victim or witness, where appropriate, if the crime or cooperation in the prosecution affects their ability to make timely payments.

RESTITUTION

The Mandatory Restitution Act of 1996 provides that, in many federal crimes occurring after April 24, 1996, the defendant will be ordered to pay full restitution. Unfortunately, in some cases, the proceeds of the crime are no longer available and the defendant may not have sufficient assets to pay restitution. It is possible, therefore, that a victim may receive no or partial restitution if it is ordered. The Financial Litigation Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office will take all steps possible to help ensure that restitution is collected and that victims of crime are compensated for their losses.

CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION

Some crime victims may qualify for the Crime Victim Compensation Program administered by the State of Florida, Office of Attorney General. For more information about this program, please call the Victim Services Information and Referral Line at 1-800-226-6667 or the U.S. Attorney's Office Victim Witness Coordinator listed on the back of this brochure.

CONCLUSION

Victims and witnesses play an integral role in the criminal justice system and their cooperation is essential if the system is to operate effectively. Your contribution is very much appreciated by the United States Attorney's Office. If you have other questions or concerns related to the case, please contact the Victim Witness Coordinator or the Assistant United States Attorney assigned to the case. Their names, addresses, and telephone numbers are listed on the back of this brochure.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

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300 E. University Ave., Ste. 310
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_____
Victim Witness Coordinator

_____
Assistant United States Attorney

U.S. Department of Justice

Victim Witness Assistance Program

United States Attorney
Northern District of Florida

ABOUT THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The United States Attorney is the Chief Prosecutor of crimes against the laws of the United States. There is a U.S. Attorney's Office for each federal judicial district. The Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida will be the prosecuting agency for the case in which you are a victim and/or witness.

VICTIM-WITNESS ASSISTANCE

As set forth in the Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982, the Crime Control Act of 1990, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 and the Justice for All Act of 2004, the federal government must ensure that innocent victims of crime have their rights upheld, their dignity and privacy respected, and are treated with fairness. The Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida is committed to assuring that victims and witnesses are accorded the rights and services required under Federal Law.

VICTIM RIGHTS

A federal crime victim has the following rights:

(1) The right to be reasonably protected from the accused.

(2) The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding, or any parole proceeding, involving the crime or of any release or escape of the accused.

(3) The right not to be excluded from any such public court proceeding, unless the court, after receiving clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding.

(4) The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, sentencing, or any parole proceedings.

(5) The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case.

(6) The right to full and timely restitution as provided by law.

(7) The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.

(8) The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.

It is important to understand that Government attorneys represent the United States only. As a federal crime victim, you are not a client of the Government and the interests of the United States may occasionally diverge from your interest. You may seek the advice of your own attorney with respect to any of the rights outlined above.

NOTIFICATION SERVICES

When a federal criminal case reaches the prosecution stage of the criminal justice process, notification is provided concerning the status of the case involving the victim. Examples of notifications made by the prosecutor's office are as follows:

- The release or detention status of the offender.
- The filing of charges against a suspected offender, or the proposed dismissal of any or all charges.
- Court dates, including scheduling changes and/or continuances, of each court proceeding that the victim or witness is either required or entitled to attend.
- The acceptance of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or the rendering of a verdict after trial.
- The opportunity to present to the court in the pre-sentence report a victim impact statement containing information concerning any harm, including financial, social, psychological, and physical harm, done to or loss suffered by the victim of the crime.
- The date of the sentencing and the sentence imposed on the offender, if found guilty.
- Entry of the victim into the Bureau of Prisons Victim Notification Program.

OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED

- General information concerning the federal criminal justice system.
- Referrals to other agencies for shelter, counseling, medical treatment, compensation, and other community services when needed.
- Support and assistance to victims and witnesses during court appearances.
- Arrange for travel and lodging, when appropriate.
- Logistical information concerning transportation, parking, lodging, translator and related services.
- Secure waiting area for victims during court proceedings removed from and out of sight and hearing of the defendant and defense witnesses.
- Upon request by a victim or witness, assistance in notifying their employer if cooperation with the prosecution of the crime causes absence from work; and assistance in notifying creditors of a