

**602 VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION****602.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This policy establishes a procedure by which crime victims may inquire about and be provided with information regarding the status of their case, their right to confidentiality and other rights afforded by law (Mo. Const. Art. 1 § 32).

**602.2 INVESTIGATION CONSIDERATIONS****602.2.1 SEX CRIME VICTIM CONFIDENTIALITY**

Members investigating or receiving a report of an alleged sex offense shall keep the identity of the victim private and not release that information unless required by law. The name of any juvenile victim of a sex crime shall not be disseminated or published (§ 610.100(7), RSMo).

**602.2.2 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Officers investigating or receiving a report of an alleged dangerous felony or other qualifying crime should:

1. As soon as available and appropriate, inform each victim of the following services:
  - a. A statement of the victims' automatic rights in dangerous felony cases and the ability to make a written request affording those rights for all other crimes (§ 595.209, RSMo).
  - b. Information concerning the availability of victim and immediate family assistance, medical and emergency services, to include the Missouri Victim Assistance Network (MoVA).
  - c. The availability of reasonable protection from the person accused of committing a crime, including protective court orders.
  - d. The business address and telephone number of the County Prosecutor.
  - e. The file number of the case and the name, business address and telephone number of any officer assigned to investigate the case.
  - f. Services for child and elderly victims, including special services for those with disabilities.
  - g. Interpretation services and information printed in languages other than English.
  - h. Information explaining how to access the Missouri Victim Automated Notification System (MOVANS) when appropriate.
  - i. Referral to counseling facilities and community service agencies, including the names and telephone numbers, for crisis intervention, legal resources, mental health services, social services, rehabilitative services, financial assistance and other support services.

**602.3 FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR SEX CRIME VICTIMS**

Officers investigating or receiving a report of an alleged sex offense shall consider, if timely and with the consent of the victim or a person authorized to act on behalf of the victim, request a forensic medical examination of the

victim. No Columbia Police Department employee shall ask or require a sex crime victim to participate or cooperate in an investigation as a condition of receiving a forensic medical examination.

The Department of Public Safety shall be responsible for direct costs associated with the collection of forensic evidence from a sex crime victim (§ 595.220(6), RSMo).

#### **602.4 TRUTH VERIFICATION EXAMINATION FOR SEX CRIME VICTIMS**

Employees of the Columbia Police Department shall not ask or require a victim of a sex crime to submit to a truth verification examination as a condition for proceeding with a criminal investigation.

#### **602.5 HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS**

Any individual who is alleging that a violation of state law has occurred against his/her person shall be afforded the rights and protections provided in the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Public Law 106-386, as amended (§ 566.200, RSMo; § 566.221, RSMo; § 566.223, RSMo).