

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

Lima Municipal Court

109 N. Union St
Lima, OH 45801
419.221.5275

Putnam County Municipal Court

245 E. Main St. #201
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 | 419.221.5234
Putnam County | 419.523.3600

Probation Department

Allen County | 419.225.6756
Putnam County | 419.523.4821

Domestic Violence Shelter

Allen County | 419.228.4357
Putnam County | 419.523.1111

Rape Crisis Center

24/7 crisis line | 877.867.7273

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 **MISDEMEANOR PROSECUTIONS**



UNDERSTANDING THE MUNICIPAL JUSTICE PROCESS

Municipal Courts handle cases involving misdemeanor crimes and petty offenses, including traffic, non-traffic misdemeanors, evictions and small civil claims.

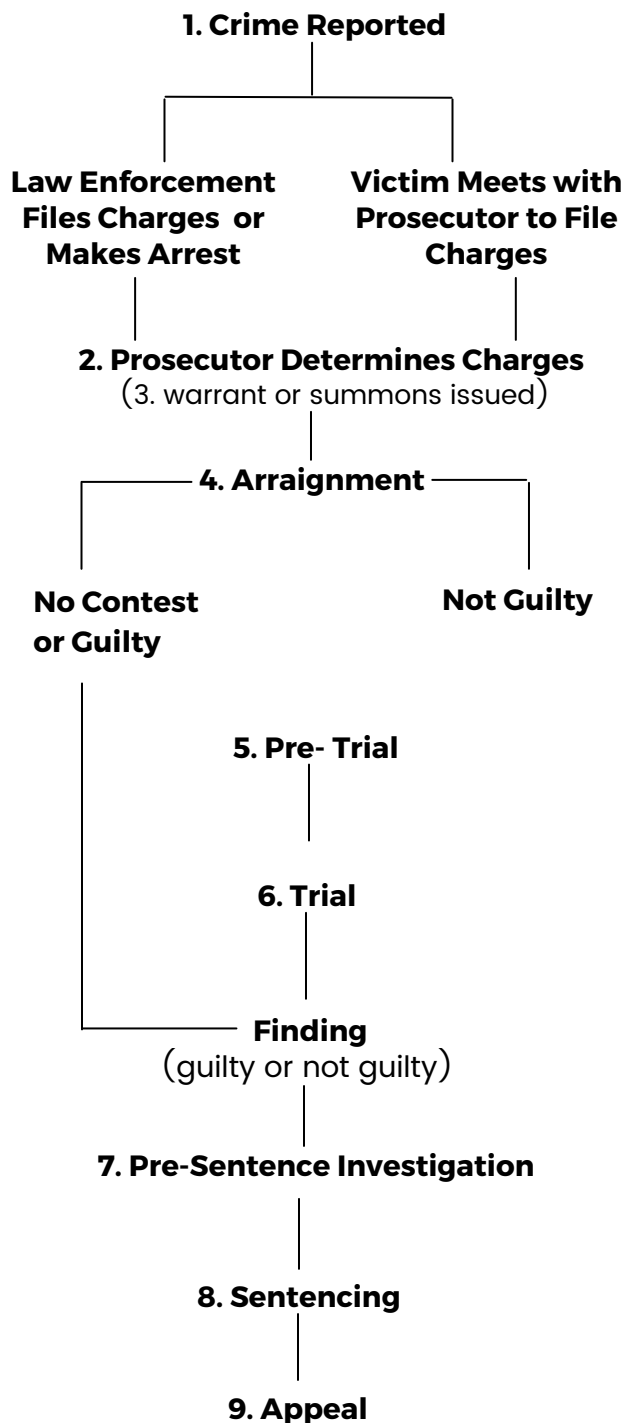
Without victims and witnesses reporting and testifying in court, offenders may not be held accountable.

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.

Misdemeanor sentences range from:
 M1: 180 days in jail & up to \$1,000 fine
 M2: 90 days in jail & up to \$750 fine
 M3: 60 days in jail & up to \$500 fine
 M4: 30 days in jail & up to \$250 fine
 MM: no jail and & up to \$150 fine



1. Witness/Victim reports crime to law enforcement, or law enforcement observes the crime in progress.

2. Prosecutor determines if there is enough evidence to file charges/prosecute.

3. A summons requires the accused to appear in court.

4. Arraignment is the defendant's initial appearance before the court, usually within 72 hours of arrest. Defendant is advised of charges, enters an initial plea (guilty, not guilty or no contest), retains counsel, and bond is determined. Temporary protection orders can be issued for victims.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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

8. Sentencing may include fines, incarceration or probation. Restitution must be ordered if the victim provides proof of loss.

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