

Tips for victims of crime: *working with the media*

The following tips were developed to give crime victims practical advice related to working with the media. Some victims do not want to have contact with the media while others feel the media is an important ally. Whatever you decide, remember: the choice is yours.

Requests for interviews

- You may want to seek advice from law enforcement, victim witness staff and/or prosecutors before speaking with the media to be sure that public comments will not cause problems with the case.
- You can exclude children from interviews and set other conditions for interviews (such as time, location, etc.). If the media will not agree to your terms, you can withdraw from the interview.
- If you do not want to comment to the media, it may be helpful to ask a trusted friend to act as your spokesperson to handle any contacts from the media to help protect your privacy.

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Getting a message out

You or a spokesperson can issue statements to the press (for example, to ask for privacy, to provide information, to announce a memorial service or to ask for help solving the crime). Tips for formatting and writing press statements are available at the website below.

You have the right to grieve in private

You can refuse permission for reporters and cameras to be present at a funeral, memorial service or burial.

If you have problems with the press

You can request a correction if a report contains inaccurate information. If you feel you are being harassed, you can contact a reporter's employer, talk to your victim service provider or file a report with the police.

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