

Important Numbers

- Animal Control 540-582-7115
- Shelter 540-507-7459
- Circuit Court 540-507-7600
- Commonwealth’s Attorney..540-507-7650
- County Attorney 540-507-7020
- Department of Social Services/
Child Protective Services..... 540-507-7898
- District 21 State Probation...540-710-2102
- Fire & Rescue 540-507-7900
- General District Court..... 540-507-7680
- Juvenile and Domestic Relations District
Court 540-507-7676
- Lawyer Referral Service..... 800-552-7977
- Rappahannock Area Community Services
Board..... 540-582-3980
- Rappahannock Council on Domestic
Violence..... 540-373-9373
- Rappahannock Legal
Services 540-371-1105
- Rappahannock Reg. Jail 540-288-5245
- Sheriff’s Office..... 540-507-7200
- Victim/Witness 540-507-7667
- Virginia State Police 540-891-4108

**In an emergency, always
dial “911”**

Protecting the community takes a team effort. With the help of the Spotsylvania Sheriff’s Office, the Virginia State Police, the Department of Social Services and you the Spotsylvania residents, the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office will continue to make Spotsylvania a safer place for all of us to live, work, and play.

I am honored to be your Commonwealth’s Attorney and part of your team.



*Travis D. Bird,
Commonwealth’s Attorney*

Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney

Hon. Travis D. Bird

Commonwealth’s Attorney

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*Protecting the Community with
Tough but Fair Justice*

Frequently Asked Questions

- Who is the Commonwealth's Attorney and what does he do?

The Commonwealth's Attorney is the elected prosecutor who is responsible for the prosecution of all felony offenses and certain misdemeanor offenses that occur in Spotsylvania County.

- What is the penalty for a misdemeanor?

Class 1 misdemeanor: Confinement in jail for not more than 12 months and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both.

Class 2 misdemeanor: Confinement in jail for not more than 6 months and a fine of not more than \$1,000, either or both.

Class 3 misdemeanor: A fine of not more than \$500.

Class 4 misdemeanor: A fine of not more than \$250.

- What is the penalty for a felony?

Class 1 felony: (capital murder) Death, or confinement for a term of life and a fine not to exceed \$100,000.

Class 2 felony: Confinement for life, or for any term not less than twenty years and a fine of not more than \$100,000.

Class 3 felony: A term of confinement of not less than five years nor more than twenty years and a fine of not more than \$100,000.

Class 4 felony: A term of confinement of not less than two years nor more than ten years and a fine of not more than \$100,000.

Class 5 felony: A term of confinement of not less than one year nor more than ten years, or in the discretion of the jury or the court trying the case without a jury, a confinement in jail for not more than twelve months and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both.

Class 6 felony: A term of confinement of not less than one year nor more than five years, or in the discretion of the jury or the court trying the case without a jury, confinement in jail for not more than twelve months and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both.

- How can I contact the prosecutor assigned to my case?

You may reach our office by phone at (540) 507-7650 from 8:30 - 4:30, M – F. You will need to provide the defendant's name and the name of the Court where the hearing is scheduled. Please be prepared to leave a message with a phone number where you can be reached during office hours. If you are a victim or witness and would like to speak to an advocate, you may reach out to our Victim/Witness Program at (540) 507-7667. If you would like to find the status of your case in Circuit Court the night before the case is to be heard, you may call the *Witness Release Line* at (540) 507-7498, option 3957# to find out if your case is still going forward.

- What happens at an arraignment?

This is the first appearance a defendant makes in court. The judge will tell the defendant what he is charged with and if the charge carries the possibility of a jail sentence. The judge will also set a hearing date for the case.

- Do I have to testify at a trial if I don't want to?

If you are a witness or victim, you must testify. If you have concerns about testifying, speak with the prosecutor or the victim/witness coordinator in our office. If you are the defendant, you have the right to remain silent.

- Can I drop the charges once filed?

Only the prosecutor assigned to your case may ask the Court to dismiss charges once they have been filed.

- What is a Grand Jury?

The Grand Jury is a panel of citizens convened by the Circuit Court to review criminal charges brought against a defendant. The Grand Jury decides if there is probable cause to proceed with a trial. Grand Jury witnesses are usually law enforcement officers. The Grand Jury usually meets on the third Monday of each month.

- What if my employer won't let me off from work to appear in court?

If you are lawfully subpoenaed to appear in court, it is a crime for your employer to prevent your attendance.

- If I am charged with a crime, how can I get an attorney if I cannot afford to hire one?

You may request Court appointed counsel at your arraignment. ***Please note:*** *If you are charged with an offense and have an attorney, a prosecutor cannot ethically speak with you. Have your attorney contact the prosecutor.*