

VICTIM RIGHTS UNDER **OHIO CONSTITUTION**

Ohio Revised Code 2930 outlines specific rights afforded to crime victims.

These include the right to:

- be treated with fairness and respect regarding your safety, dignity and privacy
- reasonable protection from the accused or anyone acting on her/his behalf
- proceedings that are free from unreasonable delay and prompt conclusion of your case
- receive full and timely restitution
- access to the prosecuting attorney

You may request the right to:

- a timely notice of all public proceedings involving the crime against you and to attend those proceedings
- speak at any proceeding involving an offenders release, plea, sentencing, disposition or parole
- receive notice if the offender is released or escapes
- assert these rights yourself, through a representative, or by asking the prosecuting attorney. If your relief is denied, you may appeal to your local district court of appeals.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Allen County Common Pleas Court

333 N. Main St
Lima, OH 45801
419.228.3700

Putnam County Common Pleas Court

245 E. Main St. #302
Ottawa, OH 45875
419.523.3110

Ohio Victims Compensation Program

General info: 877.584.2846
Specific case info: 614.466.5610
www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov

VINE

Info & Notification of Offender Custody Status
800.770.0192
www.vinelink.com

Prosecutor's Office

Allen County | 419.222.2462
Putnam County | 419.523.3600

Probation Department

Allen County | 419.227.7821
Putnam County | 419.523.4821

Adult Parole Authority

Allen County | 419.227.2631
Putnam County | 419.523.8704

Domestic Violence Shelter

Allen County | 419.228.4357
Putnam County | 419.523.1111

Crime Victim Services

Allen County | 419.222.8666
330 N. Elizabeth St., Lima, OH 45801
Putnam County | 419.523.1111
338 E. Third St., Ottawa, OH 45875



CrimeVictimServices.org
info@crimevictimservices.org
24/7 crisis line | 877.867.7273

VICTIM RIGHTS IN

FELONY PROSECUTIONS



UNDERSTANDING THE FELONY JUSTICE PROCESS

Common Pleas Courts handle cases involving criminal felonies and civil cases where the amount in question is more than \$15,000, including personal injury, homicide, sexual violence, and some drug offenses.

Without victims and witnesses reporting and testifying in court, offenders may not be held accountable.

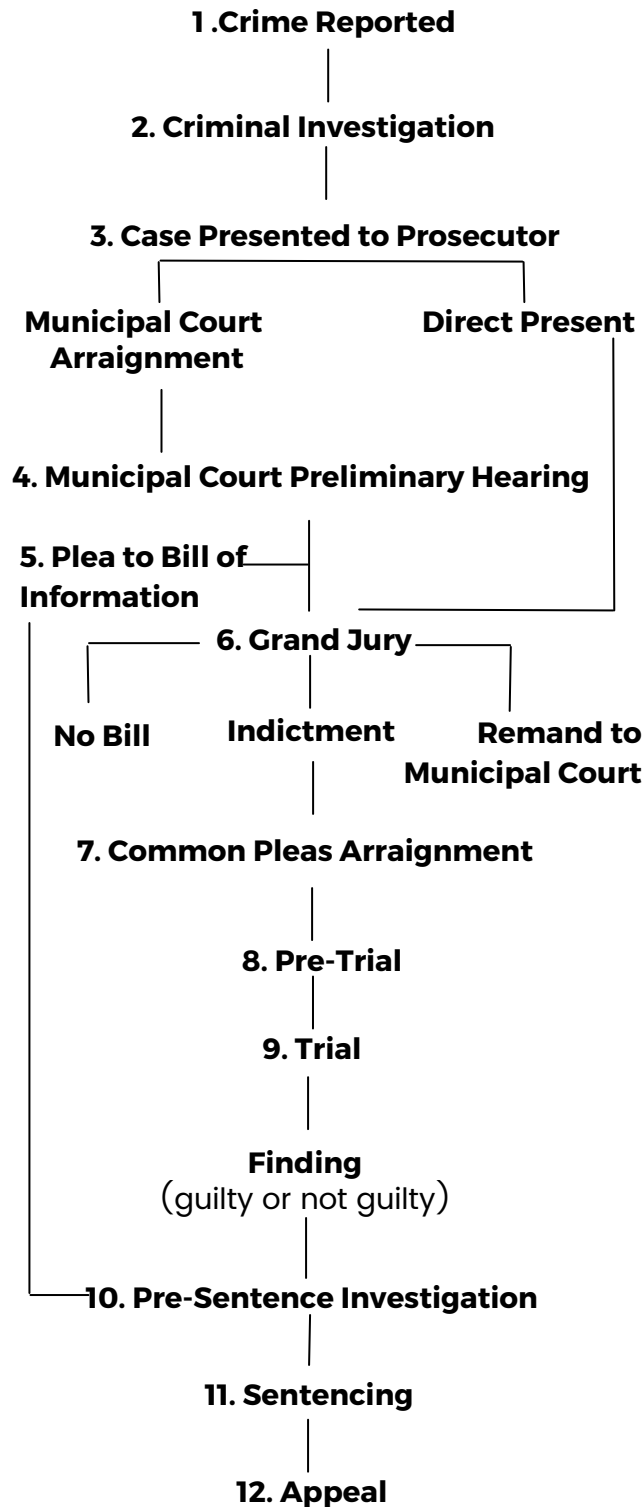
If you testify in court:

- tell the truth
- speak clearly
- dress neatly
- never lose your temper
- answer questions directly

Crime Victim Services can assist victims with the following: case information, court advocacy, crisis counseling, filing charges, hearing notifications, protection orders, defendant custody information, input on sentencing, legal rights info, property return, victims compensation, and recovering economic loss.

Felony sentences range from:

- F1: 3-11 yrs in prison & \$20,000 fine
- F2: 2-8 yrs in prison & \$15,000 fine
- F3: 9-60 mon in prison & \$10,000 fine
- F4: 6-18 mon in prison & \$5,000 fine
- F5: 6-13 mon in prison & \$2,500 fine
- unclassified: 15 yrs to life or death



1. Witness/Victim reports crime to law enforcement, or law enforcement observes the crime in progress. 2. Following a criminal investigation, an arrest may be made.

3. Investigation results are presented to the prosecutor. Felony charges may be filed against the accused or case could be presented directly to a grand jury.

4. The accused has an initial appearance before a judge who advises the defendant of the charges and determines bond. A preliminary hearing determines if probable cause exists to bind over to a grand jury.

5. The prosecutor & defense attorney may discuss a plea agreement prior to grand jury.

6. A grand jury reviews the evidence presented to determine whether to indict the defendant on felony charges, remand the case to municipal court on misdemeanor charges, or not to indict on any charges (no bill). These proceedings are closed to public.

7. During arraignment, the defendant enters an initial plea and the judge can review the bond previously set.

8. Motions are filed and/or plea agreements are discussed at pre-trial. In a plea bargain, the prosecutor allows the defendant to plead guilty to amended charges in exchange for certain terms.

9. Jury trial or Bench (judge) trial proceeds if no plea agreement is reached. To be found guilty, the defendant must be found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

10. Court considers the victim's input along with offender's background and the case facts to determine the sentence within the established limits.

11. Sentencing may include fines, incarceration or probation. Restitution must be ordered if the victim provides proof of allowable costs.

12. The defendant may ask for the decision to be reversed by a higher court.