



Ellen Crawford
Director

JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center
2121 Kaen Road | Oregon City, OR 97045

Dear Mr./Ms.:

I am writing to you in regard to the offense committed against you. On behalf of our community, I want to convey to you our genuine concern and awareness of the hardships such an experience can create for crime victims and their families.

The Juvenile Department is committed to the safety of you and your community, and to hold the responsible youth accountable for the harm caused by this offense. To do this, it is essential that your thoughts and feelings be known and taken into account.

Someone from my office will be calling you in the next few days to inform you of your legal rights, discuss the current state of the case within the Department, talk about how this offense has impacted you and your family, and to explore what might be done to meaningfully address the harm caused. Any information you provide will be kept confidential unless you agree to have it shared.

I have included information regarding your rights in this packet. You are welcome to fill out the included forms, and mail them to the Juvenile Department at the address listed above.

If you would like to contact me prior to our phone call to you, or if you do not hear from us in the next week (we may not have your current phone), I can be reached at 503-655-8342 ext. 7123. Should I be away from my office, please feel free to leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Janae Kim
Victim Services Coordinator
Victim Impact Program
503-655-8342 ext. 7123
Janae.kim@co.clackamas.or.us

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE VICTIM RIGHTS GUIDE:

Article I, Section 42 of the Oregon Constitution and the Victim Rights Guide list the rights that you have as a victim of a crime. This includes your right to be present at hearings and to be provided information that you request regarding the offender. Please review the Guide and let me know if you would like any further information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT RESTITUTION: If you have suffered a financial loss as a result of the offense, you may be eligible for restitution. This is true whether the case is heard in court or handled informally. In order to make a determination concerning the amount of restitution, the *financial loss statement must be returned with copies of any receipts, bills or estimates* that can assist in determining your losses. Your request for restitution cannot be considered without this information.

In most cases, the youth will have agreed to repay the amount you have requested. However, in some cases the amount may be contested by the youth and a restitution hearing or Victim Offender Dialogue (see below and attached brochure) may be scheduled. If the contested amount is processed through a restitution hearing the judge will then decide what amount is appropriate. The information you provide is essential for the judge to make a reasonable determination. Unless you have been summoned, you do not need to appear at the hearing. However, your presence at this hearing may have an impact on the court's decision.

Please note that if you have accepted payment from an insurance company or the Department of Justice Crime Victim Compensation Fund, you should inform the court of the details *prior to the restitution hearing*. This information should be listed on your Financial Loss Statement. If you do not inform the court, the judge will likely order that the restitution be paid directly to you and then you will be responsible to reimburse any insurance company and the Crime Victim Compensation Fund. The judge will not make changes after the restitution hearing.

In order to assure that all future payments toward restitution successfully reach you, it is your responsibility to keep us informed about any changes to your address or contact information. Please contact the Juvenile Court at 503-557-2842 with any updates.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT VICTIM OFFENDER DIALOGUES: You are welcome to request to meet face-to-face with the youth that harmed you through the Victim Offender Dialogue Program (VOD). This is an opportunity for you to meet with the youth offender in a safe environment with the goal of reaching an agreement on what can be done by the youth to address the harm their actions caused you. A victim's involvement is entirely voluntary and does not affect any of your rights. If you are interested in considering this as a possibility, please let me know.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT:

The Victim Impact Statement that you provide will assist the Juvenile Department counselor and the youth in understanding the harm the youth has caused by his/her actions. Should the case go to court and the youth admits to or is found to have committed the crime, there will be a hearing regarding disposition (sentencing). You have the right to tell the court about the impact the offense has had on you. Your statement will be helpful to the court. Your statement will be submitted to the judge and may be read in court. Should you attend the hearing, you have the option to read your statement or make other comments related to the harm you have suffered. If you choose you can also have the Victim Services Coordinator read your statement for you. Even if the case does not go to court, we will use the information you provide to hold the youth meaningfully accountable.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CIVIL ACTION:

Regardless of any criminal action taken by the Juvenile Court, victims may seek civil action against the parents of the offender to recover actual damages. The amount that can be recovered is limited by law. To learn more about this process, please contact an attorney or Clackamas County Small Claims Court at (503) 655-8446.

In rare instances, the District Attorney may determine that there is not sufficient evidence to proceed with a successful prosecution. Should this occur, the Victim Impact Program will notify you by phone and letter.