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CLERK OF



CIRCUIT COURT

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For immediate release

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National Crime Victims' Rights Week

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 7-13 and raises awareness about crime victims' rights and recognizes the difficult process that victims face in our country, state and local community. In addition to shining purple lights in honor of victims, Brown County will be placing additional emphasis on restitution victims are rightfully owed.

In conjunction with the National Crime Victims Rights week, Judge William Atkinson and Clerk of Courts John Vander Leest encourage all victims of crime in Brown County owed restitution to update their mailing address with the Clerk of Courts office if they have moved from their original mailing address.

Clerk of Courts John Vander Leest said, "There will be 20,000 cases moving to the State Debt Collection agency over the next six months, with a good portion of these cases having restitution due. In the last few months the Clerk of Courts office has obtained over \$97,000 for victims through restitution – sometimes in decades old cases in which many victims thought collection was unattainable." He added, "I would like to get restitution in the pockets of as many victims as possible. This is done by having updated mailing addresses so that restitution checks reach the victims." Judge Atkinson added, "victims' updated mailing addresses should be provided to the Clerk of Courts office in writing and will remain confidential."

"On behalf of all Brown County Judges and Clerk of Courts office we would like to recognize the difficulty that victims of crime face, and would like to thank them for their help in seeking justice and restitution. Crime victims must not be forgotten, and we care about victims getting restitution in Brown County." said Presiding Judge William Atkinson.

Questions from victims or their family members on updating their mailing address -- or other questions about seeking restitution should be directed to John Vander Leest, Brown County Clerk of Court at 920-448-4179 or email john.vanderleest@wicourts.gov