

We are sorry to learn that you are a victim of crime. This experience may cause stress and confusion, which can be compounded by media attention. This brochure is designed to assist you by explaining your rights as they relate to your interaction with the media and to prepare you for the type of experiences you may encounter.

If you do not want to talk with reporters:

- You have the right to say no to an interview.
- You have the right to say no to an interview even if you said yes earlier.
- You have the right not to answer questions during the trial.
- You have the right to release a written statement.
- You have the right to choose someone to speak on your behalf.



If you choose to talk with reporters:

- You have the right to choose the time, place and boundaries*of an interview.
- You have the right to choose the reporter(s) you will speak with.
- You have the right to choose which questions you will and won't answer.
- You have the right to end an interview at any time.
- You have the right to have friends and others (such as a victim advocate) with you during an interview.
- You have the right to exclude children.
- You have the right to ask in advance what direction the story will take.
- You have the right to ask for review of your quotes in the story.

***Conditions and boundaries in an interview:**

If you agree to talk with reporters, you can set the conditions you want for the interview. You might:

- Ask what kinds of questions the reporter plans to ask you.
- Tell the reporter the types of questions you won't answer.
- Request specific information about what kind of story will be written.
- Request that offensive photos or video not be used with your interview.
- Ask that only your first name or an alias be used to help protect your identity.
- Request that only a silhouette or other disguising feature be used to protect your identity.



You have the right to privacy when dealing with the aftermath of a crime. You also have the right to be treated with dignity and respect by media representatives.

If you are contacted by a member of the media and want more information before speaking, you may call your Victim Advocate or the Communications Director.

Victim Advocate:

Communications Director:

Ken Lane

Phone: 720-913-9025

Email: Kenneth.lane@denverda.org

The Denver District Attorney's Office follows state statute and strict rules for professional conduct when releasing any information to the media, in an effort to protect the integrity of each case and ensures a fair trial.

Giving an interview can affect an investigation and may affect trial proceedings. It is best to consult your victim advocate before making public comments.

General Media Facts

- Reporters have access to personal information through public records and may report on you without your permission.
- Facebook Alert! Reporters often go to social media sites like Facebook to find information and pictures about people of interest.
- Reporters may use Facebook or other social media to try to contact you. You do not have to reply.
- Photographers may photograph or videotape you without your permission if they are on public property.
- Reporters and photographers answer to supervisors and can be held accountable for their stories and behavior.
- Sometimes news stories get "bumped" so even though a reporter conducted an interview the story may not run.



Your Rights with the Media

Helpful information for victims and family members involved in high profile cases.



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