

your testimony, then you may fail to make a good impression on the jury. Never argue with the defense attorney. Keep your cool!

You must answer all questions unless you don't understand the question. If you don't understand the question, don't be afraid to speak up and say so. If one of the attorneys objects to a question, do not answer the question until the judge says it is okay.

Sometimes, a defense attorney may ask this question, "Have you talked to anybody about this case?" The best answer is always a truthful one. If you have talked to others, and usually you will have spoken to at least the Assistant District Attorney, then just say so. There is nothing wrong or illegal about you talking to others about your case. It is perfectly normal to do so.

If your testimony takes a substantial length of time and you feel you need a break, you may ask the judge for a recess.

We hope the above information will be of help to you. Remember to tell the truth, stay calm and pay attention to what is happening at the time of your testimony.

IF YOU ARE BEING THREATENED BY THE DEFENDANT OR ANYONE ELSE IN REGARD TO YOUR CASE, IMMEDIATELY CALL YOUR LOCAL PRECINCT OR 911, AND THEN CALL THIS OFFICE. CRIME VICTIMS HAVE RIGHTS TOO!

The Crime Victims Assistance Unit of The Bronx District Attorney's Office provides a variety of services to victims, witnesses and their families. We will answer your questions and make every effort to help you understand and be an effective part of the court process. If you are having physical, financial, or emotional problems as a result of the crime, we offer our assistance to help you answer these needs. If you have questions or problems, please do not hesitate to call us at 590-2115. We are in our offices Monday - Friday, 8:30 - 5:30.

If you have a case pending in the Criminal Courts, you may have questions about procedures, dates, etc. CVAU Victim Advocates inform victims/witnesses about the status of their cases, answer questions about criminal

proceedings and aid the victim/witness in understanding their role and rights in the court process.

CVAU Victim Advocates can refer victims, witnesses and others (family members, partners, etc.) for a variety of professional counseling that address the trauma and other emotional issues that may be the result of a victimization.

Although the CVAU does not itself offer financial compensation, we can help with applications, claimant affidavits and assembly of the supporting documents required by the New York State Crime Victims Board. CVAU regularly makes successful referrals to New York State Crime Victims Board for emergency awards. For more information on this or other sources of financial assistance, please call CVAU.

Transportation arrangements can be made for those, such as the elderly or disabled, who have serious difficulties getting to and from court. Please call CVAU before your next court date for this help. Victims and witnesses may draw upon the support and reassurance presence of a CVAU Victim Advocate in the courtroom during trial testimony.

CVAU assists in shelter placements for Battered Women, their children, and for survivors of Sexual Assault. We may provide advocacy services with Public Assistance, Public Housing, Employers, Schools, Creditors, etc. as necessary to help victims/witnesses with their crime-related problems. CVAU makes every effort to meet the special needs of Victims and Witnesses.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CASE

Assistant D.A. _____

Telephone # _____

Docket #/Indictment # _____

Defendant (s) _____

Adjourn Date/Part _____

DISTRICT
ATTORNEY

BRONX
COUNTY

A HANDBOOK FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESSES YOUR DAY IN COURT



CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE UNIT BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

215 East 161 Street
4th Floor

198 East 161st Street
5th Floor

(718) 590-2115

Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

ROBERT T. JOHNSON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY