

Initial Family Meeting Outline

- Victim: _____
- Family members present
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- Introductions
 - Investigators
 - Victim/Witness coordinator
 - ADAs
- Learn about the victim. Ask the family member to tell you about them / show you a picture if they have one.
- Three Promises
 - You will always hear the truth
 - We will hear from you at every stage of the proceedings
 - Doesn't mean we will do what you want, but we will consider your input
 - Nothing will happen without you knowing
- Can't go into details of the investigations yet
 - Ongoing and preliminary findings subject to change with future information
 - Can share details and field all questions about it once it's complete.
- Media
 - Ability to speak freely with you is conditioned on fact that you can't share it with anyone else.
 - Prosecutors are held responsible for information that makes it to media
 - Judge can take it out on us and this case.
 - Therefore, sharing information with the media will hurt this case.
 - Autopsy
 - Media can request a copy of the autopsy report
 - If they request a copy, they will receive it the same day I do so I will not be able to give you advance notice of its release.
- Dealing with investigators
 - The only people that will contact you from this office will be someone in this room.
 - If someone else contacts you, they are not with this office.
 - Three points:
 - I can't tell you not to talk to their investigators
 - Whether you talk to their investigators is your choice, but you are free to tell them you do not wish to talk to them.
 - You can also tell them that you are willing to talk to them, but would like for us to be present.
- Discovery
 - Prosecutors are required to turn every piece of paper over to the defense.
 - Please be careful what you write down and what you send to us and the investigators.
 - It can be misinterpreted.
 - Preference would be to pick up the telephone.
- Court dates / Our Process
 - Explain the R24 process
 - Most cases are not declared capital even if statutory requirements are met.
 - If a case is declared capital:

- The defendant gets 2 attorneys
 - The case will take much longer to resolve (4 years is not unreasonable)
 - The court will give the defendant the benefit of any close calls.
 - Case tends to become about the defendant instead of the victim.
- Explain the roundtable process for determining whether to make a plea offer and, if so, what it will be.
- Explain settings / bond hearings / arraignment
- Explain how property will be handled after the case is closed.
- Whether you attend is up to you.
 - I will only ask that you attend bond hearings so the judge can see the people affected by the defendant's actions.
 - The judge should give you an opportunity to be heard at any bond hearing, plea, or sentencing hearing.
 - You may do that by talking to the court, by writing a statement to the court, or by audio or video recorded statement. If you do a statement, we will hand it up to the judge.
- Reports of court dates in media: Media won't know what you and I know about court dates. They may report that X is happening on a certain date when you and I know it's not. Ignore the reporting.
- Contacting us
 - We will be in regular contact, but victim/witness coordinator is your primary contact.
 - They will make sure that any questions/concerns you have are routed to the right person
- Questions?