

RESOURCES

This handout may be downloaded, printed, and distributed at your local office. Please input the resources and services available in your jurisdiction. You may use Adobe Acrobat to directly edit the PDF or create a sticker listing your resources to mark the handout. If you have any questions, contact AEquitas at 202-558-0040

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WITNESS INTIMIDATION?

This brochure was created by AEquitas in conjunction with the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office as part of the Combatting Witness Intimidation initiative, Grant No. 2016-DP-BX-K014 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.





WITNESS INTIMIDATION

WHAT IS WITNESS INTIMIDATION?

Anything done to stop you from reporting a crime or from coming to court

CAN IT HAPPEN TO ME?

Intimidation can happen to anyone, but it's more likely to happen if the crime involves:

- Domestic, sexual, or dating violence; stalking; or child abuse
- Someone you know, an acquaintance, or a former intimate partner
- A gang, a gun, or drugs

EXAMPLES OF INTIMIDATION:

- Threatening to hurt you or your loved ones
- Threatening to share embarrassing secrets
- Spreading rumors
- Threatening to take away money or promises to give money, gifts, or favors
- Threatening deportation
- Filing false charges against you or a loved one
- Defendant's supporters showing up in large numbers to court
- Bullying you or posting images of you on social media
- Following you or a loved one around
- Vandalizing property
- Apologizing and promising to change
- Threatening phone calls or hang ups
- Retaliating for reporting a crime or going to court

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM INTIMIDATED?

- Call 911
- Call your detective
- Call Victim/Witness Services at the prosecutor's office
- Call your prosecutor

IMPORTANT TIP:

Be sure to save any emails, text messages, voicemail messages, or other evidence of intimidation.

Remember, we can't stop it if we don't know about it.

WHAT CAN VICTIM/WITNESS SERVICES DO TO HELP ME?

The following services are available:

- Accompanying you to court
- Assisting older individuals, persons with disabilities, and out-of-state victims and witnesses with transportation
- Assistance with parking at a designated parking garage
- Safety planning
- Reporting intimidation
- Temporary and permanent relocation for victims and witnesses who meet certain criteria
- Referral to other services, including: family grief counseling, shelters, job counseling, alcohol/drug rehabilitation, domestic violence programs, and immigration services