

What are my rights as a Kansas crime victim?

Under Kansas law crime victims have the following rights:

- To be treated with courtesy, compassion and with respect for their dignity and privacy and should suffer the minimum of necessary inconvenience from their involvement with the criminal justice system.
- To receive through formal and informal procedures timely and fair redress for the harm they have suffered.
- To have information on the availability of criminal restitution, recovery of damages in civil court, crime victim's compensation funds and other remedies.
- To have information about their participation in criminal proceedings including the scheduling, progress and ultimate disposition of their case.
- To have their views and concerns ascertained and the appropriate assistance provided throughout the process.
- To have their views and concerns brought to the attention of the court when appropriate under the law.

Victim's Rights Continued:

- Measures may be taken when necessary to provide for the safety of victims and their families and protect them from intimidation and retaliation.
- Enhanced training should be made available to sensitize criminal justice personnel to the needs and concerns of victim under guidelines developed for that purpose.
- To be informed of the availability of health, social, medical, psychological and other relevant assistance through existing programs and services.
- Victims should report the crime and cooperate with law enforcement authorities.

Sedgwick County Hotline Numbers:

Domestic Violence:

Wichita Catholic Charities Harbor House (316) 263-6000

Wichita Step Stone (316) 265-1161

Wichita YWCA Women's Crisis Center (316) 267-7233

Sexual Violence:

Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center (316) 263-2044

Sheriff's Investigations Division (316) 660-5300
District Attorney (316) 660-3600
Emergency Medical Service 911



Sedgwick County Working
For You
www.sedgwickcounty.org

Information for Victims of Stalking



Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office
141 W. Elm
Wichita KS 67203
WWW.sedgwickcounty.org/SHERIFF/
(316) 383-7264

What is stalking?

In Kansas, as in most other states, stalking is a crime. Criminal stalking is engaging in “a course of conduct targeted at a specific person which would cause a reasonable person to fear for such person’s safety or the safety of a member of such person’s immediate family and the targeted person is actually placed in such fear.” K.S.A. 21-3438

Stalking is defined differently for purposes of the Kansas Protection from Stalking Act. Under this Act, stalking is the “intentional harassment of another person that places the other person in reasonable fear for that persons safety.” K.S.A. 60-31a01 et seq.

What can you do if you are being stalked?

Your safety should be your first priority. Keep in mind stalkers respond differently and actions taken by one victim that increase safety in one situation may actually decrease safety in another. An advocate from your local domestic/sexual violence program (see list) can assist you in developing a safety plan that will focus on your specific circumstances.

The following suggestions are recommended by experts to increase the safety of victims:

- Report each incident of stalking to your local law enforcement agency. While officers may not have enough evidence early on to arrest the stalker, it is important to officially document this behavior. **Keep in mind that if a law enforcement report is made portions of that information may become public.**
- Be clear and firm. Some stalkers believe there are hidden messages within conversations they have with their victims that may encourage them to continue stalking.

- If the person is a former intimate partner or someone who believes you want to be in a relationship, it can be helpful to be clear and firm about wanting to end the relationship. The longer the relationship goes on the harder it is for the stalker to get the message you are not interested.
- Cease direct communication, instead let the “system” communicate with them through a law enforcement officer, probation or parole officer or through a protective order issued by the courts and served by law enforcement.
- Avoid contact such as mediation, joint therapy, shared custody, face to face child exchanges or other forms of contact.
- Consider obtaining a protective order such a Protection From Stalking order or Protection From Abuse order issued by the courts and served and enforced by law enforcement. Protective orders are most effective when issued when the stalking behavior first begins. You will be required to appear in court and give testimony in front of the stalker.
- Other safety measures. Consider whether any of the following measures would decrease, prevent or respond to your danger:
 - Take measures to provide for your self defense.
 - Change locks, securing all spare keys.
 - Install outside lighting
 - Trimming bushes and vegetation around your residence.
 - Identifying safe locations such as police stations, residences of family/family, local churches or other public places.
 - Obtain an unlisted phone number and save/

document all voice mails, text messages, etc.

- Obtain a second line for close family and friends and hook up an answering machine to your published number to document calls from the stalker.
- Vary travel times and routes.
- Limit time walking or jogging alone.
- Inform a trusted friend or neighbor about the situation and give them a description and if possible a photo of the stalker and ask them to call 911 if they see anything suspicious around your residence.
- Try not to be alone at places the stalker typically contacts you at.
- Arrange for others to be with you when arriving at and leaving from work.

Can I receive compensation for my losses as a crime victim?

The Kansas Crime Victims Compensation Board (CVCB) is located in the Office of the Attorney General and handles applications from victims of violent crimes who are asking for compensation for loss of earnings and out-of-pocket medical expenses as a direct result of the incident. For further information call (785) 296-2359

Sheriff’s Investigations Division
Sedgwick County Courthouse
525 N. Main 2nd Floor
Wichita KS 67203
www.sedgwickcounty.org/sheriff/
(316) 660-5300