

# Information For Victims & Witnesses Of Crime

**Somerset County Prosecutor's Office**

**Somerset County Office of  
Victim - Witness Advocacy  
Deborah McGowan, Coordinator**

**ARTICLE ONE - PARAGRAPH 22  
NEW JERSEY STATE CONSTITUTION  
ADOPTED NOVEMBER 5, 1991**

**THE VICTIM OF A CRIME SHALL BE TREATED  
WITH FAIRNESS, COMPASSION AND RESPECT  
BY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.**

**SOMERSET COUNTY  
OFFICE OF VICTIM WITNESS ADVOCACY**

908-575-3359

[mcgowan@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:mcgowan@co.somerset.nj.us)



40 North Bridge Street  
P.O. Box 3000  
Somerville, NJ 08876  
(908) 575-3300  
[www.scpo.net](http://www.scpo.net)  
Fax (908) 575-3962

## Prosecutor's Message

The impact of crime is far reaching. It effects the victims, witnesses, their families, neighborhoods and sometimes even whole communities. The Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, within the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, was established to ensure that the rights of the crime victims are protected and that the criminal justice system treats crime victims and witnesses with fairness, understanding, dignity and respect. The Somerset County Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, through its dedicated staff, provides victims with information about the criminal justice process, their rights as crime victims and other support services. These services and this brochure are available to help victims cope with the trauma and the aftermath of the victimization and to lessen the inconveniences often associated with participation in the criminal justice process. Your cooperation through the criminal justice process is essential to the successful prosecution of criminal cases and is sincerely appreciated.

SOMERVILLE	908-725-0331
SO. BOUND BROOK	732-356-0087
WARREN	908-753-1000
WATCHUNG	908-756-3663

Notes
State v. _____
Assistant Prosecutor: _____
Paralegal: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Detective: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Victim Advocate: _____
Other: _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

**SOMERSET COUNTY MUNICIPAL  
POLICE DEPARTMENTS**

BEDMINSTER	908-234-0585
BERNARDS	908-766-1122
BERNARDSVILLE	908-766-0037
BOUND BROOK	732-356-0800
BRANCBURG	908-526-3830
BRIDGEWATER	908-722-4111
FAR HILLS	908-234-1192
FRANKLIN	732-873-5533
GREEN BROOK	732-968-1188
HILLSBOROUGH	908-369-4323
MANVILLE	908-725-1900
MONTGOMERY	908-359-3222
NORTH PLAINFIELD	908-769-2937
PEAPACK/GLADSTONE	908-234-0626
RARITAN	908-725-6700

**Crime Victims' Bill of Rights**

Mandates the following rights to victims  
and witnesses of crime, effective July 31, 1985:

1. To be treated with dignity and compassion by the criminal justice system.
2. To be informed about the criminal justice process.
3. To be free from intimidation.
4. To have inconveniences associated with participation in the criminal justice process minimized to the fullest extent possible.
5. To make at least one telephone call provided the call is reasonable both in length and location called.
6. To medical assistance if, in the judgment of the law enforcement agency, medical assistance appears necessary.
7. To be notified if presence in court is not needed.
8. To be informed about available remedies, financial assistance and social services.
9. To be compensated for your loss whenever possible.
10. To be provided a secure, but not necessarily separate, waiting area during court proceedings.
11. To be advised of case progress and final disposition.
12. To the prompt return of property when no longer needed.
13. To submit a written statement about the impact of the crime to a representative of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office which shall be considered prior to the Prosecutor's final decision concerning whether formal criminal charges will be filed.
14. To make, prior to sentencing, an in-person statement directly to the sentencing court concerning the impact of the crime. This statement can be made in addition to the statement permitted for inclusion in the presentence report.

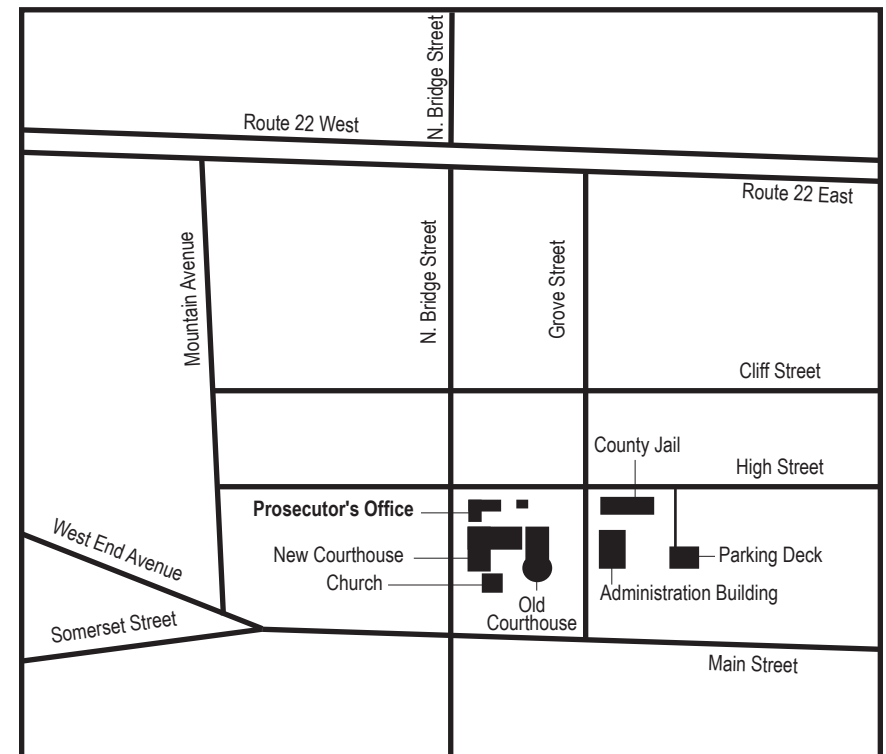
## Assistance Available to You as the Victim of a Crime

- Provide information about the criminal justice process.
- Information on case status through a letter notification process.
- Crisis Intervention Services.
- Expedite property return.
- Referrals to community services.
- Assistance in applying for compensation through the Victims of Crime Compensation Office.
- Assistance with Victim-Impact Statements.
- Restitution Information.
- Courtroom orientation and accompaniment.
- Information on parole input.
- Information on the court ordered medical testing of a defendant for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or other related virus identified as a probable causative agent of AIDS.
- Referral information on available medical testing and counseling for a victim who as the result of a crime may be at risk for transmission of disease.

## Directions to Somerset County Superior Court, Somerset County Prosecutor's Office and

### Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy

40 North Bridge Street  
Somerville, New Jersey 08876  
(908) 575-3300 - Prosecutor's Office



The Parking Deck entrance is on  
High Street - adjacent to the County Jail.

# The Criminal Case Process

## Compensation

Victims of Crime Compensation Office  
 50 Park Place, Newark 973-648-2107  
 Toll Free 877-658-2221  
[www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)

## Other Services

Department of Children & Families  
 Division of Youth & Family Services  
 Somerville Office District 908-526-5030

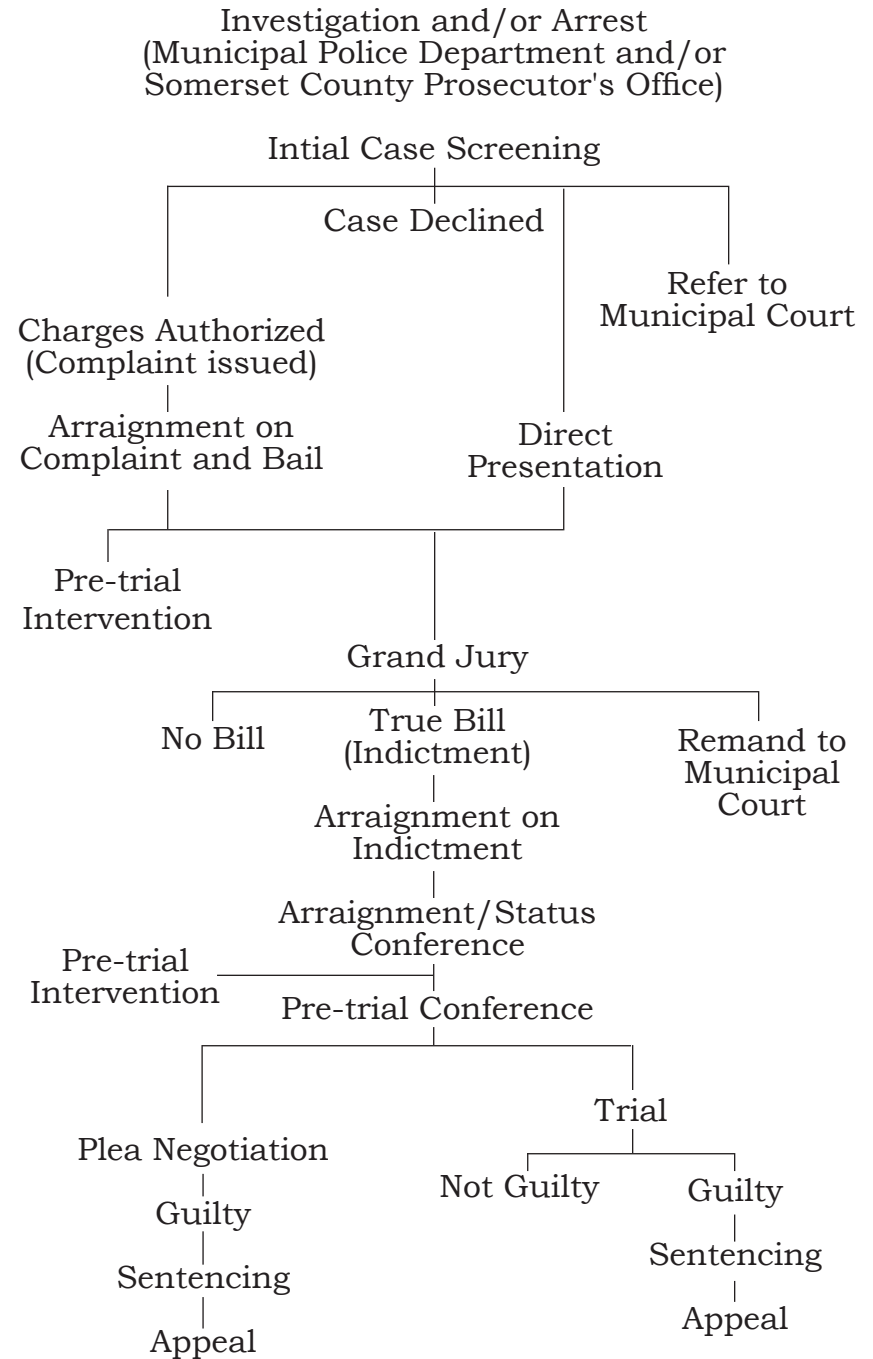
Child Abuse Hotline 877-NJ-ABUSE  
 (877-652-2873)

Mothers Against Drunk Drivers  
 New Jersey State Office 609-409-1220  
[www.madd.org/nj](http://www.madd.org/nj)

Crime Stoppers  
 TIPS Hotline 888-577-8477

VINE 877-VINE-4-NJ  
 (877-846-3465)

Automated Offender Custody Status  
[www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)



# Important Phone Numbers

## Emergency Services

Police 911  
Sexual Assault Hotline 526-7444  
Somerville  
Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services  
Somerset Medical Center/24 hour 526-4100

## Counseling Services

Richard Hall  
Community Mental Health Center  
Bridgewater 725-2800  
Toll-Free 888-744-4417  
Catholic Charities  
Bridgewater 722-1881  
Family Crisis Intervention Unit  
Somerville 704-6330  
Family & Community  
Services of Somerset County  
Bound Brook 732-356-1082  
Women's Health & Counseling Center  
Sexual Assault Support Service  
Somerville 526-2335 x30

## Judicial & Legal Information

Somerset County  
Prosecutor's Office 575-3300  
Somerset County Superior Court  
Probation 231-7111  
Family & Criminal Division 231-7600  
Legal Services of Northwest Jersey, Inc.  
Somerville 231-0840  
Somerset County Jail 231-7150  
New Jersey State Parole Board  
Victim Services Unit  
Trenton 609-292-4582  
[www.state.nj.us/parole/victim](http://www.state.nj.us/parole/victim)

## Domestic Violence

County Domestic  
Violence Hotline 866-685-1122  
Resource Center of Somerset  
Hillsborough 359-0003  
State Domestic Violence Hotline 800-572-SAFE  
(7233)

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