



Domestic Violence Criminal Cases: The Police are Involved, Now What? (Advocate)

Police involvement can be stressful and scary for victims of domestic violence. Helping victims understand what to expect can prepare them for what lies ahead.

Police Arrive and Arrest (Watch 01:05 – 02:27)

- Watch *Police Arrive and Arrest* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Review what kind of information the police may ask for and also support and medical services the police may connect them with.
 - Remind them that if the police officer does not speak their native language, they can ask the officer to call a language line for translation support.
 - Review what happens if the police arrest or do not arrest the offender.
 - Remind them that if they do not want the police involved, they can work with advocates, therapists, and other support staff. Ask if they would like to be connected to these resources.
 - Ask them if they would like to safety plan.
 - Ask them if they would like to seek a protective order.
 - Ask them if they have any questions.
- If they ask for more resources, you can direct them to the following:
 - Local Commissioner's Offices:
<https://mdcourts.gov/district/directories/commissionermap>

Bond and Conditions (Watch 02:27 – 03:20)

- Watch *Bond and Conditions* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Review the definition of “bond” and potential conditions of the offender’s release.
 - Review what a bond hearing is with the victim.
 - Remind them of when bond hearings typically occur.
 - Review who will be present at the bond hearing.
 - Explain that the judge may set terms and conditions of release at the bond hearing or may hold the offender in jail without bond.
 - Remind them they can find out the conditions of the bond by calling the state’s attorneys’ office.

2201 Argonne Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218 • **24 Hour Hotline:** 410-889-RUTH (7884)

Administrative Office: 410-889-0840 • **Linea en Español:** 410-889-7889 Oprima 8

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- Ask them if they have any questions.
- If they ask for resources, you can direct them to the following:
 - State's Attorney's Offices: <https://www.mdsaa.org/maryland-states-attorneys>

Victim Outreach (Watch 03:20 – 03:55)

- Watch *Victim Outreach* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Remind them that law enforcement, the state's attorney's office, and/or a victim services provider may contact them.
 - Review the roles of each of these groups.
 - Ask them if they have any questions.
- If they ask for resources, you can direct them to the following:
 - State's Attorney's Offices: <https://www.mdsaa.org/maryland-states-attorneys>

Witness Role (Watch 03:55 – 04:23)

- Watch *Witness Role* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Ask them if they understand their role as a witness.
 - Remind them they will be asked questions, and their role is to answer them to the best of their ability. If they do not know the answer to a question, they can say they do not know.
 - If their children are witnesses, remind them that the state's attorney's office will talk to them about the best way to help their children feel comfortable with the court process.
 - Ask them if they have any questions.
- If they ask for resources, you can direct them to the following:
 - State's Attorney's Offices: <https://www.mdsaa.org/maryland-states-attorneys>



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Limits on the Offender Contacting You (Watch 04:23 – 04:52)

- Watch *Limits on the Offender Contacting You* together.
- Pause and review the following concepts with the victim to check their understanding:
 - Remind them that the offender, or someone on the offender's behalf, including an investigator or acquaintance, may reach out to them about the case. It is the victim's choice whether to talk to them.
 - Remind them that the offender may try to manipulate them. If they are comfortable, they can let the state's attorney or police know if this happens.
 - Ask them if they have any questions.
- If they ask for resources, you can direct them to the following:
 - State's Attorney's Offices: <https://www.mdsaa.org/maryland-states-attorneys>

Online Resources

District Court of Maryland Commissioner Stations:

<https://mdcourts.gov/district/directories/commissionermap>

Maryland State's Attorneys' Association:

<https://www.mdsaa.org/maryland-states-attorneys>

House of Ruth Maryland Hotline: 410-889-RUTH (7884) | www.hruth.org
National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 | www.thehotline.org