

WHAT ARE THE JUDICIAL OFFICIALS'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO ME AS A CRIME VICTIM?

Judicial Officials including judges, magistrates and the Clerk of Court's Office also have responsibilities to you.

Should you decide not to have a law enforcement agency involved in the reporting of a misdemeanor crime against you or a law enforcement agency declines to investigate such a crime, you have the right to speak with a magistrate. The magistrate is an officer of the District Court. In criminal cases, a magistrate may issue criminal summons and warrants among other judicial tasks.

*Upon a pleading (i.e. a warrant) being issued for any misdemeanor offense against the person based on testimony or evidence from a complaining witness rather than from a law enforcement officer, a judicial official **shall**:*

- Record the defendant's name and the victim's name, address, and telephone number electronically or on a form separate from the pleading unless you have refused to disclose any or all of the information, in which case the judicial official shall so indicate.
- Deliver the court's copy of the warrant and victim-identifying information to the office of the clerk of superior court by the close of the next business day.
- Within 72 hours, the office of the clerk of superior court **shall** forward to the district attorney's office the victim-identifying information.

*Please note that in any court proceeding subject to this Article, a judge **shall** inquire as to whether the victim is present and wishes to be heard.*

- If you (victim) are present and wish to be heard, the court **shall** grant you an opportunity to be reasonably heard.
- The court **shall** make every effort to provide a secure waiting area during court proceedings that does not place the victim in close proximity to the defendant or the defendant's family.
- The right to be reasonably heard **may** be exercised, at your discretion, through an oral statement, submission of a written statement, or submission of an audio or video statement.