

THOUSANDS PASS THROUGH VICTIM WITNESS CENTER UNDER PRATER

DIRECTOR HEATHER PRATER OVERSEES EVERY CRIME VICTIM & WITNESS IN COUNTY



Pictured with DA Steve Kunzweiler, Victim Witness Center Director Heather Prater began her role as a Victim Advocate for the DA's Office in 2008 after a previous career in nursing.

The Victim Witness Center in the DA's Office is a hub of nonstop activity. Every witness who receives a subpoena to appear in Tulsa criminal court must report to the Center, which can number in the hundreds every week. Additionally, the VWC staffs eleven full-time Victim Advocates who are assigned to assist victims through every stage of the court process. All this happens under the leadership of Director Heather Prater, who has held this position since 2014.

"Our Advocates make sure that the Victim's Bill of Rights are enforced," says Prater. "Our challenge is seeing people through a very difficult time in their lives, and ascertaining the type of support that is most suited to help them in their exact situation."

Prater is also active in public speaking. Because the Tulsa County Victim Witness Center is one of the largest in the state, she is called upon regularly to provide training and serve as a resource for other victim service delivery offices. It's a part of the job she especially enjoys.

"We help connect crime victims to all the services available to them. We are with them throughout their entire court process, which can sometimes take a very long time. But we are their one constant resource for emotional support and information. It's a very gratifying role."

--Victim Witness Center Director Heather Prater