

LACONIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Prosecutor's Office
Laconia, New Hampshire

603.524.2330

As a victim you may stay informed with the status of the case in which you are involved. The following information is a general overview of the sequence of events in the typical criminal process.

1. A crime is committed and the Laconia Police Department is notified.
2. An investigation is conducted.
 - This may include the collection of evidence, interviews with victims, witnesses and suspects.
3. Completion of investigation.
 - Case is referred to the Prosecutor's Office where a decision is made on whether or not to bring charges. An arrest may or may not be made at this time. If an arrest is made, you will be notified if you request that information.
4. Arraignment.
 - Suspect is formally charged with a crime; bail is either set or reviewed as necessary.
5. Pre-trial details.
 - Defendant may enter a not guilty plea to allow the defendant the opportunity to consult with an attorney. Information about the charges will be given to the defense.
6. Pre-trial motions.
 - Legal council for both the defendant and the State propose to the judge what evidence should or should not be presented. A request may be filed, limiting what evidence will be allowed at trial.
7. Trial will be held and the judge will make a finding.
8. Judgment.
 - Decision will be guilty, not guilty or mistrial.
9. Sentencing.
 - If the Defendant is found guilty, the sentencing will generally be imposed immediately after the trial. This might include jail, community service, probation, restitution, counseling or any combination of these. At this time, you as a victim may submit a Victim Impact Statement. You will be given instructions on when and how to notify the Prosecutor's Office if you desire to make a statement.
10. Appeals process.
 - The Defendant has a period of time to appeal the verdict and the attorneys for both sides take this time to review the court transcripts.
11. Restitution.
 - You will be given information on how to receive restitution for any injuries, loss of property or time, etc.