

## SOMERSET COUNTY MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS

BEDMINSTER	908-234-0585
BERNARDS	908-766-1122
BERNARDSVILLE	908-766-0037
BOUND BROOK	732-356-0800
BRANCHBURG	908-526-3830
BRIDGEWATER	908-722-4111
FAR HILLS	908-234-1192
FRANKLIN	732-873-5533
GREEN BROOK	732-968-1188
HILLSBOROUGH	908-369-4323
MANVILLE	908-725-1900
MONTGOMERY	908-359-3222
NORTH PLAINFIELD	908-769-2937
PEAPACK/GLADSTONE	908-234-0626
RARITAN	908-725-6700
SOMERVILLE	908-725-0331
SO. BOUND BROOK	732-356-0087
WARREN	908-753-1000
WATCHUNG	908-756-3663

### LOCATION

The **Somerset County Prosecutor's Office of Victim Witness Advocacy** is located at 40 North Bridge Street in Somerville. The **Somerset County Court House** is located at 20 North Bridge Street in Somerville. Free parking is available at the Bernie Field Parking Deck on East High Street in Somerville.

## Somerset County Office of Victim - Witness Advocacy

# Information For Victims & Witnesses Involved in the Juvenile Justice System



## Somerset County Office of Victim Witness Advocacy

Ph. (908) 575-3359

Fax (908) 575-3962

SOMERSET COUNTY  
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

40 North Bridge Street

P.O. Box 3000

Somerville, NJ 08876

(908) 575-3300

[www.scpo.net](http://www.scpo.net)

[somersetvw@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:somersetvw@co.somerset.nj.us)

**The Somerset County Office  
of Victim-Witness Advocacy  
provides the following services  
to victims and witnesses:**

- Criminal justice orientation and information
- Assistance in completing victim impact statement
- Referrals for counseling and support services
- Case status notification
- Courtroom accompaniment
- Information about transportation, parking, courthouse location
- Child care when attending court proceedings
- Information and assistance in filing claims with the Victims of Crime Compensation Office
- Assistance with return of property when it is no longer needed as evidence
- Assistance in applying for restitution
- Employer and creditor intercession
- A separate and secure waiting area while waiting to appear in court
- Information and assistance regarding NJ VINE System
- In sexual assault cases, assistance in obtaining HIV/AIDS test results of the defendant

**Judicial and Legal Information**  
(908 area codes)

Prosecutor's Office Somerville	575-3300
Probation Department Somerville Courthouse	231-7111
Family & Criminal Divisions Somerville Courthouse	231-7600
County Jail Somerville	231-7150
County Lawyer Referral Service	685-2323
Legal Services of Northwest Jersey	231-0840

**Domestic Violence**

Safe+Sound Somerset Hillsborough 24-hour hotline	908-359-0003 866-685-1122 <a href="http://www.safe-sound.org">www.safe-sound.org</a>
--	--

**Child Abuse**

Division of Child Protection and Permanency Somerville Child Abuse Hotline	908-526-5030 877-NJ-ABUSE (877-652-2873)
--	--

**Adult Protective Services**

County Board of Social Services Adult Protective Services	908-526-8800
County Office on Aging and Disability Services	908-704-6346

**Emergency Services**

Police, Fire and Rescue	911
Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services	908-526-4100

**Sexual Assault Response Team**

	911 or
Robert Wood Johnson Somerset Somerville Emergency Department	908-685-2920 or
Zufall Health Sexual Assault Support Services Somerville	908-526-7444

## Important Phone Numbers

The Somerset County Office of Victim Witness Advocacy has compiled the following brief list of agencies and organizations which may be of assistance to victims and witnesses.

### State Agencies

Victims of Crime Compensation Office  
1-877-658-2221  
[www.njvictims.org](http://www.njvictims.org)

VINE  
To register for automated calls of  
offender change in custody 1-877-VINE 4 NJ  
1-877-846-3465  
[www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)

State Parole Board  
Victim Services Unit 1-609-292-4582  
[www.state.nj.us/parole](http://www.state.nj.us/parole)

Juvenile Justice Commission 1-609-292-1400  
[www.nj.gov/oag/jjc](http://www.nj.gov/oag/jjc)

State Police Sex Offender Registry  
[www.nj.gov/njsp/info/regsexoffend.html](http://www.nj.gov/njsp/info/regsexoffend.html)

State Domestic Violence Hotline  
1-800-572-SAFE (7233)

State Sexual Assault Hotline  
1-800-601-7200

### Counseling

Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center  
Bridgewater 1-888-744-4417  
or 908-725-2800

Bridgewater Family Service Center  
Catholic Charities 908-722-1881

Family & Community Services of Somerset County  
Bound Brook 732-356-1082

Zufall Health  
Sexual Assault Support Services  
908-526-2335 x130  
24-hour hotline 908-526-7444  
[www.zufallhealth.org](http://www.zufallhealth.org)

## Suggestions For Courtroom Testimony

**Be prepared.** Before you testify, try to remember the scene and what happened. Do not try to memorize your testimony, just be prepared to tell what happened in your own words.

**Listen carefully to the questions.** If you do not understand a question, ask that it be explained or repeated.

**Think before you speak.** Give an accurate answer to the best of your ability. If you do not know the answer to a question, or if you do not remember, say so.

**Speak clearly and loud** enough so that all the jurors can hear you.

**Answer only** the questions that is asked of you. Do not volunteer information.

**Dress neatly and appropriately for court.** Avoid distracting mannerisms, such as chewing gum while testifying. Be serious and avoid joking.

**Stop when the judge interrupts you** or when an attorney objects to a question. Wait until the court gives its ruling. You will be told when to continue.

**Be courteous,** even if the lawyer asking questions is not. It is important that you do not lose your temper or argue with either attorney. Stay calm at all times while you are being questioned.

**Tell the truth at all times.** You will be sworn to tell the truth. Do not guess or make up an answer.

**As a victim or witness, it is important that you keep the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy informed of any change of address or telephone number before and after the case has concluded.**

## Frequent Terms and Definitions

**Assistant Prosecutor:** a lawyer employed by the county prosecutor's office to prosecute cases for the State of New Jersey.

**Public Defender:** a lawyer employed by the State of New Jersey to represent indigent defendants of a crime.

**Delinquency:** an act committed by a juvenile which if committed by an adult would constitute a:

1. crime
2. disorderly persons offense
3. petty disorderly persons offense
4. violation of regulation or some municipal ordinances

**Juvenile:** individual under 18 years old at the time the offense is committed.

**Risk Screening Tool:** mechanism utilized by Family Courts to determine which charged juveniles are placed in detention or placed in alternative custody based upon objective, standardized criteria.

**Detention Review Hearing:** if a juvenile is incarcerated, his/her situation is reviewed within 24 hours to determine if he/she should be released or held. If remanded back to detention, the matter is heard again within 48 hours with an attorney.

**Adjudication of Delinquency:** process by which a judge decides whether a juvenile has committed a delinquent offense. Juveniles who are found guilty are not "convicted of a crime," they are "adjudicated delinquent."

**Restitution:** is money the juvenile is ordered to pay the victim for losses, such as: stolen or damaged property, and medical costs. The juvenile, not the juvenile's parents or family, is responsible for paying the restitution ordered.

## Juvenile Dispositions

**Disposition:** similar to a sentence in an adult case. Some of the most common dispositions are probation, community service, restitution, mandatory participation in specific treatment programs, incarceration and fines.

statement directly to the sentencing court.

- o. 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.
- p. 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.
- q. To be notified of any release or escape of the defendant.
- r. 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.

### 2.

- a. A victim's survivor may, at the time of making the in-person statement to the sentencing court authorized by subsection. n. section 3 of P.L. 1985, c.249 (C.52:4B-36), display directly to the sentencing court a photograph of the victim taken before the homicide including, but not limited to, a still photograph, a computer generated presentation, or a video presentation of the victim. The time, length and content of such presentation shall be within the sound discretion of the sentencing judge.
- b. A victim's survivor may, during any judicial proceeding involving the defendant, wear a button not exceeding four inches in diameter that contains a picture of the victim, if the court determines that the wearing of such button will not deprive the defendant of his right to a fair trial under the Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I of the New Jersey Constitution. Other spectators at such judicial proceedings may also wear similar buttons if the court so determines. If the victim's survivor seeks to wear the button to trial, the victim's survivor shall give notice to the defendant and to the court no less than 30 days prior to the final trial date.

## **New Jersey Crime Victim's Bill of Rights**

### **N.J.S.A. 52:4B—36**

*(Amended October 6, 2012)*

#### **A crime victim is entitled to:**

##### **1.**

- a. To be treated with dignity and compassion by the criminal justice system.
- b. To be informed about the criminal justice process.
- c. 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.
- d. To have inconveniences associated with participation in the criminal justice process minimized.
- e. To make at least one telephone call provided the call is reasonable in length and location.
- f. To medical assistance reasonably related to the incident.
- g. To be notified in a timely manner, if practicable, if presence in court is not needed or if any scheduled court proceeding has been adjourned or cancelled.
- h. To be informed about available remedies, financial assistance and social services.
- i. To be compensated for loss sustained by the victim whenever possible.
- j. To be provided a secure, but not necessarily separate, waiting area during court proceedings.
- k. 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.
- l. To the prompt return of property when no longer needed as evidence.
- m. 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 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.
- n. To make, prior to sentencing, an in-person

**Station House Adjustment:** an alternative method that police departments may use to handle juvenile offenders who have committed minor juvenile delinquency offenses in their jurisdiction.

#### **Juvenile Conference Committee/Intake Services**

**Committee (JCC/ISC):** Diversionary programs that allow a juvenile to resolve his/her charges without a formal adjudication of delinquency. These diversionary programs are only an option when a juvenile has no prior criminal history. If the juvenile successfully complies with the recommendations of the diversionary program, the charges are dismissed. If the juvenile does not comply, the case is referred to court for adjudication.

**Deferred Disposition/Under the Statute:** A court supervised diversionary program available to adjudicated juveniles. It includes a period of probation supervision and court imposed conditions. If a juvenile is compliant with conditions and there are no subsequent acts of juvenile delinquency, the charges will be dismissed.

**Probation:** A court ordered supervised program to monitor a juvenile's compliance with court imposed conditions, such as community service, substance abuse treatment and payment of fines/restitution.

**Detention:** Juveniles who are charged with serious offenses, or who cannot be relied on to voluntarily appear at future court dates, may be held in detention while awaiting adjudication. Admission will be determined by application of the Risk Screening Tool.

**Field's Program:** long-term residential program run by the Juvenile Justice Commission which may be ordered under appropriate circumstances to address mental health or behavioral issues.

**Jamesburg:** The New Jersey State Prison for juvenile offenders.

**Waiver to Criminal Court:** The process by which a juvenile is transferred to the criminal court for prosecution as an adult.

**Dismissal:** The charges against the juvenile have been dismissed on a motion of the prosecution or a decision of a judge.



## Juvenile Justice Process

**Plea Hearing:** At this court appearance, the juvenile offender will enter a plea of guilty or not guilty. If the juvenile chooses to plead guilty, the judge may proceed immediately to the disposition (sentencing) phase of the case.

**Preliminary Hearing:** If, at the plea hearing, the juvenile pled “not guilty”, a preliminary hearing will be scheduled. At this time, the juvenile has a second opportunity to plead guilty to the offense. If the juvenile chooses not to plead guilty, the case will go forward to adjudication (trial). If the juvenile chooses to plead guilty at this stage, the judge may immediately proceed to the disposition phase of the case.

**Adjudication Hearing:** This is the presentation of the case to the judge for a determination of guilt or innocence. At the conclusion of the hearing, or as soon thereafter as the judge can reach a decision, the verdict will be announced. If there is a “not guilty” verdict, the juvenile will be free to leave without any disposition. If there is a “guilty” verdict, the judge may proceed immediately to disposition or request a PDR be prepared.

**Pre-Disposition Report (PDR):** A confidential report prepared by the Probation Dept. for the judge to use in deciding upon an appropriate disposition for a juvenile. This report consists of a summary of the juvenile’s background, offense information, a Victim Impact Statement, and other material required to determine disposition.

**Disposition:** Once a juvenile has pled guilty or is found guilty, the court must determine the appropriate disposition for the juvenile. This can be done immediately or, if the judge feels there are extenuating circumstances, disposition can be deferred until a pre-disposition report has been completed.

## The Path of Delinquency Cases

