



Crime victims deserve justice, which is why my office prosecutes tens of thousands of criminals and juvenile offenders in Maricopa County each year. Crime victims also need support and assistance from experienced professionals and those who have been through similar tragedies. To help victims begin recovering from the pain and devastation that comes with being a victim of crime, this guide provides information about your rights and a list of organizations that have helped many people deal with the loss associated with being a crime victim.

The grief that comes with being a victim of crime or losing a loved one to a violent criminal act can be immense and overwhelming, and I encourage all crime victims to seek the assistance they need. While the criminal justice system is answering the call to seek justice for crime victims, victims should also be aware that they are not alone in their experience and that there are sources of help.

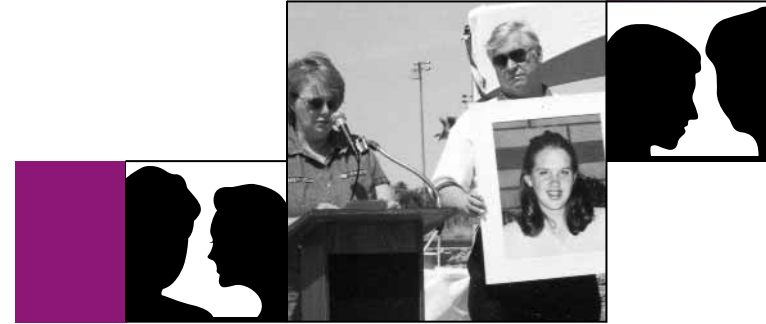
Maricopa County has one of the most comprehensive victims' assistance programs in the nation, and I am proud of the many individuals dedicated to this effort. I encourage all crime victims to work with prosecutors and victim services advocates to ensure that justice is done and that all victims receive the assistance and support they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

Andrew P. Thomas
Maricopa County Attorney

Maricopa County Attorney's Office
301 West Jefferson Street, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85003
www.maricopacountyattorney.org

VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE



When a loved one is murdered
Victims' rights
Victim compensation



ANDREW THOMAS
County Attorney

When a loved one is murdered

When a loved one dies suddenly and violently the grief the family feels is severe and complicated. There is no time to prepare for loss and no simple way to understand the fact that the life of your loved one has been taken so swiftly.

The following is a list of organizations that may assist you or your family as you grieve and deal with the pain of your loss:

Parents of Murdered Children — support group for all family members or friends of those who have died by violence:

- (602) 254-8818 (Local)
- (513) 721-5683 (National)

Internet site: www.pomc.com

Compassionate Friends — organization offering friendship and support to parents who have experienced the death of a child of any age:

- (602) 752-1832

Mothers Against Gangs — for anyone who has suffered the death of a loved one due to gang violence:

- (602) 235-9823

Community Information and Referral

24-hour information and referral service:

- (602) 263-8856

New Song Center — for grieving children

- (480) 951-8985

Victims' rights

As a victim of crime in the State of Arizona you have a constitutional right to be treated with fairness, respect and dignity; to be free from intimidation, harassment or abuse throughout the criminal/juvenile justice process.

If a person is killed, the person's spouse, parent, child or other lawful representative is a victim.

In addition, the following victims' rights apply AFTER an arrest has been made. You may request these rights or give them up entirely:

- to receive notification of scheduled court dates
- to talk with the prosecutor about your case and give input
- to make a Victim Impact Statement
- to receive notification of the sentencing outcome
- to be present at any hearing where the defendant has a right to be present
- to refuse to participate in an interview with the defense attorney

For more information on these and other victims' rights, please refer to ARS § 13:4201.

Victim compensation

If you or a loved one are the victim of a violent crime you may be eligible for victim compensation. Victim compensation is designed to assist you with financial expenses incurred because of the crime. You can apply for compensation to cover medical, counseling, funeral expenses or lost wages if those costs are not covered by another source.

You may be eligible for compensation if:

- you are victimized in Maricopa County
- the crime was reported within 72 hours of discovery
- you file an application within two years of the crime's discovery
- you willingly cooperate with appropriate law enforcement agencies

To file a victim compensation claim, contact:

Maricopa County Attorney's Office
Victim Compensation Bureau
301 W. Jefferson, Suite 900
Phoenix, AZ 85003-2151
(602) 506-4955