

CRIME VICTIM WITNESS RIGHTS

As a victim or a witness of crime, you have certain rights under Virginia's Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act (§19.2-11.01). There are specific steps you must take to receive these rights. Please contact us at the Wise County Sheriff's Office or the Wise County Victim/Witness Program or Commonwealth's attorney's office so that we can help and provide further information about your rights.

As a Victim of a crime, you may be entitled to information about: Your rights and local agencies and programs that can provide information and assistance, protection and protective orders, financial assistance and social services, including the Virginia Victims Fund (officially the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund), address and telephone number confidentiality, closed preliminary hearing or use of closed-circuit television, separate waiting area during court proceedings, the right to remain in the courtroom during a criminal trial or proceeding, the right to consult the commonwealth's attorney regarding proposed plea agreements and plea negotiations in felony cases, the law (40.1-28.7:2) requiring employers to allow employees who are crime victims leave from work to attend criminal proceedings.

Advocates can assist victims and provide accompaniment services for medical services, court appearances and criminal proceedings. Advocates also provide aftercare support and transportation if needed. See the Help & Support Contacts page for contact information.

Ask the Wise County Domestic Violence Investigator or the Wise County Victim Witness Coordinator about other ways a victim or witness can be assisted under the Virginia Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act.

HELP & SUPPORT CONTACTS:

IN IMMEDIATE DANGER

CALL 9-1-1

Wise County Sheriff's Office/ Domestic Violence Unit

(276) 328-3566

Wise Co. Commonwealth Attorney's Office

(276) 328-9406

Wise County Victim/Witness Program

(276) 328-4421

Wise County Court Service Unit

(276) 328-2141

Wise Co. Juvenile Domestic Relations Court

(276) 328-4486

Wise Co. Magistrate's Office

(276) 328-8947

Family Crisis Support Services (Advocacy)

(276) 679-7240

Family Crisis 24 hour Crisis Hotline for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

1-800-572-2278

Frontier Health/Wise County Behavioral Health **(276)523-8360**

Wise Co. Dept. of Social Services

(276) 328-8056

Bristol Crisis Center (Advocacy)

(276) 466-2218

Bristol Crisis Center 24 hour Crisis Hotline for Suicide Prevention, Sexual Assault

1-800-273-8255

Southwest Legal Aid

1-888-201-2772

Title IX (UVA-WISE STUDENTS)

(276)376-3451

Hope House of Scott County (Advocacy)

1-888-250-4325

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Are you a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking?



**Wise County Sheriff's Office
E. Grant Kilgore, Sheriff**

5605 Patriot Drive
P.O. Box 916
Wise, Virginia 24293
(276)328-3566
Emergency Dial 9-1-1

Investigating Deputy: _____

Incident #: _____

Date of Incident: _____



Confidentiality Notifications

The following are steps you need to take to receive confidentiality, notification, or release information: Confidentiality – you must file a Request for Confidentiality by a Crime Victim form (DC-301) with the magistrate, court, Commonwealth Attorney or law enforcement agency in the locality where the crime occurred. Court dates – you must give the Commonwealth Attorney your name, address and telephone number in writing.

If you wish to be notified in advance of the scheduled court dates for preliminary hearings, trials, sentencing and other proceedings in your case.

Emergency Protective Order

If you feel the abuser poses a continuing threat to your safety you may request an Emergency Protective Order from the Deputy on the scene. A magistrate or judge may issue an EPO if requested by the Deputy.

An EPO may include the following conditions:

- Order the abuser & you to have no contact of any kind with each other.
- Order the abuser to stop assaulting you or others listed within the protective order.
- Grant you the exclusive possession of your residence or vehicle while the protective order is in effect.

The Emergency Protective Order is in effect for 72 hours or until 11:59 P.M. of the next court date.

THE ORDER IS IN EFFECT ONLY AFTER IT HAS BEEN SERVED ON THE PETITIONER & RESPONDENT

Preliminary and Permanent Protective Orders Issued by the Court.

If you need further protection, you must appear at the Court Service Unit and request a Preliminary Protective Order. In addition to a Protective order, you may file for: Custody, child support, spousal support, exclusive use of the residence and alternative housing. For assistance and questions please contact us or the Wise County Victim Witness Office.

Arrest

The Commonwealth of VA Code Section § 18.2-57.2 requires an officer to make an arrest if there is probable cause that an assault and battery against a family member has occurred.

Warrant

You don't have to be physically injured to apply for a warrant. A warrant can also be issued for threats, stalking, property damage and trespassing. Magistrates are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Magistrates Office is located in Wise at the Wise County Justice Center on Coeburn Mtn. RD Ph: (276) 328-8947.

Court

If a warrant has been filed and/or you have requested a preliminary protective order you will be required to be present in court. Contact the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office at (276) 328-9406 or Wise County Victim Witness Program at (276) 328-4421 prior to your court date and they will provide assistance and support for the court process.

NOTE: FILING CHARGES AND OBTAINING PROTECTIVE ORDERS ARE ONLY EFFECTIVE IF BOTH PARTIES OBEY THE RESTRICTIONS.

WISE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

The Wise County Sheriff's Office has a Domestic Violence Investigator that assists deputies and victims with domestic violence cases. If you're involved in a Domestic Violence Incident and need assistance please contact our office. The Wise County Sheriff's Office has a Cellular Phone Program for Domestic Violence Victims. You can apply for the program at the Wise County Sheriff's Office. If you have any questions please contact us at (276)328-3566 or (276)328-3756.

(Cellular phones can only dial 911)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 24 Hour Hotline/Support

The Family Crisis Support Services Inc. has a confidential 24 Hour Hotline that serves our area to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. To access the 24 hour hotline dial 1-800-572-2278.

Some reasons why victims stay:

- Economic Dependence
- Fear of greater physical/mental danger to themselves and their children if they leave
- Lack of job skills and alternative housing
- Fear of loneliness
- Lack of emotional support
- Guilt
- Belief the spouse will change

FACT: 72% of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner, 94% of the victims of these murder suicides are female.