

Stages of the Criminal Justice System

Arrest – Suspect(s) taken to jail, fingerprinted and photographed. Some are immediately released or have to post bond to guarantee they will show up in court.

First Appearance – Occurs within 24 hours of an arrest. Each suspect kept in jail must appear before a judge who establishes whether a bond should be set and if so how much. The judge will also consider conditions of release and appoint a defense attorney if the suspect can't afford one.

Filing of Formal Charges – the State Attorney's Office will file formal charges within 21 days after reviewing law enforcement reports.

Arraignment – The accused is formally charged and enters a plea of guilty, not guilty or no contest.

Trial Preparations – The prosecutor and defense attorney interview witnesses and exchange evidence. If the defendant gives up the right to a trial and pleads guilty or no contest, the prosecutor usually offers a reduced charge or drops additional counts. If the defendant refused to plead guilty or a deal can't be reached, the attorneys will interview more witnesses and prepare for trial.

Plea – Defendant pleads guilty or no contest without a trial or **charges are dropped** - the State Attorney's Office may determine that a case is not strong enough or witnesses are not available. **Or trial** – Judge or jury decides guilt or innocence after hearing arguments and testimony.

Sentencing – if the defendant is found guilty, the judge reviews sentencing guidelines and determines what type of sentence the defendant should receive.

Information and Referral Numbers

Emergencies
911

Jupiter Police Department Non-Emergency
746-6201

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse
265-2900

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Screening and Information
882-3222

Center for Information and Crisis Services
Crisis Line 930-1234
Suicide Intervention 930-1234
Elder Helpline 930-5040
Teen Hotline 930-8336

Florida Abuse Hotline (Elderly and Children)
1-800-962-2873

Florida Attorney General
Victim Services 688-7759
Crimes Compensation 800-226-6667

Florida Domestic Violence Hotline
800-500-1119

Juvenile Restitution and Victim Assistance
355-2532

Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County
655-8944

Mother Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
533-1021

Palm Beach County Public Health Department
840-4500

Probation and Parole
837-5175

Palm Beach County Victim Services
Victim Assistance Program 355-2418
North County Office 624-6648
24 Hour Hotline 833-7273
Domestic Violence Shelter 655-6106

Palm Beach County Jail
688-4340

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
688-3000

Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office
Main Office 355-7100
Citizen Intake - Main 355-7108
North County 624-6630

Domestic Violence
Elimination Program (DOVE) 355-7433
Economic Crimes and
Crimes Against the Elderly 355-7244
Juvenile Court Division 355-7200
Victim/Witness Coordination 355-6315
Worthless Checks 355-7110

Rape Hotline
833-7273

Victim Information and Notification Everyday (V.I.N.E.) – Automated system for custody status
877-727-6846

Victim's Rights Brochure



Jupiter Police Department

"Setting the Benchmark for Excellence"

210 Military Trail
Jupiter, FL 33458
Telephone 561-746-6201
FAX 561-746-455

www.jupiter.fl.us/jpd

Victims Have Rights

As the victim of a crime or the next-of-kin of a homicide victim you have rights. These guaranteed rights, as outlined in section 960.001, Florida Statutes, include:

THE RIGHT to be present, informed, and heard when relevant, at all the crucial stages of the criminal and juvenile justice system.

THE RIGHT to be free from threats, intimidation, or harassment. It is against the law to cause a victim/witness to be placed in fear by force or threats, to make an assault on, or harm any victim/witness. If you are being threatened or intimidated please contact the police.

THE RIGHT to ask the court for restitution (payment for financial loss as a result of a crime) from the defendant and information from the court on enforcement of that order.

THE RIGHT to request assistance from law enforcement and the State Attorney's Office in notification of creditors and employers in regards to financial hardship or absences resulting from the crime.

THE RIGHT to a prompt, timely disposition of your case provided this right does not interfere with the rights of the accused.

THE RIGHT to be notified of scheduling changes in your criminal or juvenile justice system appearances by the scheduling agency or person.

THE RIGHT to be consulted by the State Attorney's Office in certain felony cases in order to obtain your or your family's views about the disposition of the case.

THE RIGHT to have a victim advocate accompany you to a disposition. Victims who are not incarcerated will not be required to attend discovery depositions in any correctional facility.

THE RIGHT to have your rights asserted to you through the State Attorney's Office.

THE RIGHT to know what your role is in the criminal or juvenile justice system.

THE RIGHT to be notified when a defendant escapes or is released from a correctional facility.

THE RIGHT to review certain portions of a pre-sentence investigation report for an adult and/or youthful offender prior to the sentencing of the accused.

THE RIGHT to submit an oral or written victim impact statement to the court.

THE RIGHT to a prompt return of property, unless there is a compelling law enforcement need to retain the property.

THE RIGHT of a victim or the victim's legal guardian, or the parent or legal guardian of a victim, if the victim is a minor, to request that a person who is charged with any offense enumerated in section 775.0877(1)(a)-(n), Florida Statutes, that involves the transmission of body fluids from one person to another, undergo hepatitis and HIV testing.

THE RIGHT to request and know at the earliest convenience if the person charged with an offense which involves the transmission of body fluids has tested positive for the HIV infection.

THE RIGHT of the victim of a sexual offense and under certain circumstances, if the victim is under the age of 18 or is a disabled adult or elderly person, to request the court to order the accused to undergo HIV testing regardless of whether the offense involved the transmission of body fluids. If requested by the victim, the right of the victim to receive information regarding the results of the testing within two weeks of the court's receipt of the results.

THE RIGHT, in certain circumstances, to request that the offender be required to attend a different school than the victim or victim's siblings.

THE RIGHT to general victim assistance, such as transportation, parking, separate pre-trial waiting areas, and translator services in attending court, as is practical.

THE RIGHT of the victim to request the presence of a victim advocate during the forensic medical examination. An advocate from a certified rape crisis center shall be permitted to attend any forensic medical examination.

No law enforcement officer, prosecuting attorney or government official will ask or require a victim of a sexual offense to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition of the investigation.

The victim of a sexual offense has the right to have the courtroom cleared, with certain exceptions, during their testimony, regardless of their age or mental capacity.

The victim of domestic violence has the right to be informed of the Address Confidentiality Program administered by the Office of the Attorney General. Please contact 688-7759 or 800-226-6667 for further information.

Victims who are incarcerated have the right to be informed and submit written statements at all crucial stages of the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

The victim or next-of-kin of a homicide victim are obligated by section 960, Florida Statutes, to not release any information in a case involving a juvenile, except if it is necessary in the pursuit of legal remedies.

The victim, next-of-kin, or relative of a minor victim must receive advance notification of judicial proceedings relating to the case, including the arrest, release, work release, or release to community control of the accused; and proceedings in the prosecution of the accused.

The victim or next-of-kin of a victim cannot be excluded from any portion of a hearing, trial or proceeding based solely on the fact that such person is subpoenaed to testify, unless the court determines their presence is prejudicial.

Exemption from Public Inspection

Under provisions of section 918.149(3)(a), Florida Statutes, any information revealing the home or employment telephone number, address, or personal assets of a victim of a sexual battery, aggravated child abuse, aggravated stalking, harassment, aggravated battery, or domestic violence is exempt from public inspection and examination. You must make a written request for your information to be held confidential.

Victim Assistance Information

Could I be eligible for Victim Compensation?

In some cases, the victims or relatives of a deceased victim may be eligible for financial compensation from the State of Florida. Those determined eligible may receive assistance with medical/dental expenses, burial expenses, lost wages, relocation money for domestic violence victims, and mental health counseling. For information, please call the Office of Attorney General at 688-7759 or 800-226-6667.

What happens if my case involves a juvenile?

A juvenile arrested and charged with a misdemeanor or non-violent felony may be released immediately into the custody of the parent(s) or legal guardian. Juveniles charged with more serious crimes may go to a pre-detention hearing within 24 hours to set the conditions of their release. You have the right too appear at these hearings. You may contact the Palm Beach County Juvenile Court Division at 355-7200 regarding the hearing.

What happens if an arrest is made?

As a victim of a crime, you have the right to be notified of the arrest of the accused.

The defendant(s) may be allowed to post bond and be released immediately thereafter. In these instances, you will be notified of a later hearing or conference. In other cases, the defendant(s) may have to appear before a judge within 24 hours. At this initial hearing, the judge will decide the conditions of release or the amount of bond, if any.

If the defendant enters an immediate plea of "guilty" at the jail arraignment (misdemeanor offense), the case will end there. You have the right to appear at these hearings. If you wish to be present, you may contact the Palm Beach County Jail at 688-4340 to learn if the defendant has been released or if a bond hearing or jail arraignment has been scheduled.