

March, 2010

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors:

For crime victims and witnesses, the period following a crime can be very difficult, emotionally, physically and financially. The purpose of the Ozaukee County Victim Witness Unit is to ensure that victims and witnesses are informed of their Wisconsin Constitutional Rights which provides them with certain privileges and protections. Our office also assists victims and witnesses in understanding and exercising those rights, as well as, having access to services needed.

CASELOAD

In 2009, this department provided services to 627 new victims, along with many victims whose cases carried over from the previous year. Crime victims requested to exercise 2,880 Crime Victim Rights in 2009. Those rights include the right to be notified of all hearings; to confer, to present a Victim Impact Statement at sentencing and be notified of the disposition of their case to name just a few victims' Constitutional rights.

Seventy-four clients were victimized by juvenile offenders under the age of seventeen in 2009.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS/ SERVICES

Kids Court:

When children are required to participate in the court system, it is essential that we provide them with special consideration. Our office established Kid's Court in 2002. That program helps alleviate anxiety and fears that children and their parents experience when required to give testimony in court in front of their offender. In 2009 five children participated in Kid's Court.

VINE

Twenty-seven victims were registered with the Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE). This service allows victims access to information concerning offenders who are sentenced to the Wisconsin State Prison system. Two of those victims have access to information for offenders who were required to register with the Sex Offender Registry.

Victim Request to Modify No Contact Provision

In response to victims who wanted the court to modify bail conditions that prohibit an offender from having contact with them, our office developed a policy and procedure to address this issue. With our primary goal being ensuring the safety of victims, guidelines and interview questions were developed along with Bond Modification Petitions for the court's consideration.

This procedure allows the victim to petition the court on their own behalf, after discussing safety issues, support systems and other options.

WITNESS PREPERATION

Also during this reporting period, over 900 citizen witnesses were subpoenaed to testify on behalf of the District Attorney's Office. The Victim Witness Unit assisted in preparing witnesses and coordinating appearances for numerous preliminary hearings, trial preparation, motion hearings and ten trials.

PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT

The Department of Justice, Office of Crime Victim services reimbursed Ozaukee County \$26,668.39 or 58.21% of the Victim Witness Unit's budget for the time period of January to May of 2009. Also in April of 2009, the Office of Crime Victim Services reimbursed Ozaukee County \$30,654.50 or 52.9% for costs incurred during June of 2008 to December of 2008.

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND SPECIAL MENTION

In April of 2009, our office participated in National Crime Victim Rights week. Assistant Victim Witness Coordinator, Lisa Haasch designed a poster that was displayed in the entryway of the Justice Center. Bookmarks listing resources for victims of crime were given to Ozaukee County Public Libraries for distribution to the public. Ms. Haasch did a wonderful job in bringing victim issues to the attention of Ozaukee County citizens.

Since taking office in July of 2009, District Attorney, Adam Y. Gerol has made it his mission to fairly advocate for victims of crime and ensure that victims have a voice in our legal system. It is an absolute pleasure to work with Mr. Gerol, Lisa Haasch, Assistant District Attorney Jeffery Sisley, Assistant District Attorney, Patti Wabitsch, June Marx and the entire staff of the District Attorney's Office.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Hodorowski
Victim Witness Coordinator

