

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF LANCASTER COUNTY

JOSEPH C. MADENSPACHER
District Attorney



PAMELA GROSH
Program Director

VICTIM/WITNESS SERVICES PROGRAM

50 North Duke Street
PO Box 83480
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17608-3480
(717) 299-8048

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Good afternoon. My name is Pamela Grosh. For the last six and one half years, I have worked with victims of crime in the Lancaster County District Attorney's Office. During this time I have walked the criminal justice path with many victims and their families.

Their stories are all unique. Each one has its own pain. Each person struggles with the everyday realities of living in the aftermath of a crime. Those realities are physical, in the loss of abilities once taken for granted, psychological, with a overwhelming range of emotions that deluge at unexpected moments, and financial, with a fist full of unanticipated expenses.

They are not all big moments. From victims who have given me the gift of looking into their souls, I understand that it is the constantness of these realities that is the most painful. As one mother said of her murdered child, "She's the first thing I think of when I open my eyes in the morning and the last thing I think of before I close them at night."

While each of the stories are unique, many elements of crime victims' quests are similar. Each of them seek to make sense of an event that is inherently senseless. They seek some level of understanding that will enable them to live without the constant cry of "WHY?". Many of them hope for these answers within the criminal justice system. They attend hearings and trials with incredibly painful testimony in order to facilitate their own search for the truth about what has happened. Sometimes those of us in the system would like to shelter victims from these revelations. I have learned from them that nothing is worse than their imaginings. No truth is more difficult than not knowing.

Having sought and found whatever facts a trial can offer, victims and their families are deeply affected by a favorable verdict. While nothing can erase the crime, a verdict does close a chapter for them. They are satisfied with the feeling that justice has been exacted, a sentence has been pronounced, and the world has recognized the wrong that has been done.