

# How the Victim Assistance Program Can Help?

Victim Notification (G.S. 15A-83)

## The Victim Assistance Program

The Wilson Police Department recognizes and sympathizes with the psychological, physical and financial difficulties faced by crime victims and their families. The staff and trained volunteers of the Victim Assistance Program are genuinely concerned with the ways in which crime has affected your life. We are committed to providing you with assistance and support by listening to your concerns and responding fully to your needs for information, explanation, and support services.

As a victim of crime, you are likely to experience feelings of shock, fear, anger, helplessness, and confusion. These emotions are a normal response to victimization as a result of personal injury or property crimes. At this time, when your emotions are most overwhelming, you may find yourself having to deal with a complex maze of people and procedures. Without previous exposure to the agencies involved in handling your case, you may find your situation confusing or frustrating. The staff of the Victim Assistance Program would like to help you through this difficult time by answering your questions, providing you with appropriate referrals, and offering support and guidance as you navigate the criminal justice system. Victims do have rights and we are here to help.

## Who Can Victim Assistance Program Help?

The Victim Assistance Program can provide support and services to victims of sexual assault, robbery, kidnapping, domestic violence, and aggravated assault if the crime was reported to the Wilson Police Department and occurred

within city limits. Family members who have suffered the loss of a loved one as a result of homicide are also eligible for program services. If you are a victim of a crime but do not meet the above eligibility requirements, Victim Assistance will provide you with the appropriate referrals.

## How Do I Receive Support and Services?

You may contact the program by calling Shannon Nichols at 252-399-2352 between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday through Friday. Our office may be found online at [www.wilsonnc.org/police](http://www.wilsonnc.org/police). Referrals are accepted from law enforcement and criminal justice personnel. The program also screens police reports and contacts victims to offer services. Participation in the program is voluntary.

## Services

The following services are confidential and free of charge to victims of felony crimes:

- Crisis intervention and short term counseling
- Assistance with emergency food, clothing, shelter, and transportation needs
- Counseling and Support Group referrals
- Orientation to courtroom setting
- Accompaniment and emotional support during law enforcement and court proceedings
- Assistance in securing victim compensation benefits
- Assistance in the writing of a Victim Impact Statement
- Property return assistance
- Employment intervention to explain time missed from work due to cooperation with investigative procedures

- Assistance with intimidation, harassment, or threats
- Personal safety and crime prevention information
- Accompaniment to Parole Hearings

## Victim Compensation

The state of North Carolina has a program to reimburse innocent crime victims who suffer medical expenses and lost wages as a result of the crime. Victim's Compensation will pay up to \$30,000.00 for medical expenses and up to \$300.00 per week (maximum 26 weeks) for lost wages. If the victim dies as a result of the crime a maximum of \$5,000.00 may be paid to survivors for funeral expenses.

To be eligible for the Victim Compensation Program:

- The Claim must reflect economic loss of at least \$100.00.
- The claim must be filed within one year
- The incident must be reported to police within 72 hours.
- The claimant must not have contributed to the criminal conduct, nor be in violation of criminal law at the time of the incident .
- The claimant must fully cooperate with law enforcement , courts, and the Crime Victims Compensation Commission.
- Compensation may not be paid for personal property or any expense paid by insurance or other sources.
- Compensation is not awarded for lost/damaged property or pain/suffering
- Compensation is not awarded for injury or loss that is the result of violation of a motor vehicle law other than DWI.

## Victim Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive further notices from the Wilson Police Department? (Circle One):

Yes

No

(If you elect to receive notices, you will be responsible for notifying the Wilson Police Department of any changes in your contact information.)

Defendant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

OCA Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Officer's Name and Employee Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Upon receipt of this form, please fill out and return to the Victim Assistance Program by mail or in person.

# Important Information and Phone Numbers

## In Case of Emergency, Dial 911

### Non-Emergency Numbers

#### Wilson Police Department

Switchboard: 252-399-2323

Investigations: 252-399-2323

Victim Assistance: 252-399-2352

### Criminal Justice Services

Clerk of Court (Civil): 252-291-7502

Clerk of Court (Criminal): 252-291-7500

District Attorney's Office: 252-206-3010

Wilson County Detention Center: 252-237-2522

Magistrate's Office: 252-237-8391

Probation and Parole: 252-291-5760

Juvenile Services: 252-243-2298

### Important Information

Name of Defendant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Crime: \_\_\_\_\_

Case Number (OCA): \_\_\_\_\_

Police Officer at Scene: \_\_\_\_\_

Detective: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### If You Need Protection

If you are being threatened or intimidated by the offender, contact the Police Officer or Detective assigned to your case, the District Attorney's Office, or the Victim Assistance Program.

### If You have Additional Information About the Crime

Contact the Police Officer or Detective assigned to your case or the Victim Assistance Program.

## If the Defendant's Attorney Contacts You

The defense attorney or an investigator for the defense may contact you to discuss what you know about your case. It is your right to decide whether or not to speak with them. You have the right to have the District Attorney present during any meetings with the defendant's attorney. Contact the District Attorney if anyone contacts you on behalf of the defendant.

### Your Rights

It is the policy of the State of North Carolina that victims of crime be treated with dignity, compassion, and respect; that they be informed about the progress and outcome of their case; and that damages done to them be considered by the court as it decides their case.

### As a Victim, You have the Right:

- To be given information about the Criminal Justice System
- To be given information about the crime
- To confer with the prosecuting attorney
- To be notified of all hearings related to your case prior to plea negotiations, trial, conviction, dismissal, restitution, etc.
- To receive restitution—and that restitution be docketed as a civil judgment to eliminate the victim's need to hire an attorney for any civil proceedings in the future.
- To present your views to court via victim impact statement
- To be notified of escape, release, proposed parole, pardon or commutations of the criminal sentence
- To present views and concerns to the Governor of the State of North Carolina or any agency considering action that could result in release of the accused, prior to such action becoming effective.

## Wilson Police Department

# Victim Assistance Program



**“Crime knows no boundaries— it affects the young, the old, the rich, the poor.... We are all potential victims.”**

## **Wilson Police Department**

**120 Goldsboro St E**

**P.O. Box 10**

**Wilson, North Carolina 27894**

**(252 399-2352)**

Wilson Police Department

Victims Assistance Coordinator

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