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If you have any questions about limited confidentiality, you may contact me for clarification. Remember, your interests are important to us. Many victims have questions, and we are here to help provide you with answers and practical assistance.

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Publication 308
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2. The right to be informed of public and private programs that are available for counseling, treatment, and other support services.
3. The right to receive reasonable protection from a suspected offender and persons acting in concert with or at the behest of the suspected offender.
4. The right to know the status of the investigation of the crime to the extent it is appropriate and will not interfere with the investigation.
5. The right to notification regarding the arrest of a suspected offender.
6. The right to have any property that is being held for evidentiary purposes maintained in good condition and returned as soon as it is no longer needed for evidentiary purposes.

As federal law enforcement professionals, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service considers it part of our job to address issues or concerns experienced by victims and witnesses of crime. We know that, as a victim or witness, you may feel anger, frustration, or fear as the result of a criminal act.

We have prepared this information to help you deal with problems and questions that may surface during an investigation and to provide you with a better understanding of the criminal justice system. We have included information and services available to you as a victim or witness.

We hope this information will be helpful. We encourage you to contact the Postal Inspector handling your case or the designated Postal Inspection Service representative if you have further questions.

Investigating Your Case
Although the days and months ahead may be difficult for you and your family, your assistance is important to ensure that justice is served.

During the investigation, you may be informed of the status of the case. Throughout the investigation, a Postal Inspector or other professional employee will remain your primary contact. If you have questions, be sure to contact one of these individuals as soon as possible. A criminal investigation can be complex and lengthy. It may involve several federal and local agencies. Remember, your interests are important to us. We are here to help answer any questions you may have.

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If You Are Threatened or Harassed
If anyone threatens you, or you feel you are being harassed because of your cooperation with authorities, report it to your Postal Inspector. There are penalties for harassment and other threats. The Inspector may discuss protective measures with you. If you feel you are in immediate danger, call 911.

If You Were Physically Injured
If you were injured or threatened with physical injury as a result of the crime and lack insurance or other means to pay for medical bills, check your state’s crime victim compensation program. In many states, the cost of counseling, lost wages, and certain funeral expenses may be covered.

The law varies by state, but your Victim/Witness Specialist can provide you with the necessary information.

If You Had Property Stolen
As part of its investigation, the Postal Inspection Service attempts to recover property or money which may have been stolen from you. If we recover it, we will notify you and make every effort to have it returned as quickly as possible. Restitution may be available for property not recovered or for the cost of any necessary repairs.

Assisting With Your Employer
Upon request, during the investigation and court processing, we can call your employer to discuss the importance of your role as a victim or witness to the government’s case and to explain any absences you may need to take from your workplace.

Restitution
If a person is arrested and successfully prosecuted in your case, you may be eligible for restitution. This is a court-ordered payment made to you as a victim of a crime. Upon conviction, the offender pays out-of-pocket expenses resulting from your victimization.

If the court orders restitution at sentencing, it may consider the offender's present and future ability to pay. If the defendant has assets, the court may order restitution to be paid immediately or in scheduled payments. In many cases, however, the proceeds of the crime are no longer available and the defendant does not have sufficient assets to pay restitution. It is possible, therefore, that a victim may not receive restitution.

Other remedies may include a civil suit or small claims court action. Restitution cannot be avoided through bankruptcy.

Assisting With Your Recovery
Victims and witnesses are emotionally affected by crime. Although everyone reacts differently, victims and witnesses commonly report some of these behaviors:

- Increased concern for your personal safety and that of family members. You may naturally be more cautious.
- Trouble concentrating on the job.
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