

### To Obtain A Warrant

You may apply for a criminal warrant by appearing in person before a **Magistrate** at the office listed below. Magistrates are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You *do not* have to be physically injured to obtain a warrant.

**Lynchburg Magistrate's Office**  
524 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Telephone: (434) 847-1329

### Lynchburg Commonwealth's Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Assistance Program

The Lynchburg Commonwealth's Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Assistance Program is available to assist victims and witnesses of crimes. The Victim/Witness Assistance program assists crime victims and witnesses through the criminal justice system. The specific services provided by the Program include:

- Information about your case
- Explanation of court procedures, including preparation to testify and/or a tour of the courtroom
- Crisis counseling and referrals
- Assistance with filing a crime victim compensation form for injuries resulting from a crime (see below)

The Victim/Witness Assistance program is located in the Lynchburg Commonwealth's Attorney's Office and may be contacted by calling **(434) 455-3790**, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. For more information, please visit [www.lynchburgva.gov/229/victim-witness](http://www.lynchburgva.gov/229/victim-witness).

### Virginia Victims Fund Crime Injuries Compensation Fund

If you were physically injured during a crime, or if you were injured trying to prevent a crime or an attempted crime, or trying to catch a person who committed a crime in your presence, or if your mother, father, guardian, wife, or husband was killed because of a crime while attempting to stop a crime, you may qualify for payment of certain expenses. A maximum award of up to \$35,000 is available to pay for the following expenses if they are not paid by other sources.

- The victim's unreimbursed medical expenses
- Mental Health counseling
- Funeral/ Burial expenses up to \$10,000
- Crime scene clean-up expenses
- Other reasonable and necessary expenses incurred as a result of the crime, such as prescriptions, mileage to doctors, eyeglasses
- Wage loss directly resulting from a crime-related incapacity is payable at the rate of 2/3 of the victim's average weekly wage up to \$35,000 in the aggregate.
- Moving expenses up to \$2,000.

For more information, contact the Virginia Victims Fund by email at [info@virginiavictimsfund.org](mailto:info@virginiavictimsfund.org) or call 1-800-552-4007 (statewide toll-free)

### Domestic Violence - Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court

If a criminal warrant is issued, the accused will be arrested and you will be advised, usually within 1 to 5 days after the arrest. As a victim you do not have to appear at the advisement hearing. A trial date will be scheduled and you will receive a subpoena informing you of the date and time that you must appear in court. The hearing will be at the:

**Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court**  
909 Court Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Level  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24504  
Telephone 455-2670

### Violence / Protective Orders

If you were physically injured, forcefully detained, or threatened with serious bodily injury by a family or household member\* you are a victim of domestic violence. If a law enforcement officer has reasonable grounds to believe that an assault and battery has been committed against a family or household member\* after the Courts have closed, the officer may obtain an *Emergency Protective Order*. This order is valid until 5:00 p.m. of the next business day. You may also apply for an order protecting you from the individual who harmed or threatened you, if they are a family or household member\*. Issuing a *Protective Order* is not a criminal matter and one may be issued whether or not you pursue a criminal charge. Protective orders are issued by a judge. The order may impose certain restrictions and conditions on your abuser including one or more other following:

- Prohibition of further abusive acts
- Prohibition of contact between the parties
- Granting the abused party exclusive possession of the family dwelling for residential purposes only.

**In accordance with § 19.2-152.8**, If you have been subjected to an act of violence, force or threat, and there is probable danger of a further act being committed, or a petition or warrant for the arrest of the subject has been issued for any criminal offense resulting from the commission of an act of violence, force or threat; or in order to protect your health or safety you may request an *Emergency Protective Order (EPO)*.

The judge or magistrate shall issue an ex-parte Emergency Protective Order (EPO). To acquire an EPO you must appear before the Judge or magistrate and request such order. You may request that an officer transport you to acquire such EPO and the officer shall provide transportation.

You may apply in person at the Court Services Unit, 909 Court Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Level, Lynchburg (434-455-2660), between 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. During non-office hours, you must obtain the number of the Court Services Unit officer on call from the Magistrate.

\*Family or Household Members are defined as spouses or former spouses, regardless of whether *you* are presently living together, or someone with whom you have a child in common, regardless of whether you have ever been married or have ever lived together. A parent, child, stepparent, stepchild, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, who lives with you is a *family or household member*. *Family or household members* also include a person with whom you presently cohabit with or with whom you have cohabited during the past 12 months, as well as any children, of either of you, who reside with you.