

Statement

The Victim/Witness Program is housed within the Commonwealth's Attorney Office. Our role is to help facilitate prosecution and advocate for victims. We interact daily with victims and provide referrals to local agencies that assist with counseling, financial assistance, etc. We explain their rights, guide them through the criminal justice process, gather information, arrange meetings with the prosecutors and accompany them to court. When a sexual assault case is assigned, a specialist will first speak with the detective assigned and/or the Special Victims Unit prosecutor to confirm it's appropriate to make contact at this stage of the investigation. Once clearance has been granted, the above mentioned duties are performed. A specialist remains in constant communication with victims, maintains notes on the case and continues to keep them abreast of the status of their case, (to include cases where an arrest has not been made).