

Questions:

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Resources:

Center for Victims' Services	503-846-3020
DA's Office	503-846-8671
DVRC Crisis Line	503-469-8620
Jail (main number)	503-846-2600
Jail Release Office	503-846-6362
Legal Aid	503-648-7163
Probation & Parole	503-846-3400

Non-Emergency Police Dispatch	503-629-0111
EMERGENCY	911

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Washington County
District Attorney's Office
Victim Assistance Program

Bob Hermann
District Attorney

Justice Services Bldg. Rm 300
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Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

503-846-8671

<http://www.co.washington.or.us/deptnts/da/va.htm>

I didn't want to press charges, why is this happening?

In a criminal case, charges are brought forward by the State of Oregon. The State of Oregon is represented by the Washington County District Attorney's Office. It is the Deputy District Attorney who has the responsibility to make sure that Oregon law is consistently enforced and who decides whether or not to go forward with charges. He or she makes those decisions based on the facts of the case; public safety is of the utmost concern.

Why can't I have contact with the defendant?

When someone is arrested and then released from jail, they have to sign a *Release Agreement*. This states that they won't have direct or indirect contact with the victim, the victim's family or the victim's residence. This is imposed in every case for the protection of the victim. The Release Agreement remains in effect for the duration of the court process.

I'm concerned that the police report doesn't accurately reflect what happened. What can I do?

- Contact the arresting police officer and request to make an amended police report.
- Write a letter to the DA's Office stating what you want the DA to know. This will also be sent to the Defense Attorney and becomes part of the case file.

How can the Release Agreement be modified?

You can request a modification of the release agreement after arraignment by going to the Release Office at the jail and filling out the proper paperwork. It will be up to a judge to decide if the Release Agreement should be modified to allow some sort of contact.

When can I tell the judge my side of the story?

If the defendant pleads not guilty, the case goes to trial. You will be questioned by both the Deputy District Attorney and the Defense Attorney. This is your opportunity to truthfully testify about what happened.

If the defendant pleads guilty or is convicted, you have the right to make a statement to the judge at sentencing. You can let the judge know any concerns or recommendations for sentencing that you have.

How can I get the charges dropped?

It is not possible for the victim or any of the witnesses to get the charges dropped. However, you can share your opinion with the Deputy District Attorney.

How can the defendant get released?

Three ways:

- Pay the bail amount
- Forced release
- Ordered by the Court or Court Release Office with specific conditions

What happens if the defendant and I have contact?

The defendant could be arrested for a Violation of the Release Agreement and/or additional criminal charges.

If you have additional questions, contact us at (503) 846-8671.