



Dear fellow citizen,

The grief that comes with being a victim of crime or losing a loved one to a violent criminal act is immense and overwhelming. Fortunately, Maricopa County has one of the nation's most comprehensive victims' assistance programs to help victims cope with the harmful effects of a crime. This brochure contains information on resources to help victims recover from the pain, devastation and loss that comes from experiencing a crime firsthand.

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office also has a team of victim advocates dedicated to helping victims receive the financial compensation they are owed and the justice they deserve. More information can be found at www.maricopacountyattorney.org.

Crime victims need support and assistance from experienced professionals and those who have been through similar tragedies. While the criminal justice system is answering the call to seek justice for crime victims, victims should also be aware that they are not alone in their experience and that there are sources of help.

Sincerely,

Bill Montgomery

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Maricopa County Attorney

Maricopa County Attorney's Office
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VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE



VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

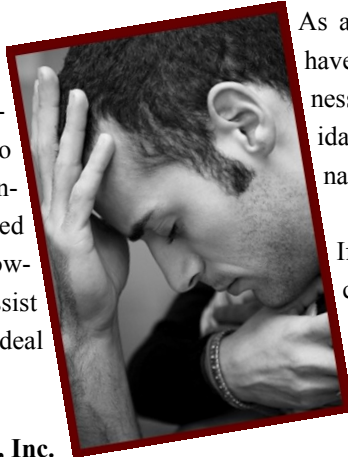
- When a Loved One is Murdered
- Victims' Rights
- Victim Compensation



BILL MONTGOMERY
Maricopa County Attorney

WHEN A LOVED ONE IS MURDERED

When a loved one dies suddenly and violently the grief the family feels is severe and complicated. There is no time to prepare for loss and no simple way to understand the fact that the life of your loved one has been taken so swiftly. The following is a list of organizations that may assist you and your family as you grieve and deal with the pain of your loss:



Parents of Murdered Children, Inc.

Support group for all family members or friends of those who have died by violence
(602) 254-8818 (Local)
(513) 721-5683 (National)
www.pomc.com

Compassionate Friends

Organization offering friendship and support to parents who have experienced the death of a child of any age
www.compassionatefriends.org

Community Information and Referral

24-hour information and referral service
(602) 263-8856

New Song Center for Grieving Children

(480) 951-8985

Bajo Las Mismas Lagrimas

(602) 367-4009

Padres y Parientes de Hijos Asesinados

(602) 463-3932
www.hijosasesinados.org

VICTIMS' RIGHTS

As a victim of crime in the State of Arizona you have a constitutional right to be treated with fairness, respect and dignity and to be free from intimidation, harassment or abuse throughout the criminal and juvenile justice process.

If a person is killed, the person's spouse, parent, child or other lawful representative is a victim. In addition, the following victims' rights apply AFTER an arrest has been made. You may request these rights or give them up entirely:

- To receive notification of scheduled court dates,
- To talk with the prosecutor about your case and give input,
- To make a Victim Impact Statement,
- To receive notification of the sentencing outcome,
- To be present at any hearing where the defendant has a right to be present,
- To refuse to participate in an interview with the defense attorney,
- To make a statement at release and plea hearings.

For more information on these and other victims' rights, please refer to Arizona Revised Statutes §13-4201.

VICTIM COMPENSATION

If you or a loved one are the victim of a violent crime you may be eligible for victim compensation. Victim compensation is designed to assist you with financial expenses incurred because of the crime. You can apply for compensation to cover medical, counseling, funeral expenses or lost wages if those costs are not covered by another source. You may be eligible for compensation if:

- You are victimized in Maricopa County,
- The crime was reported within 72 hours of discovery,
- You file an application within two years of the crime's discovery,
- You willingly cooperate with appropriate law enforcement agencies.

To file a victim compensation claim, contact:

Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Victim Services Division
301 West Jefferson, 9th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85003
(602) 506-4955

