

## Victims and Witnesses are Important!

No one expects to be a victim of or a witness to a crime – but it does happen. Every year many citizens of this county are victimized by violent crimes. If you or someone you know is affected by crime, you may be shocked, angered, or shamed. And you will most probably feel helpless and confused.

The Victim-Witness Assistance Program was established to offer crime victims and witnesses support during the aftermath of a crime and guidance through the maze of the criminal justice system.

Your knowledge of a crime as a victim or witness is very important to the criminal justice system. No crime can be solved without the help of victims and witnesses. By your willingness to get involved, you are working with other citizens, members of law enforcement and the courts to reduce crime.

Most importantly, your cooperation and assistance could prevent others from being victimized.

### Crime Victim's Bill of Rights

Victims of crime have the right to:

- Reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any scheduled court proceedings or any changes to such proceedings.
- Reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of the arrest, release, or escape of the accused.
- Be heard at any scheduled court proceedings involving the release, plea, or sentencing of the accused.
- File a written objection in any parole proceedings involving the accused.
- Confer with the prosecuting attorney in any criminal prosecution related to the victim.
- Restitution as provided by law.
- Proceedings free from unreasonable delay.
- Be treated fairly and with dignity by all criminal justice agencies involved in the case.

(Further details on the Crime Witness Bill of Rights can be found in Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.)

## Important Numbers

- Animal Control 678.493.4080
- Animal Shelter 770.345.7270
- Ball Ground Police Dept. 770.735.2123
- Canton Police Dept. 770.720.4883
- Cherokee Family Violence Center 770.479.1804
- Cherokee Family Violence Center Battered Women's Shelter 24-Hr Hotline 770.479.1703
- Cherokee Family Violence Center 24-Hr Hotline en Español 770.720.7050
- Cherokee Marshal's Office 678.493.6200
- Cherokee Probation Services 678.493.4300
- Children's Advocacy Center 770.345.8100
- Dept. of Community Supervision 770.479.2602
- Dept. of Family & Children Svc. 770.720.3610
- District Attorney 678.493.6301
- Georgia State Patrol 706.692.4835
- Health Department 770.345.7371
- Holly Springs Police Dept. 770.345.5537
- Mental Health (GA Highlands) 770.720.3510
- Northside Hospital Cherokee 770.720.5100
- Sheriff's Office 678.493.4200
- Solicitor General 678.493.6360
- Suicide and Crisis Counseling 800.784.2433
- United Way Helpline 770.345.7371
- Victim-Witness Assistance 678.493.6326
- Woodstock Police Dept. 770.592.6030

### Other Hotlines

- GA Council on Child Abuse 800.532.3208
- GA Helpline 800.338.6745
- Grady Rape Crisis Center 404.616.4861
- Sexual Assault Hotline 770.427.3390

### Emergency Assistance

- For Emergency Response 911
- For General Victim Assistance During Non-Business Hours 678.493.4080

### Programs

- Office of District Attorney Victim Witness Program 678.493.6326
- Office of the Solicitor-General Victim Witness Program 678.493.6380



Cherokee Marshal's Office  
 959 Marietta Hwy.  
 Canton, GA 30114  
 678.493.6200  
[www.cherokeega.com](http://www.cherokeega.com)

*Information for Victims & Witnesses of Crimes & Serious Traffic Offenses*

*If you have been a victim of or witness to a crime, where do you turn for information and support? See inside.*

Under GA Code Chapter 17 persons who have become the victims of crimes are being provided with the following information to assist them:

1. The person accused of criminal activity toward you may be released from custody before trial. This is commonly known as “being release on bond”.
2. You, as a victim, have certain rights during various stages of the criminal justice process. Depending upon which court has jurisdiction in your case, either the District Attorney’s office, which handles felony criminal cases, or the State Court Solicitor’s office, which handles misdemeanor cases, will notify you of your rights and explain to you the judicial process as it pertains to your case. Office hours for the District Attorney’s Victim Witness Program are Monday through Friday, 9:00AM to 5:00PM. Their telephone number is 678.493.6301. The State Court Solicitor’s Office can be reached at 678.493.6360; you may also contact the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council of the State of Georgia at 404.657.1956 or [www.cjcc.georgia.gov](http://www.cjcc.georgia.gov)
3. You, as a victim, may be eligible for community-based victim service programs. More information about the various programs can be obtained by contacting Criminal Justice Coordinating Council of the State of Georgia at 404.657.1956.
4. In order for us to properly assist you and keep you informed of the status of your case, you must provide us with your current address and telephone number. Should you have any questions, contact the Cherokee Marshal’s Office at 678.493.6200.

## Cherokee Marshal’s Office

### ● **Criminal Act Occurs**

### ● **Warrant**

### ● **Arrest**

### ● **Bail/Bond**

Bail is set in most cases except when the Judge determines that the defendant is unlikely to return for court appearances and/or is a danger to the community. If bail is set, the defendant can make bail and get out of jail; the defendant is required to attend all future court proceedings. A defendant who is unable to make bail, or whose bail amount has not been set, must remain in jail. Sometimes special conditions can be placed on a bond.

### ● **First Appearance Hearing**

A hearing is held in Magistrate Court within 72 hours of arrest for defendants unable to make bail. The charges are read and the defendant’s rights are explained.

### ● **Preliminary Hearing**

A hearing in Magistrate Court for those defendants who have not made bail and have already had a First Appearance Hearing. A prosecutor presents the case and the Judge determines if there is enough evidence to hold the defendant in jail. You will be notified if you are needed to testify at the Preliminary Hearing.

## **Victim’s Notification Program Progression of a Criminal Case**

### ● **Grand Jury**

The Grand Jury reviews felony cases and votes on whether or not to indict the case. You may or may not be required to testify at Grand Jury. Neither the defendant nor his attorney will be present.

### ● **Arraignment**

At Arraignment, the charges against the defendant are read aloud in court and the defendant pleads guilty or not guilty. If the defendant pleads guilty, the Judge may sentence the defendant. If this occurs, you will be notified of the outcome. If the defendant pleads not guilty, the case is scheduled for trial.

### ● **Trial**

A trial before a jury of your peers in felony and misdemeanor cases, or trial by Judge. If the defendant is found guilty, the Judge sentences the defendant. It may take several months for your case to be called for trial.

### ● **Sentencing**

Sentencing will not always occur on the same day as a verdict or guilty plea. The Victim always has a right to address the Judge, either verbally or by letter, with his/her feelings about sentencing.

*A defendant may plead guilty at any time during this process.*

### **Crime Victim Compensation Program>>>**

The State of Georgia has a program to assist you with crime related expenses if you are a victim of a violent crime. It can help compensate victims for medical costs not covered by insurance, counseling, lost of wages, funeral expenses and various other costs. You do not need an attorney to file an application. An application will be sent to you when you contact the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council at 404.657.1956.