



# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office Launches New Technology for Domestic Violence Victims**

MOUNT CLEMENS, MI - Under Michigan law, crime victims have specific rights. The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office has made it faster and easier to request those rights. Crime victims may now text "Victim Rights" or "Victim Advocate" or other requests to (586) 250-4090. They will receive an automatic reply text with a link to an online form to request crime victims rights, an offer to immediately connect with a Crime Victim Advocate, and information on how to contact the Crime Victims Rights Unit on their own. This service is for crime victims in cases authorized by the prosecuting attorney. In an emergency please call 911.

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used to gain or maintain power and control. It is common for a charming, charismatic offender to choose a vulnerable partner. The offender slowly begins to verbally knock down their partner, and makes the victim feel bad about themselves. This abuse may escalate to separating the victim from family and friends, taking over the finances, and monitoring their partner's whereabouts. The abuse may further intensify to physical abuse starting with a slap or shove by the offender, followed by a honeymoon period. The physical abuse may continue to grow and amplify with each occurrence as time progresses.

The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office encourages anyone experiencing domestic violence to contact their local police department and/or Turning Point. Turning Point is a non profit organization that helps victims of domestic violence. Turning Point has a 24 hour hotline and an emergency shelter available by calling (586) 463-6990. Turning Point also offers a community advocacy housing program, trauma advocacy and counseling services.

The Prosecutor's Office provides the following assistance to crime victims:

- Provides information and help in filing for Michigan Crime Victims Compensation.
- Makes referrals to other community agencies for additional assistance.

- Gives information on how the criminal justice system works, and case status.
- Attends court at the victim's request.
- Assists in completing the Victim Impact Statement for sentencing purposes.
- Assists in providing information regarding restitution.

The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office launched the new service with technology provided by Twilio at a cost of approximately 1 penny per text message. As of September 30 this year, 2,041 crime victims have requested victim rights.

The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office works tirelessly to provide justice for domestic violence victims and continues to prosecute these predators to the fullest extent of the law.

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