



PRESS RELEASE

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Macomb County Prosecutor's Office Safeguards Victim's Contact Information

Mount Clemens, MI - For the last four months, Macomb County assistant prosecutors have been required to file motions in court for protection orders to prevent victims and witnesses contact information from being disclosed in police reports that are given to criminal defendants. The need to now request orders is a reaction to a May 11, 2023 Michigan Court of Appeals ruling authored by Judge Elizabeth Gleicher that county prosecutors may no longer automatically redact victim and witness addresses and other personal information. The new rule now requires prosecutors to seek a court order on every case to keep that information away from the individual(s) alleged to have preyed on our victims.

Until now, the county prosecutor's office automatically redacted victim and witness contact information from police reports, to prevent intimidation by criminal defendants. The Michigan Court of Appeals changed that in *People v Antaramian*.

Recently, House Bills 4738 and 4739 were introduced to remedy this issue and are currently on the House floor. Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido fully supports these bills.

"Protecting the safety and privacy of victims and witnesses has always been of paramount concern at the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office," said Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido.

On September 13, 2023, a new Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) from the Michigan Attorney General's Office began. This program is used after the trial process and when a victim is moving residences. The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office Crime Victim Advocates Unit uses this program to safeguard addresses of victim's of stalking, domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and individuals at risk of being threatened or harmed by perpetrators from being located through public records.

Individuals interested in the ACP should meet with their Macomb County Prosecutor's Office Crime Victim Advocate who assists and submits the ACP application. ACP staff reviews the application, certifies the participant and sends out an ID card and ACP handbook to the applicant. The ACP participant changes their address and records to the substitute address. ACP staff will then forward all eligible mail to the new address and help participants navigate the program. For more information on the ACP program please visit <https://www.michigan.gov/ag/initiatives/address-confidentiality>.

The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office remains unwavering in its dedication to justice and the well-being of our community members. By diligently prosecuting cases and implementing measures such as protection orders and the Address Confidentiality Program, we strive to create a safer environment for all residents of Macomb County.