

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF WEBSITE AND OPENING OF  
ONLINE VICTIM ASSISTANCE RESOURCE CENTER

A Message from Thomas A. Thompson, Williams County Prosecuting Attorney:

Anytime there is a crime, there is a victim and every victim deserves help. April 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This is a time for all of us to learn about victimization, reflect on the cost of crime to our society and promote laws, policies and programs to help victims of crime rebuild their lives. The theme for this year is "Victims Rights: Every Victim. Every Time."

During the past three decades, the United States has made dramatic progress in securing rights, protections and services for victims of crime. Every State has enacted victims' rights laws and more than 10,000 victim assistance programs have been established throughout the country. Our local victim assistance program is one of the oldest programs in Ohio. The Williams County Victim Assistance Program has provided compassionate and dedicated service to hundreds of crime victims over the years.

As Williams County Prosecuting Attorney I have accepted the responsibility of holding criminals accountable and ensuring all victims receive the compassionate respect to which they are entitled. In order to better serve Williams County victims and their families, my office has created an online Victim Assistance Resource Center at [www.williamscountyprosecutor.org](http://www.williamscountyprosecutor.org). Here victims will find a variety of resources, including contact information for victim advocates, applications for the Ohio Crime Victim's Compensation Fund, information on

preparing victim impact statements, links to other state and national victim assistance programs, and many more resources designed to help victims through difficult times. I hope that by providing these resources online more victims will be aware of and utilize the services that are available in our community.

In addition to the Victim Assistance Resource Center, the new Williams County Prosecutor website has a variety of information that will be beneficial to the public at large, including regular press releases that will provide updates on cases currently under prosecution, monthly grand jury reports, links to the online sex offender databases and maps showing the location of sex offenders in your community, and links to determine the status of criminals currently serving prison terms in Ohio.

2007 National Crime Victims Rights Week is a time to celebrate our nation's progress for victims of crime and pledge to serve "every victim, every time". For additional information about victimization, victim rights and what you can do to help, please log on to [www.williamscountyprosecutor.org](http://www.williamscountyprosecutor.org) or contact Linda Taylor at the Williams County Victim Assistance Program at 228 S. Main St., Bryan, Ohio 43506, 419-636-6195.