

JOHN H. CRANFORD, JR.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY COWETA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

JEP BENDINGER CHIEF ADA

ROBERT MOORADIAN CHIEF DEPUTY ADA

Victim Complaint Protocol

The goal of the Coweta Judicial Circuit's Victim Witness Advocate Program (VWAP) is to ensure that all victims of crime occurring in this circuit are treated with dignity and respect and that their rights are protected pursuant to the Georgia Crime Victims Bill of Rights, O.C.G.A. § 17-17-1 and Georgia Constitution Art. I, Sec. I, Paragraph XXX.

To ensure every victim is treated appropriately, the District Attorney's Office has established a complaint process for victims who have cases in this jurisdiction with our office. The victim complaint process is as follows:

- **Step 1.** A victim may submit a complaint by sending a message through the Victim Assistance contact form on our website (http://dacowetacircuit.org/services/victim-assistance/), and the complaint will be reviewed by that county's Office Manager, who is a senior Assistant District Attorney. A victim may also call our office in the county where the case is pending to speak with the Office Manager. In either case, the Office Manager will investigate the complaint and take any appropriate action. The Office Manager will also respond to the victim by email, by phone, or in-person, if requested, within 5 working days of receipt of the complaint.
- **Step 2.** If the Office Manager does not address the complaint to the satisfaction of the victim, the victim may email or call to speak to the District Attorney, Chief Assistant District Attorney, or Chief Deputy District Attorney, depending on who is first available. They will then investigate the complaint and take any appropriate action. Thereafter, they will respond to the victim by email, by phone, or in-person, if requested, within 5 working days of receipt of the complaint.
- **Step 3.** If the victim determines that the complaint remains unresolved after Step 2, the victim has the following options:
 - A. Contact the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (https://cjcc.georgia.gov/) at (404) 657-1956 or by email at victims.info@cjcc.ga.gov.
 - B. Seek private counsel regarding filing a motion with the Court where the case is pending pursuant to $0.C.G.A. \S 17-17-15(c)(2)(A)$ and (B).

Note: Such motion shall be filed as soon as possible, but no later than 20 days after the claimed denial. Such motion shall be filed in the criminal case, and the victim shall provide a copy of the motion and hearing notice to the prosecuting attorney and the defendant.

John Herbert Cranford, Jr.

District Attorney Coweta Judicial Circuit

Fax: (706) 675-0958

Fax: (706) 672-6205