t remember it’s alright to say that.

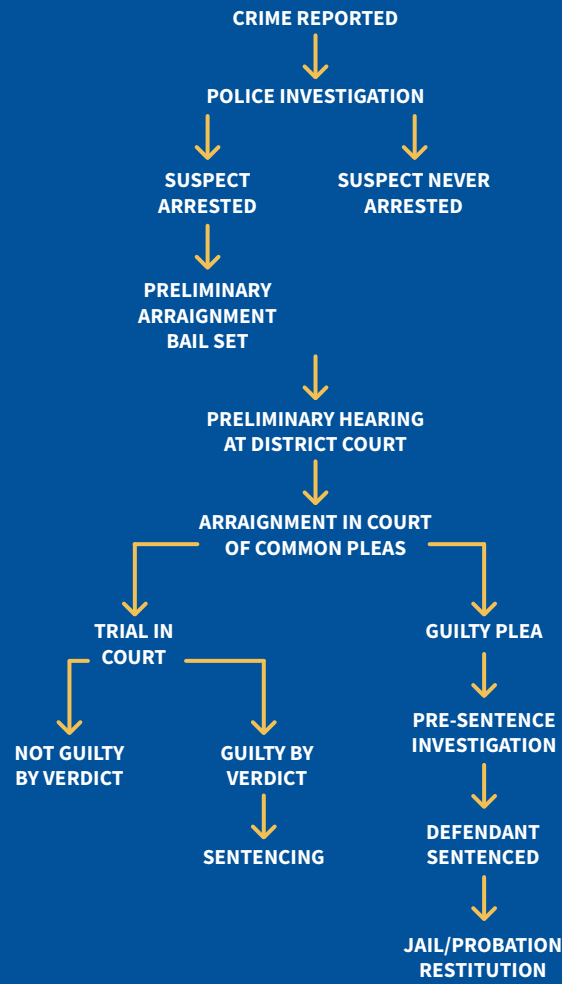
STOP when there is an objection. You will be told whether or not to answer the question after the judge has made a ruling on the objection.

ANSWER TRUTHFULLY, it’s alright to have discussed the case with family, police and the District Attorney. Do not guess at the answer and don’t be afraid to say “I don’t know” if you really do not know the answer.

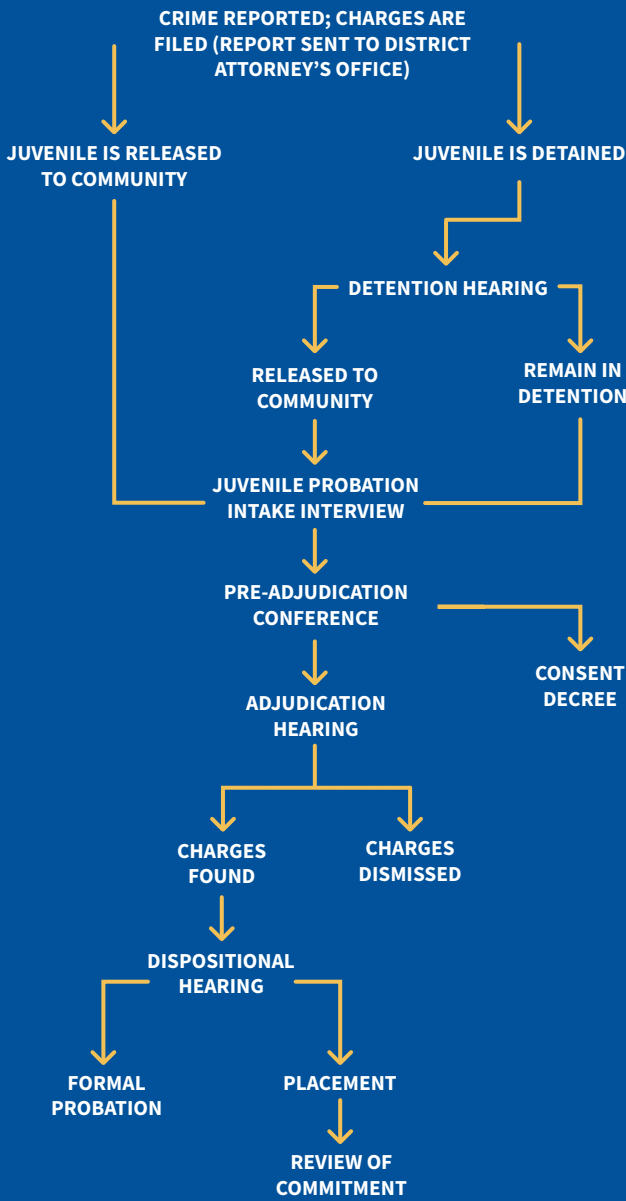
WHEN TESTIFYING, you may become tired if questioned for a long time, try to overcome this or ask the judge for a break or a glass of water. It is okay to show emotion. It is okay to be nervous or cry.

The Victim/Witness Coordinator will accompany you to a trial and can give a tour of the courtroom. Address the judge as “Your Honor”. Never discuss the case with other witnesses or jurors until the case is resolved. Talking with others may damage the case.

## ADULT CRIMINAL PROCESS CHART



## STAGES OF JUVENILE JUSTICE



### PA SAVIN

Pennsylvania’s Victim Notification Service A free and confidential notification service that can inform you of the release of an inmate from the county jail. Once you sign up, the system will call you or email to let you know when that offender is released, escapes or transfers from the county correctional facility.

Call 570-296-3482 and speak to the Victim/Witness Director or call 866-845-1298 or go online to [vinelink.com](http://vinelink.com).

### PIKE COUNTY COURT INFORMATION

**Court Administration** ..... 570-296-3556  
**Prothonotary– Clerk of Courts**..... 570-296-7231  
**District Attorney Raymond Tonkin**..... 570-296-3482  
506 Broad Street, Milford, PA 18337  
**Victim Witness Director, Sara Loeb** ..... 570-296-3482  
ext. 1081

**Probation**..... 570-296-7412  
412 Broad Street, Suite 2, Milford, PA 18337  
**Sheriff’s Department** ..... 570-296-6459  
412 Broad Street, Suite 5, Milford, PA 18337

### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURTS

**The Honorable Alan Cooper** ..... 570-296-7726  
502 Little Walker Road, Shohola, PA 18458  
**The Honorable Paul Menditto** ..... 570-828-2880  
213 Silver Lake Road, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328  
**The Honorable Deborah Fischer** ..... 570-296-8108  
102 East John Street, Milford, PA 18337  
**The Honorable Randy Schmalzle** ..... 570-226-9650  
106 Shook Road, Suite 100, Hawley, PA 18458

### OTHER IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**POLICE:**  
Emergency.....911  
State Police ..... 570-226-5718  
Eastern Pike Regional ..... 570-491-4040  
Milford Borough ..... 570-296-5959

### AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Area Agency on Aging..... 570-775-5550  
Catholic Social Services ..... 570-296-1054  
Children & Youth Services..... 570-296-3446  
Drug and Alcohol..... 570-296-7255  
Job Training..... 570-296-2909  
Legal Aid ..... 800-532-8282  
Mental Health Services ..... 570-296-6484  
PA SAVIN ..... 866-972-7284  
PA Vic. Comp. Assistance..... 800-233-2339  
Victim’s Intervention Program..... 570-253-4401  
24 Hour Hotline ..... 570-296-HELP  
Tri State Pregnancy Center ..... 570-491-5151  
WIC Program & Family Health Services..... 570-296-6221  
Salvation Army-Port Jervis ..... 845-856-4089