

THANK YOU!

Although making yourself available for an interview can be quite a hassle, it is very important. We appreciate you taking time out of your schedule to assist in the criminal justice process. If you need help or have questions, the Victim/Witness Unit is here to assist you.



INTERVIEW TIPS

- You never have to speak with someone just because they call you or stop by your house or place of employment.
- Interviews can ALWAYS be arranged through the prosecutor's office.
- If you are unsure whether you should speak with someone regarding the case, contact the prosecutor's office.
- You have the right to consult your attorney before answering any question.
- You have the right to have your attorney or another support person present at the interview.
- You can decide whether an interview is recorded or not.
- If you don't know or don't remember the answer to a question, say so.
- You can decide the time and place of the interview.
- If the interviewer says something that is wrong, correct them.
- Always tell the truth.

Grant County Victim/Witness Unit

*Serving the victims and
witnesses of Grant County*

INTERVIEWS IN CRIMINAL CASES



Grant County Victim/Witness Unit

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As a victim or witness of crime, you may be interviewed by both the defense attorney and the prosecutor. We understand that this can often conflict with your other obligations. The Victim/Witness Unit is here to assist you and answer your questions about the interview process and to make it as easy on you and your schedule as possible.



Why do I have to be interviewed?

The defendant has a right to informed counsel when they are charged with breaking the law. This means that the defense attorney may wish to interview you in order to prepare for trial and/or advise the defendant about the best course of action in a case. The prosecutor may also need to contact you in order to get more information or to clarify some details.

When will I be interviewed?

If an interview is necessary, you will be contacted by the prosecutor's office, the defense attorney, and/or an investigator. You have the right to determine when and where interviews will take place.

Who will be contacting me?

The Victim/Witness Unit will usually arrange for interviews requested by the prosecutor and often for the defense attorney or investigator. The defense attorney or investigator may also contact you directly. If he or she does, you can arrange to speak with the attorney or investigator on your own, or we will be happy to arrange these interviews for you as well. Just ask the person requesting the interview to schedule it through the prosecutor's office. He or she should respect your requests. If you have any difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact the prosecutor's office for assistance.

When someone knocks on your door

It may happen that the defense attorney or an investigator will show up at your home or work without an appointment and request to speak with you immediately. This can happen for various reasons, including if he or she has been unable to contact you via telephone. If you feel comfortable, you can choose to be interviewed at that time. However, you should not feel pressured to do so. If you feel more comfortable having someone from the



prosecutor's office present when you are interviewed, you can tell the attorney or investigator to set up an interview through the prosecutor's office. We will be happy to do so. No one from the prosecutor's office will ever show up at your house or work without making an appointment.

Isn't my statement enough?

You may have previously given a statement to law enforcement. Although this may seem sufficient, statements rarely include all of the details about what was witnessed.



There may also be additional questions that are not answered by your statement. It is important for both the prosecuting and defense attorneys to have all relevant facts and background information.

What if no one contacts me?

Sometimes the defense or prosecuting attorney may not contact you prior to trial. If this is the case and you have information that you feel is important for the prosecutor to have, please contact the Victim/Witness Unit. We will assist you in getting this information to the appropriate person.