

**WISCONSIN CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS BOARD****REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS**
[REDACTED]

Pursuant to the Order issued by the Wisconsin Crime Victims Rights Board dated August 19, 2003, the following report and recommendations are hereby submitted to [REDACTED] County District Attorney [REDACTED]:

1. When contacted by the Department of Justice mediator to informally resolve a complaint, parties should respond to inquiries and try to resolve the conflict through informal mediation. By ignoring requests for information from the mediator, District Attorney [REDACTED] deprived the victims in this case of the chance to find an early remedy to their complaint and he deprived his office of the opportunity to resolve the complaint informally and confidentially. While all parties have the right to refuse to cooperate with the informal process, it should be noted that such refusal is likely to elevate the issue to a formal review by the Board.
2. The Board acknowledges that district attorneys must prioritize cases according to their workload and that a backlog of cases may make it necessary to delay filing some cases in order to file other cases. Materials submitted to the Board indicate District Attorney [REDACTED] assigned a lower priority to the case in question because of time and resource constraints, which the Board found to not be unreasonable.
3. District Attorney [REDACTED] represented on May 4, 2003, that his office would likely issue charges by early June. The complaint was actually filed July 25, 2003, without explanation for the additional delay. The ultimate filing of the criminal complaint represented an acceptable resolution to the complaint before the Board.

4. The delay in filing charges in this case caused the victims stress and prevented them from recouping financial losses from their insurance company, because their claim could not be processed without a police report, and the report would not be released to the victims until charges were filed. The Board views these hardships seriously and urges District Attorney [REDACTED] to avoid the Board's involvement in future cases by filing charges without delay, as soon as can be reasonably expected, after investigations are completed. This is especially important upon receiving specific information of hardship from crime victims.

Dated this 26th day of August, 2003



KENNETH R. KRATZ
Chairperson, Crime Victims Rights Board

cc:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]