

To the Honorable Board of County Supervisors:

The Victim's Rights Amendment (State of Wisconsin Constitution, Article I Section 9m) provides certain rights to crime victims. The District Attorney's Office and Victim Witness Unit are required and committed to assisting victims when exercising those rights.

CASELOAD

In 2010, our office worked with 729 new victims, along with many victims whose cases carried over from the previous year. That figure represents a 14% increase in the number of citizens served in 2010 compared to 2009. Crime victims requested to exercise 2,795 crime victim rights. Those rights included the right to be notified of all court hearings, the right to confer with the prosecutor or designee, the right to make a victim impact statement to the court and the right to restitution to name just a few.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS/SERVICES

KIDS COURT:

Three young citizen witnesses participated in Kids Court. That program helps prepare children who are required to testify in court. Kids Court helps to alleviate fears and concerns of not only the child witness but also their parent.

VINE:

Twenty- three victims were registered with the Victim Impact Notification Everyday (VINE). Once registered, victims have access to information concerning offenders who are sentenced to the Wisconsin State Prison system. Victims are able to learn where their offender is being housed, and when the offender will be released from prison. Two of the registered individuals have access to more specific information for offenders who are required to register with the Sex Offender Registry.

In addition, Ozaukee County has participated in a Statewide Vine Service where victims and citizens can contact a toll free number and determine if their offender is in the custody of the Ozaukee County Jail. Our office provides information and assists citizens in registering. This automated notification program will alert a person when an offender is being released from the Ozaukee County Jail.

VICTIM IMPACT PANEL:

Since 2001, the Victim Witness Unit remains active in the Victim Impact Panel advisory group. This court ordered program requires third and subsequent drunk drivers to attend a presentation given by surviving family members who have lost loved ones to drunk drivers. Two presentations were held in Washington County and two other presentations were hosted by Ozaukee County in 2010.

WITNESS PREPERATION

During this reporting period, over 800 citizen witnesses were subpoenaed to testify in court on behalf of the District Attorney's Office. The Victim Witness Unit assisted in preparing many of those witnesses to testify and coordinated appearances for numerous preliminary hearings, fact findings and jury trials.

PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT

The Department of Justice, Office of Crime Victim Services reimbursed Ozaukee County \$27,324.82 for the time period of January 2010 to May 2010. In the near future, it is anticipated the Department of Justice will reimburse Ozaukee County an additional 52% of all operating expenses for the time frame of June 2010 to December 2010.

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND SPECIAL MENTION

Lisa Haasch, Victim Witness Specialist brought attention to National Crime Victim Rights Week in April of 2010. Ms. Haasch designed and distributed bookmarks listing resources for victims of crime to public libraries in Ozaukee County. She also designed and displayed a poster highlighting victim issues in the entryway of the Justice Center.

Our office consists of a victim witness coordinator and part time victim witness specialist, Lisa Haasch. Lisa Haasch is an amazing coworker and I appreciate all that she does to assist persons who have been victimized by criminals.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Hodorowski
Victim Witness Coordinator

