

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Whether it is your first time contacting the Benewah County Prosecutor's Office or you are deep into a court case, you may encounter questions you do not know the answer. You will find answer here, from questions about testifying in court, being a victim of a crime or how to request records.

If something is not covered here, please do not hesitate to contact the Benewah County Prosecutor's Office at (208) 245-2564.

Can I report a crime to the Prosecutor's Office?

In most cases, a crime must be reported to the police department or other law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the city or county where the crime occurred.

For example, if the crime occurred in the City of St. Maries or Plummer, it should be reported to the local police department. If the crime was committed in the unincorporated areas of Benewah County, the crime should be reported to the Benewah County Sheriff's Office.

However, reports of officer or deputy misconduct should be reported to the Chief or Sheriff of the department.

Where do I report a crime?

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For emergencies, call 9-1-1

Benewah County Sheriff's Office (208) 245-2555

St. Maries Police Department (208) 245-5102

Coeur d'Alene Tribal Police (208) 686-2050

Plummer Police Department (208) 686-1641

I am the victim of a crime and I want to drop charges.

Crimes are charged by the Benewah County Prosecutor's Office on behalf of the People of the State of Idaho, not on behalf of any particular victim. The decision to file charges in any criminal prosecution can only be made in the Prosecutor's Office. A victim's wishes will be considered, but the final determination whether or not charges will be filed or dismissed rests with the Prosecutor's Office.

How do I file a domestic violence complaint?

Contact your local law enforcement agency. They are responsible for the investigation of domestic violence cases. The Prosecutor's Office will review the investigation report and file any appropriate criminal charges.

I was the victim of a crime. Can you tell me the defendant's next court date?

The Prosecutor's Office can provide you with the next court date if we have filed charges against the defendant. To obtain this information, please call (208) 245-2564 for assistance.

Can I talk to Ms. Dunham? I think she is the person handling my case since her name is on all the documents in my case.

Ms. Dunham is the Benewah County Prosecutor and her name appears on most court documents in your case. Ms. Dunham's name also appears on all Benewah County Prosecutor's Office correspondence in your case just above the signature of the employee who wrote the letter. The person working on your case is most likely the person who actually signed the court document or letter. This is the person you should contact.

If I am the defendant who is represented by an attorney. Can I talk to the Prosecutor or Deputy Prosecutor about my case?

No. All attorneys are governed by a code of ethics which prevents them from speaking directly to anyone who has an attorney. As long as you are represented by an attorney, we may speak only to your attorney. Any questions that you have about your case should be answered by your attorney.

I was cited and released by police. Can you tell me if the Prosecutor's Office filed charges against me?

To find out whether charges have been filed against you, telephone the Benewah County Prosecutor's Office at (208) 245-2564.

I want a divorce. Or, I want to sue someone. Or, I want to adopt a child. Can the Prosecutor's Office help me?

No, but a private attorney may be able to help you. If you do not have a lawyer, you can contact the Idaho State Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service at (208) 334-4500.

You can also file the paperwork yourself. Most for family law cases and other civil (non-criminal) court matters can be obtained through the Benewah County Court Clerk's Office, located in the Benewah County Courthouse, 701 W. College Avenue Suite 203, St. Maries, Idaho 83861, at (208) 245-3241.

I have a complaint about your office. How do I contact you and will you respond?

Please write to Mariah Dunham, Benewah County Prosecutor, 701 W. College Avenue Suite 201, St. Maries, Idaho 83861. I or someone in authority will contact you about the complaint.