

**the defendant Should Never Threaten or Bribe You!**



It is against the law for the defendant to offer a bribe to a victim or witness.

**What is a bribe?**

Under the law a bribe is a promise of “any benefit” to a witness to stay quiet, lie, or not show up in court.

**Examples**:

Each of the following statements could be a bribe: “If you testify . . .

* “I will stop beating you.”
* “I will pay the rent.”
* “I will buy you a car."
* “I will buy the kids presents.”

**\*Witness tampering is the most common crime committed against abuse victims.**

**\*Help us stop it!**

The ASU Diane Halle Center for Family Justice

**If someone bribes you or threatens to stop you from testifying in court, you may be a victim of** “**witness tampering**.”

**Know the Law on Witness Tampering**

# Witness Tampering is Against the Law!

### Witness Tampering is against the law

If someone is trying to stop you from going to court or telling the truth in court you can get help with a **SAFETY PLAN**:

**Phoenix Family Advocacy Center**

(602) 534-2120 or (888) 246-0303

**Voice for Victims**

(480) 600-2661 or (602) 416-6780

**The Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

(602) 279-2900 or (800) 782-6400

**Maricopa County Attorney’s Office Investigations Division** (602) 506-8370

**Remember…**

If you need immediate help or if you are in an emergency**,**

**call 9-1-1 right away**!

**\**Please share widely*\***

By Hannah Burnidge, 3L & Prof. Sarah Buel with thanks to the many who gave suggestions.

**What Does “Witness Tampering” Look Like?**

**Witness tampering can come in many forms and is against the law.**

Nobody should ***physically hurt you*** to scare you from telling the truth.

Nobody should ***threaten you***, for example, by telling you:

* *“If you tell the truth in court, I will hurt you!”* or
* *“I will call CPS and lie so they will take your kids!”*

**Nobody should *GIVE you gifts****, for example*,flowers or jewelry, to convince you not to testify.

**Nobody should *BRIBE you or make promises,*** for example*,**by* saying, “*If you keep quiet, I’ll start paying child support*.” or *“If you don’t testify, I’ll buy you a car*.”

***Nobody should STALK you,*** for example*, by* scaring you from telling the truth by repeatedly showing up at your home or job.

***Nobody should BLACKMAIL*** ***you***, for example, by saying, *“If you tell the truth in court, I will tell everybody about your drug habit*.”

**Nobody should make *VEILED THREATS*,** for example, by saying: *"You better not tell or I’ll get you (or your family)."* or

*"I wouldn't tell if I were you!"*

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* Even actions that someone else might view as harmless could be witness tampering if the abuser is trying to silence you.
* It could be as simple as making an intimidating gesture toward you in the courtroom or stealing your mail.

**You Have a Right to be Safe!**

If somebody is doing something to make you feel scared about going to court or telling the truth, then report it!

**Let Us Help!**

Sometimes, people don’t report these crimes because they don’t want to be a “snitch.”

***Witness tampering is against the law.*** Reporting these crimes is the right thing to do.

***You deserve to be protected!***

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**It is against the law for somebody to**

**try to force you to:**

* Hold back information about your case;
* Lie in court; or
* Not show up for court.

If a person caused you to do one of these things, it may be ***witness tampering***.

**Both of these statements are examples of witness tampering:**

* *“I will file for sole custody of the children if you tell the truth in court.”*
* *“I will give you money if you don’t go to court.”*

**Keep** a list of the dates & times that you are bribed, threatened or harmed. This can be key evidence for your case.

***SAFETY PLAN***: Make a list of **Friends, Family & Advocates** you can trust to help keep you and your children stay safe.

***Power & Control*:** Abusers often use the power of fear to control their victims.

### What is “Witness Tampering”?