

# Understanding the Shift

The following are examples of stages of the response from a case centered and victim-centered perspective.

Case-Centered	Victim-Centered:
<p>The interview with the victim seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ identify elements of a crime</li> <li>◆ evaluate the victim as a potential witness</li> <li>◆ determine the victim's credibility</li> </ul>	<p>The interview with the victim seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ identify the nature of the harm done</li> <li>◆ acknowledge the violation</li> <li>◆ listen for concerns about current and future well-being</li> <li>◆ discuss victim's wishes about future of case</li> <li>◆ address the case requirements</li> </ul>
<p>A media or press release is timed according to case preferences and the media's requests for public data. Typically, the victim learns of case progress through media reports.</p>	<p>Every effort is made to inform the victim of information to be released to the media before it is made public. Appropriate discretion is used regarding certain case details and/or in line with culturally specific concerns.</p>
<p>A plea agreement is reached between prosecution and defense counsel minutes before a previously scheduled court hearing on the case. The plea is taken at the hearing, the offender simply answers yes or no questions asked by their attorney to establish the elements of the crime. The victim is notified after the hearing that the defendant pleaded guilty.</p>	<p>Possible plea agreements have been discussed with the victim and their advocate prior to the hearing. If the purpose of the hearing changes, the prosecutor works with the advocate to reach the victim to give her an opportunity to be present to hear the plea. The hearing time is changed, if necessary, to allow the victim to be present. Whenever possible, the offender is asked to tell what happened in his or her own words, with questions from attorneys to help establish the elements of the crime for the record. If necessary, an interpreter is provided for the victim to understand the proceedings and the offender's admission.</p>
<p>A jury is ready to deliver their verdict at the end of a long trial. All parties are contacted to return to court for the reading of the verdict, including the victim who has requested such notification. Since the victim is not required to be present at the reading of the verdict, the court declines to wait until she arrives. Upon arrival, the victim learns of the verdict as everyone else is leaving the courtroom.</p>	<p>A jury is ready to deliver their verdict at the end of a long trial. A victim is given the option for returning for the verdict and chooses to do so. The victim is loaned a pager so that she can easily be contacted when the verdict comes in. Mindful of the victim's wishes and her investment in the proceedings, the court waits until all parties arrive before proceeding with the reading of the verdict.</p>