

Information For Victims & Witnesses Of Crime

**Somerset County Prosecutor's Office
Wayne J. Forrest, Prosecutor**

**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.**



40 North Bridge Street
P.O. Box 3000
Somerville, NJ 08876
(908) 231-7100
www.scpo.net

A Message To Citizens of Somerset County

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.

Very truly yours,

Wayne J. Forrest

Wayne J. Forrest
Somerset County Prosecutor

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

Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Denise Coyle
Rick Fontana
Peter S. Palmer
Ken Scherer
Robert Zaborowski

Freeholder's Office

908-231-7030

Administration Building

P.O. Box 3000

Somerville, New Jersey 08876-1262

**SOMERSET COUNTY MUNICIPAL
POLICE DEPARTMENTS**

BEDMINSTER	908-234-0585
BERNARDS	908-766-1122
BERNARDSVILLE	908-766-0037
BOUND BROOK	732-356-0800
BRANCHBURG	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	908-756-7700
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.

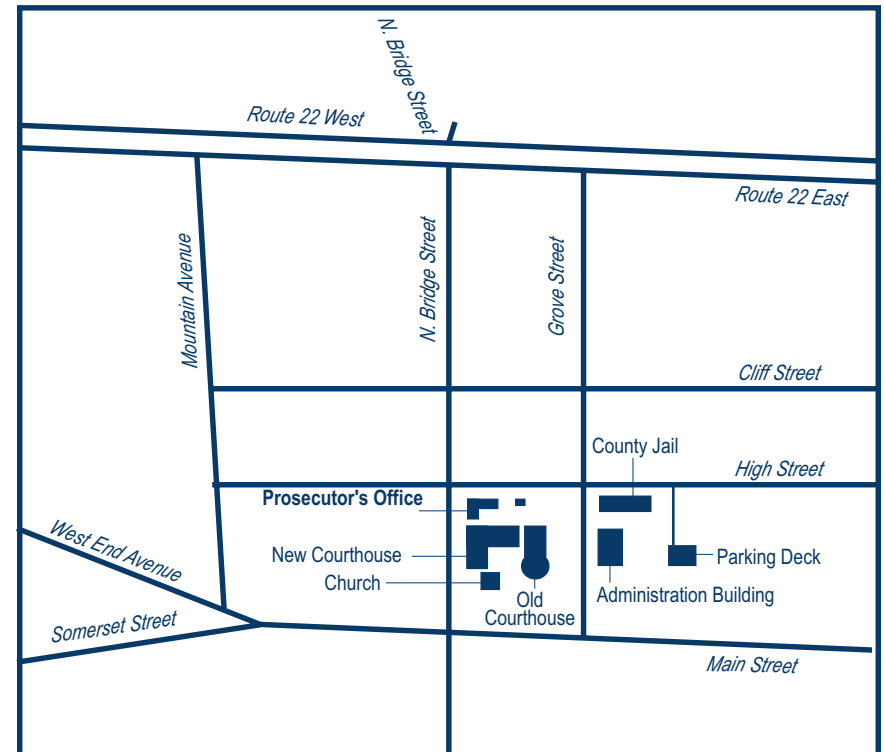
Assistance Available to You as the Victim of a Crime

- 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 Board.
- 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.

For further assistance and information, call:
Deborah McGowan, Coordinator
Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy
(908) 575-3359

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) 231-7191 - Court Administration
(908) 231-7100 - Prosecutor's Office



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

Compensation

Victims of Crime Compensation Board
 60 Park Place, Newark 973-648-2107
 Hotline 800-242-0804

Other Services

Division of Youth & Family Services
 75 Veterans Memorial Drive East
 Somerville 704-3050

Child Abuse Hotline 800-792-8610

Mothers Against Drunk Drivers
 Somerset/Hunterdon Chapter 526-4664

Prosecutor's Office
 TIPS Hotline 1-888-577-8477

Notes

State v. _____

Assistant Prosecutor: _____

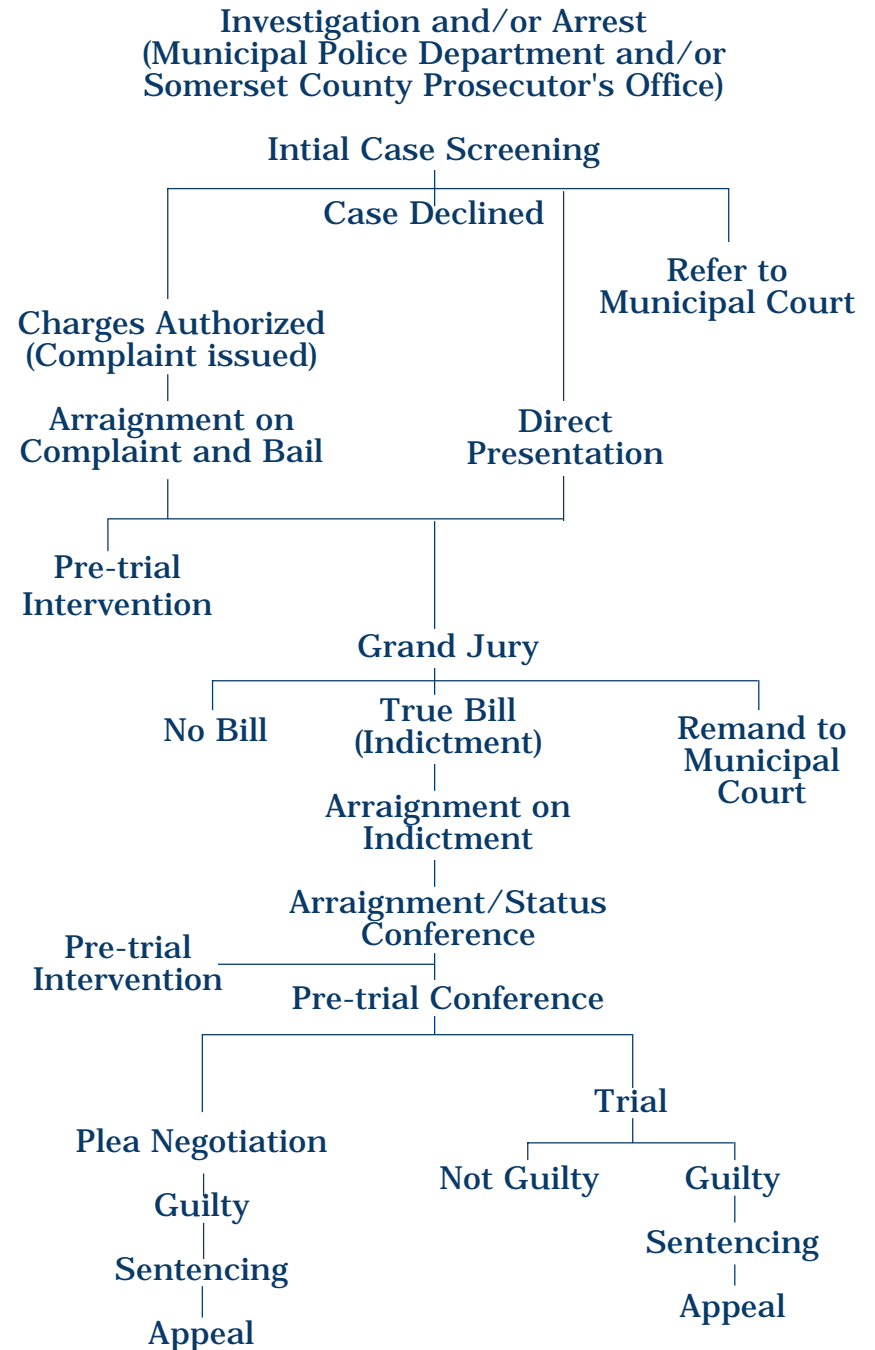
Paralegal: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Detective: _____

Telephone Number: _____

The Criminal Case Process



Important Phone Numbers

Emergency Services

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

Counseling Services

Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center 500 North Bridge Street Bridgewater	725-2800
Catholic Charities, Bridgewater	722-1881
Family Crisis Intervention Crisis Intervention Unit	704-6330
Family & Counseling Services of Somerset County	732-356-1082
Women's Health & Counseling Center Sexual Assault Support Service	526-2335

Judicial & Legal Information

Somerset County Prosecutor's Office	231-7100
Somerset County Superior Court Probation	231-7111
Family & Criminal Division Bail Unit	231-7600 231-7145
Somerset/Sussex Legal Services	231-0840
Somerset County Jail	231-7150
New Jersey State Parole Board Victim Services Unit P.O. Box 862, Trenton	609-292-4582

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence Hotline	685-1122
Resource Center for Women & Their Families 427 Homestead Road, Hillsborough	359-0003
State Hotline	800-572-7233

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