

VICTIM / WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program (operated by the Circuit Solicitor's Office) provides information to victims and acts as an intermediary between victims and the criminal court systems. During the period between the arrest of the defendant and the court date, the victim/witness staff keeps their clients informed about the latest developments in their case. The issues discussed include reimbursement for medical expenses and lost wages, restitution, counseling, emergency referrals, property return assistance and the preparation of the Victim Impact Statement. Victim advocates communicate with over 7,000 victims each year.

In FY 03, the Office of the Crime/Victim Ombudsman (part of the State of South Carolina Governor's Office) recognized the 7th Judicial Circuit as being one of the top performing regions in the state in terms of quality victim service.

Financial Information

DEPT NUMBER: 1-9267	VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM						
	FY 04/05	FY 05/06	FY 06/07	FY 07/08	FY 07/08	\$ INC/DEC	% INC/DEC
EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	RECOMM	ADOPTED	FY 08 - 07	FY 08 - 07
Personnel Services Expenditures	114,046	128,366	133,527	137,528	143,170	9,643	7.2%
Operating Expenditures	357	426	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Capital Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Other Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	\$114,403	\$128,792	\$133,527	\$137,528	\$143,170	\$9,643	7.2%

Personnel Information

VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM	GRADE	FY 04/05	FY 05/06	*FY 06/07	FY 07/08	FY 07/08	INC/DEC	EXEMPT
					RECOMM	ADOPTED	FY 08 - 07	(Y/N)
Victim Witness Counselor	19	2	2	2	2	2	0	N
Victim Witness Advocate	17	1	1	1	1	1	0	N
TOTAL, VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM		3	3	3	3	3	0	

*Includes any changes made during FY 06/07

FY 08 Budget Highlights & Initiatives

The Victim Witness Program's FY 08 Adopted Budget reflects the following changes and initiatives:

- There are no significant changes in the Victim Witness FY 08 Adopted Budget.