

**Question 4:  
What Resources Are Available  
to me as a Victim?**

*Your first point of contact should be the local law enforcement agency or prosecutor's office*

**Juvenile Justice  
Contact Information**

**Division of Juvenile Justice Services**  
(603)524-4485 ext. 2

**Belknap County Restorative Justice**  
(603)527-5493

**Youth Services Bureau**  
(603)524-9457

**Youth Assistance Program**  
(603)286-8577

**Victim Information &  
Support Services**

**Genesis Behavioral Health**  
(603)524-1100

**New Beginnings**  
(603)528-6511  
1-800-852-3388

**Voices Against Violence**  
(603)536-3423  
Crisis Line (603)536-1659

**New Hampshire Help Line**  
1-800-852-3388

**The New Hampshire  
Victims' Assistance Commission**  
1-800-300-4500

**Office For Victims of Crime**  
1-800-851-3429  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc>

**A PUBLICATION OF THE  
Belknap County Citizens  
Council on Children and  
Families**

One Mill Plaza  
Laconia, New Hampshire  
03246

Phone: (603)528-3185  
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[www.bccj.org](http://www.bccj.org)



# Victims' Rights in Juvenile Crime



**An Overview of Policy and Procedures in  
the Juvenile Justice System**

**An Explanation of Your Rights as a  
Victim in Belknap County**

Presented by the  
**Juvenile Justice Advisory Council  
of  
Belknap County**

# Frequently Asked Questions... And Answers That Make Sense!

## Question 1:

### What are My Rights?

According to RSA 169-B:34,

*“at any time after the arrest of a juvenile or the service of a juvenile petition, the following information regarding the juvenile may be disclosed to the victim, upon the victim’s request, by a law enforcement agency or the prosecution:”*

1. The Juvenile’s Name
2. The Age of the Juvenile
3. The Juvenile’s Address
4. The Gender of the Juvenile
5. The Offense the Juvenile is Being Charged With
6. The Juvenile’s Custody Status

Once you have obtained this **confidential information**, *“It shall be unlawful for a victim to disclose any confidential information to any person not authorized or entitled to access such confidential information. Any person who knowingly discloses such confidential information shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.”*

## Question 2:

### What is the Standard Court Procedure for Juvenile Cases?

#### The Juvenile Court Process

After you report a crime to the police and the juvenile is arrested, a petition is filed (by the local law enforcement agency) with the Court. **The Petition** describes the offense the juvenile has committed against you.



An arraignment hearing is scheduled by the clerk of the court. **An arraignment hearing** is where the Judge may appoint counsel to the juvenile, establish any conditions that the juvenile must abide by until the next hearing, and schedule the adjudicatory hearing. It is also at this time that the Judge may order the juvenile to participate in a Juvenile Court Diversion Program (*pending successful completion of a diversion program, this will end the youth’s involvement with the court system for this charge*).



**The adjudicatory hearing** is when the “trial” takes place and the charge is found true (guilty) or not true (not guilty) of the alleged crime. *You may be called as a witness during this hearing.* A plea agreement may take place at this time, between the defense and the prosecution, or there will be a dispositional hearing scheduled. Again the Judge may establish any conditions that the juvenile must abide by until the dispositional hearing. A Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer (JPPO) will be assigned at this time.



**The dispositional hearing** is where you as the victim have a chance to have your say by completing a Victim Impact Statement (VIS), prior to the hearing. A **VIS** is a voluntary statement taken by the Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer (JPPO), either written by you or through an interview. Its main purpose is to give crime victims an opportunity to have their voices heard. At the dispositional hearing the juvenile’s case will be disposed (sentenced), and the Judge will issue Court Orders.

#### Then What?

The Juvenile will work with the JPPO or case manager assigned to his/her case to help repair the harm that was caused to you.

## Question 3: What is a Juvenile Court Diversion Program?

#### The Court Diversion Program

The Court Diversion Program of Youth Services Bureau is an early-intervention program that works with first-time juvenile offenders. The program allows youth the opportunity to take responsibility and learn from their mistakes, as well as work to repair the harm that was caused by the offense. The intent of this program is to help youths and their families learn to make better choices, so that they may reach their greatest potential as valuable members of society.

#### Youth Assistance Program

The Youth Assistance Program is a diversion program serving youth in the communities of Tilton and Sanbornton.

#### Belknap County Restorative Justice

The Belknap County Restorative Justice Program is an alternative approach to dealing with juvenile crime and focuses on mending the damage caused by crime. The program encompasses a balanced commitment to have concern for the victim, repair the harm imposed on the community, hold the offender accountable through community service and build citizen skills and competencies in the juvenile offender.