

Maricopa County Attorney's Office Victim Services



Mission Statement

The Victim Services Division of Maricopa County Attorney's Office is committed to balancing the scales of justice by empowering victims of crime to exercise their rights. Victim Services strives to promote **fairness, respect, and dignity** for crime victims while advocating for their constitutional rights.

Advocate Role

- Inform and explain Victim Rights/Criminal Justice System
- Provide hearing notifications
- Act as a liaison between prosecutor and victim
- Provide court accompaniment
- Convey plea agreements
- Provide support/crisis intervention
- Trial preparation

MCAO Victim Services

Systems based advocates

Comprised of 9 specialized bureaus, including
Victim Compensation



Child Advocacy Bureau

- 5 Advocates + 1 Bureau Chief
- Coordination with DCS
- Partner with child advocacy centers (MDTs)
- Identify community resources
- K-9 Victim Support Program
- Intervention techniques
- Human trafficking victim population
- Unique challenges





Arizona Revised Statute

A.R.S. § 13-4442. Use of a facility dog in court proceedings

- A. The court **shall** allow a victim who is under eighteen years of age to have a facility dog, if available, accompany the victim while testifying in court.
- B. The court **may** allow a victim who is eighteen years of age or more or a witness to use a facility dog.
- C. To ensure that the presence of a facility dog assisting a victim or a witness does not influence the jury or is not a reflection on the truthfulness of any testimony that is offered by the victim or witness, the court shall instruct the jury on the role of the facility dog and that the facility dog is a trained animal.



K9 Victim Support Program

Sam thank you for
supporting me in court
I will miss you!!
-love

You make me so happy.
I could wag my tail off



Thank you!

Maricopa County Attorneys Office
Victim Services