

## Agencies and Organizations That Can Help

### Learn about other services available to victims and witnesses:

- DCPD (Division of Child Protection & Permanency)  
All DCPD referrals: 877-NJABUSE (652-2873)
  - Western Middlesex DCPD  
Toll-free: 1-800-531-1258 or 732-980-9312
  - Coastal Middlesex DCPD  
Toll-free: 1-800-531-1261 or 732-376-4700
  - Central Middlesex DCPD  
Toll-free: 1-888-895-2404 or 732-287-1840
- Dorothy B. Hersch Child Protection Center  
732-448-1000
- NJ Child Abuse Hotline  
877-NJABUSE (652-2873)
- Rutgers University Behavioral Health (counseling)  
800-969-5300
- Women Aware 24-Hour Hotline: 732-249-4504  
<https://www.womenaware.net>
- Domestic Violence Self-Help Groups  
800-799-7233
- Manavi (for South Asian Domestic Violence Victims)  
732-435-1414  
<http://www.manavi.org>
- NJ Domestic Violence Hotline  
800-572-SAFE (7233)
- Middlesex County Center for Empowerment  
1-877-665-7273
- NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
800-601-7200  
<https://njcasa.org>
- NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking  
888-373-7888  
<https://www.njhumantrafficking.org>
- Catholic Charities
  - East Brunswick 732-257-6100
  - Edison 732-738-1323
  - Perth Amboy 732-324-8200 / 732-822-2263
- George J. Otlowski, Sr. Center for Mental Health Care  
732-442-1666
- Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital  
732-828-3000
- Middlesex County Probation Department  
732-645-4300
- NJ State Office of Victim/Witness Advocacy  
609-376-2438
- Victims of Crime Compensation Office  
877-658-2221 or 973-648-2107
- NJ State Parole Board, Victim Services Unit  
609-292-4582

## Directions To Middlesex County Courts

**NJ Transit bus and train information:**  
973-275-5555 / <http://www.njtransit.com>

**Amtrak train information:**  
800-872-7245 / <https://www.amtrak.com>

**Driving directions:**  
(Metered street parking and garages are available in the area.)

**From the New Jersey Turnpike:** Take Exit 9 and bear right onto Route 18 North, following signs for New Brunswick. Stay on Route 18 and take the New St. ramp. Go four blocks and turn right on Kirkpatrick St. Then turn right on Paterson St. The Courthouse will be on your right, within the first block.

**From Route 1, North or South:** Take the "Route 18 - New Brunswick" exit. Stay on Route 18 and take the New St. ramp. Go four blocks and turn right on Kirkpatrick St. Then turn right on Paterson St. The Courthouse will be on your right, within the first block.

**From Route 27 South:** Cross the Raritan River on Route 27 into downtown New Brunswick. After you pass the train station, make a left on Joyce Kilmer Ave. and then a quick left on Paterson St. The Courthouse will be on your right, about 1½ blocks ahead.

**From Route 27 North:** Drive toward the center of New Brunswick. When you see RWJ Hospital's building on your left, make a right on Paterson St. After you pass Kirkpatrick St., the Courthouse will be on your right, within the next block.

**Middlesex County Courthouse (for criminal trials):**  
56 Paterson Street  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

**Grand Jury Proceedings:**  
56 Paterson Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Tower  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

[www.middlesexcountynj.gov](http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov)



PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

# A Guide For Victims And Witnesses

Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office  
Victim/Witness Advocacy Unit

**MIDDLESEX**  
COUNTY • NJ

The **VICTIM/WITNESS ADVOCACY UNIT** ensures crime victims' and witnesses' rights are upheld.

The goal of the NJ County Offices of Victim-Witness Advocacy is to improve the treatment of victims and ensure their rights by providing the assistance and services necessary to speed their recovery from a criminal act and to support, aid, and advocate for them as they move through the criminal justice process.

The Crime Victims Bill of Rights and the Attorney General's Standards ensure crime victims and witnesses are provided with a number of important services.

### Services Provided:

- Information about the court system
- Information about your case and its progress
- Court accompaniment
- A private and secure waiting area
- Referrals to counseling
- Information about transportation, parking, and childcare services
- Assistance in filing of claims with the Victims of Crime Compensation Office
- Property return assistance and information
- Employer intervention
- Information about self-help groups and social service agencies
- Assistance requesting restitution
- Registration for parole notification
- Registration for Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE)

## CRIME VICTIMS Bill of Rights N.J.S. 52:4B-36

### Crime victims are entitled to the following certain basic rights

The legislature finds and declares that crime victims and witnesses are entitled to the following rights:

- To be treated with dignity and compassion by the criminal justice system;
- To be informed about the criminal justice process;
- To be free from intimidation, harassment or abuse by any person including the defendant or any other person acting in support of or on behalf of the defendant, due to the involvement of the victim or witness in the criminal justice process;
- To have the inconveniences associated with participation in the criminal justice process minimized to the fullest extent possible;
- To make at least one phone call provided the call is reasonable in both length and location called;
- To medical assistance reasonably related to the incident in accordance with the provisions of the "Criminal Injuries Compensation Act of 1971," P.L. 1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-1 et seq.);
- To be notified in a timely manner, if practical, if presence in court is not needed or if any scheduled court proceeding has been adjourned or cancelled;
- To be informed about available remedies, financial assistance and social services;
- To be compensated for loss sustained by the victim whenever possible;
- To be provided a secure, but not necessarily separate, waiting area during court proceedings;
- To be advised of case progress and final disposition and to confer with the Prosecutor's representative so that the victim may be kept adequately informed;
- To the prompt return of property when no longer needed as evidence;
- To submit a written statement, within a reasonable amount of time, about the impact of the crime to a representative of the prosecuting agency which shall be considered prior to the prosecutor's final decision concerning whether formal criminal charges will be filed, whether the prosecutor will consent to a request by the defendant to enter into a pre-trial program, and whether the prosecutor will make or agree to a negotiated plea;
- To make, prior to sentencing, an in-person statement directly to the sentencing court concerning the impact of the crime;  
This statement is to be made in addition to the statement permitted for inclusion in the presentence report by N.J.S. 2C:44-6
- To have the opportunity to consult with the prosecuting authority prior to the conclusion of any plea negotiations, and to have the prosecutor advise the court of the consultation and the victim's position regarding the plea agreement, provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed to alter or limit the authority or discretion of the prosecutor to enter into any plea agreement which the prosecutor deems appropriate;
- To be present at any judicial proceeding involving a crime, or any juvenile proceeding involving a criminal offense, except as otherwise provided by Article I, paragraph 22, of the New Jersey Constitution;
- To be notified of any release or escape of the defendant;
- To appear in any court before which a proceeding implicating the rights of the victim is being held, with standing to file a motion or present argument on a motion filed to enforce any right conferred herein or by Article I, paragraph 22, of the New Jersey Constitution, and to receive an adjudicative decision by the court on any such motion.

**The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity.**

### Questions?

Contact us: 732-745-3394

### Witness Guidelines

1. You will be sworn to tell the truth at all times, so answer accurately about what you know.
2. Do not try to memorize your testimony. Just think about what happened and answer the questions that are asked.
3. Listen carefully to the questions. If you do not understand the question, ask that it be explained or repeated.
4. Do not guess. If you do not know an answer, say so.
5. Think carefully before answering questions about the amount of time that passed. If asked about a distance, try to use distances between objects in the courtroom as an example, if you can.
6. Always speak up and answer as clearly as you can.
7. Do not add or offer to add extra information. Only answer the questions that are asked.
8. If there is an objection, or if the judge interrupts, stop your answer immediately.
9. Never lose your temper. Stay calm at all times while you are being questioned.