

TIP SHEET
December 4, 2008

Contact: Anita Droog
anita.droog@kentcountymi.gov
(616) 632 - 5400

What to do if You are Victimized

6 Steps to Take

1. Call the police within 48 hours of the crime.
2. Contact the Kent County Victim/Witness Unit at the office of the prosecuting attorney by calling toll free (877) 451-8115. You will be assigned a case manager to explain your rights and help you prepare for court.
3. If you were injured, file a claim within one year. If your medical expenses were more than \$200 or you lost the equivalent of two continuous weeks' earnings, you may be able to receive financial compensation. Family members may file a claim for a victim that has died.
4. Do not discuss the case in public. Jurors assigned to your case could be in same public places as you and you do not want to influence them outside of court.
5. In court, tell the truth. If you are asked about something you do not remember specifically, do not speculate. Do not exaggerate, and always speak in your own words. Be courteous and speak loudly enough for everyone to hear you.
6. Prepare a written impact statement to assist the court with sentencing. You may also make an oral statement at the hearing.
7. You will be informed of the sentencing. If you are interested in parole and prison information, you will be given a form that must be sent to either the Kent County Correctional Facility or the Michigan Department of Corrections, depending on where the criminal will be held.

###