



WEBER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

VICTIM WITNESS SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/07/03
 AMENDS/SUPERCEDES: 41.1, 41.2
 STANDARD NUMBER: 55.1.1

REVIEW DATE: 01/29/05
 REVISION DATE: 01/29/05

APPROVED: _____
 Sheriff Signature

41.1.1 Purpose

To protect the rights of victims and witnesses of crimes.

41.1.2 Rationale

The Weber County Sheriff's Office recognizes the valuable role a victim or witness has in the apprehension and prosecution of criminal suspects. It also recognizes the role that this Office has in protecting the rights of victims and witnesses. Both roles are served by providing fair and professional service to victims and witnesses -- by making available, or facilitating the receipt of, information and services that help the victims and witnesses cope with crime and its aftermath.

41.1.3 Policy

This Office:

- A. is committed to the development, implementation, and continuation of appropriate victim/witness assistance programs and activities;
- B. cooperates with, and makes referrals to, the Y.C.C. (Your Community Connection) Domestic Violence Victim Advocate Office in providing victim and witness services in cases involving domestic violence;
- C. provides services and referrals to the Weber County Attorney's Office which coordinates and supervises a Victim Advocate Program for all other criminal cases (Refer to Weber County Attorney's Victim Advocate Program Policies); and
- D. will abide by the "Rights of Crime Victims Act" as stated in UCA §77 chapters 37 and 38.

1. All office employees will have access to a copy of the above legislation.

41.1.4

Procedure

- A. The domestic violence/victim advocacy program is coordinated and supervised by Y.C.C.
- B. Victim advocates:
 1. are available twenty-four (24) hours-a-day, seven (7) days-a-week;
 2. shall be contacted through the Weber Area Dispatch Center (WACDC);
 3. provide crisis intervention via crisis hotline; and
 4. coordinate services for victims in Weber County through interagency referrals and follow-up.
- C. The rights of victims are made available to the victim through written pamphlets distributed by office deputies and staff.
- D. The Program does not offer psychological counseling or therapy. Frequency of contact between victim and advocate depends on the needs of the victim and is determined by Domestic Violence Victim Advocates officials.
- E. Confidentiality regarding the victims and witnesses is of primary importance. Information about victims and witnesses is considered confidential.