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| **Judicial System**  This may be your first involvement with law enforcement or the judicial system. It’s very common for people to expect what they have seen on television or movies to apply to their current circumstances. Unfortunately, these expectations are often unrealistic or a distorted snapshot of how things truly operate.  There are laws and regulations in place aimed at protecting victims. For cases involving prosecution, court advocates may be available to provide information, education, and support that will help reduce your fears and uncertainties (e.g., discussing what to expect when you go to court).  Education and information about how the judicial system works, your rights, and your role can help you navigate these processes.  **Benefits of Counseling**  Some benefits to seeking counseling:   * Coping skills and strategies can help you to continue daily activities and relationships. * Establishing a support network can help to decrease the negative physical, psychological, and emotional effects that often result from traumatic experiences. * In a confidential setting, you can discuss topics such as:   + Safety planning and options for the future.   + The event and how it made you feel.   + Legal and judicial decisions. | |  | | --- | | **Who Can Help?**  [*Agency*] Victim services can assist you with information regarding victims’ rights, Crime Victim Compensation, case status, navigation of the criminal justice system, and referrals to the appropriate community resources or helping professionals or organizations according to your specific needs.  **Resources**  Local Resources  [*Insert state Crime Victims’ Compensation information*]  [*Insert other relevant local resources*]  National Resources  **Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)**  1-877-894-8463  [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)  **National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)**  800-879-6682  [www.trynova.org](http://www.trynova.org/)  **Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)**  [www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org/)  This publication was produced under [*Grant Number*] awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this draft publication are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Department of Justice.  [*Revision Date*] | | |  | | --- | | **Traffic Incidents & Vehicular Crimes**  **[*Agency*] Victim**  **Adult Grief and Loss**  **Adult Grief and Loss**  **Services**  **[*address*]**  **[*phone number*]**  **[*Insert Agency logo*]**  **[insert Agency logo]**  **[insert Agency logo]**  **[insert Agency logo]**  Name/ID Number:  Direct Number: | |
| **Auto Burglary and Theft**  If your vehicle has been broken into, make a police report. Be sure to tell the officer/deputy taking the report exactly what property was taken out of your vehicle.  Tips for reducing risk of future auto burglary are:   * Place valuable items in the trunk, out of sight, or take them with you * Lock your doors * Do not leave your keys in your car * Keep your windows up * Have an alarm installed * Do not leave your car running while unattended (even in your own driveway or parking lot) * Do not leave a spare key in an obvious place * Always park in a public place that is well lit   If your car has been *stolen*, make a police report. You will need information about your car such as the make, model, color, year, license plate number, and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) number (if you have it). After the police report is made, if the reported information indicates that the vehicle has been stolen, your vehicle information will be entered into state and national U.S. databases as stolen. Be sure to let your insurance company know if your vehicle has been stolen. | **Driving While Intoxicated/**  **Driving Under the Influence**  DWI and DUI are very serious offenses that cause thousands of fatalities every year in the United States.  [*Insert your jurisdiction’s penalties*]  **First conviction**  [*Insert your jurisdiction’s penalty*]  **Second conviction**  [*Insert your jurisdiction’s penalty*]  **Third conviction**  [*Insert your jurisdiction’s penalty*]  **Driving Under the Influence with Children in the Car**  Driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol is dangerous, but even more so when there are children in the car. This offense is even more serious when a child is in the car of a driver who is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. | **Hit-and-Run**  Hit-and-run cases usually involve a driver hitting a pedestrian or another vehicle, and then leaving the scene. These collisions make up a substantial proportion of traffic fatalities and have a serious impact on the victims’ lives. Hit-and-runs have severe legal consequences when the offender is found, including losing or having one’s driver’s license suspended and/or jail time. If you are the victim of a hit-and-run, call 911 to make a report as soon as possible.  If you are injured and are unable to pay your medical bills, Crime Victims Compensation may be a resource to help cover those costs. Contact the Office of the Attorney General or the [*Agency*] Victim Services for more information.  **Vehicular Crimes Resulting in Death or Injury**  If charges are filed, the victim, surviving passengers, or the family of the victim may be eligible for Crime Victims Compensation to cover various expenses resulting from the incident. Contact the [*Agency*] Victim Services for more information. |