

Quick Tips for Crime Victims and Survivors
Guidelines for Media Interviews

- You should plan for media interviews.
- You should expect to be treated with respect by the news media.
- You do not have to speak to the media and can say “no” to requests for interviews, even if you have previously granted interviews.
- You can select the date, time, and location for a media interview.
- You can select a spokesperson or advocate of your choice to speak on your behalf to the media.
- You can ask to have a support person present with you during any interview.
- You can release a written or oral statement through a spokesperson instead of an interview.
- You can avoid a stressful atmosphere by speaking to only one reporter at a time.
- You can establish “ground rules” or boundaries for all media interviews.
- You can refrain from answering any question that makes you uncomfortable.
- You can end an interview at any time.
- You can audiotape or videotape all interviews to ensure the accuracy of what you say.
- You can ask in advance what the story will be about.
- You can request a specific reporter.
- You can refuse an interview with a specific reporter, even if you have granted interviews to other reporters.
- You can and should exclude young children from interviews.
- You can demand a correction when inaccurate information is reported.
- You can conduct a television interview using a silhouette or a newspaper interview without having your photograph taken.
- You can completely give your side of the story related to your victimization.
- You can file a formal complaint against a journalist.