



Boston Office

115 Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02110
617-399-6720 (tel)
617-399-6722 (fax)
1-877-758-8132 (toll free)

Portland Office

520 SW Yamhill Street, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97204
503-274-5477 (tel)
503-295-6679 (fax)

www.victimrights.org

Some Ideas for Protecting Victims' Privacy in the Courts

- Request permission to file an appearance in a criminal case for the purpose of protecting your client's privacy
- Review all records in anticipation of a subpoena
- Know your jurisdiction's rules on release of records in sexual assault cases and strategize/respond accordingly
- Ask the judge to order the court file sealed
- If your jurisdiction's laws allow: Request permission for a victim to testify by closed circuit camera or videoconference and/or ask for the courtroom to be cleared of observers before the victim testifies in person
- Request permission for the victim to testify in chambers (many states have statutes already authorizing this for child victims)
- Work with court administrators to ensure that sexual assault victims' records are not available online
- File a Motion to Quash – Pay attention to whether the subpoena was validly issued or served
- Request permission to redact irrelevant information that is contained in records that have to be produced
- Request permission / File court pleadings using pseudonym or initials.

Preparation of this of this material was supported by grant number 2011-WT-AX-K024, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.