

Victim Witness Unit 2007 Annual Report

Honorable County Board Members:

Program Reimbursement

In 2007, the Department of Justice, Office of Crime Victim Services reimbursed Ozaukee County approximately fifty-one percent of all operating expenses for the Victim Witness Unit. For the time frame of January to May of 2007, we were awarded **\$20,491.00**. It is anticipated that an additional award for the time frame of June to December 2007 will be received in the near future.

Trial Preparation

The District Attorney's Office subpoenaed over **600** witnesses in 2007. The Victim Witness Unit assisted in the preparation of many of those witnesses who were required to testify at preliminary hearings, motion hearings, court trials, jury trials and fact finding hearings. Such preparation included making travel arrangements, communicating with witness employers, providing court support, educating and preparing witnesses for their specific hearing. Our office also must take steps to ensure that citizen witnesses appear in court and cooperate with the prosecution of cases.

Special Programs/services

Ozaukee County Kid's Court has been operating for five years. This successful program allows children, who are required to testify in court, be prepared for their role as witnesses. The program alleviates fears and anxiety in young children, teenagers and their parents. In 2007, our office worked with **8** children.

Records reflect that **62** victims were registered with the Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) program. This service gives victims access to information via the Internet or telephone concerning their offender who was sentenced to the Wisconsin prison system. Nine of the victims registered involved offenders who were sentenced after probation was revoked; forty-three were offenders who were sent to prison and ten involved offenders who were placed on the Sexual Offender Registry.

Caseload

In 2007, Ozaukee County provided services to many victims whose cases carried over from the previous year. In addition, we worked with **730** new victims of crime. Crimes included thefts, burglary, sexual assault, failure to pay support, forgery, issuance of worthless checks, identity theft, hit and run, child abuse, domestic

violence, battery, theft by contractor, criminal damage to property, operating while intoxicated causing injury, false imprisonment, armed robbery plus many others. All victims, no matter the severity of a crime, have a Constitution Right to exercise crime victim rights.

Victims requested to exercise **4,162** crime victim rights in 2007 compared to **3,969** crime victim rights in 2006.

Professional accomplishments:

In 2007, Specialist, Lisa Haasch participated in the state credentialing program and received her Victim Service Professional Credentialing Certification from the Wisconsin Victim Witness Professional Association. I received credentialing from the National Advocate Credentialing Program and the Wisconsin Victim Witness Professionals. By becoming certified Advocates, we are recognized as having acquired the necessary ongoing training, skill and professional development needed to provide capable and compassionate services to crime victims and witnesses.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth A. Hodorowski, Coordinator
Ozaukee County Victim Witness Unit