



AFTER HOMICIDE

CHECKLIST:

A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES *Navigating Life After Loss*

A practical checklist to help you take important steps, access resources, and *find support* after a homicide.



STAY
ORGANIZED



ACCESS
SUPPORT &
RESOURCES



UNDERSTAND
YOUR RIGHTS



MANAGE
IMPORTANT
DETAILS



HEAL
AT YOUR
PACE



YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

We stand with you.
We hear you.
We fight for justice with you.



REQUEST YOUR RIGHTS.

Ask how to exercise your rights under the Mississippi Crime Victims' Bill of Rights.

YOUR VOICE. | YOUR RIGHTS. | YOUR LOVED ONE MATTERS.

Grant Me Justice After Homicide Checklist

A Guide for Families Navigating Life After Loss

IMMEDIATE STEPS (First 24–72 Hours)

- ☐ Ensure personal safety and emotional support
- ☐ Identify a trusted family member or advocate to help communicate
- ☐ Obtain incident information from law enforcement (case number, investigator name, contact)
- ☐ Request victim services / advocate through police department
- ☐ Secure personal belongings of your loved one (if applicable)
- ☐ Contact close family and friends for support
- ☐ Avoid media interviews until you feel ready
- ☐ Begin documenting everything (names, dates, conversations)

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND LEGAL

- ☐ Obtain detective/investigator contact information
- ☐ Request regular case updates
- ☐ Ask about suspect status (if applicable)
- ☐ Request Victim/Witness Assistance Program
- ☐ Ask about court process and timeline
- ☐ Keep copies of all legal documents
- ☐ Consider legal consultation (if needed)
- ☐ Identify someone to attend court with you

FUNERAL & MEMORIAL PLANNING

- ☐ Choose funeral home/memorial service provider
- ☐ Decide on burial or cremation
- ☐ Create obituary/announcement
- ☐ Plan service details (music, speakers, photos)
- ☐ Arrange transportation (if needed)
- ☐ Seek burial or funeral assistance (if available)
- ☐ Set up memorial fund (optional)

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- ☐ Gather important documents (ID, birth certificate, Social Security card)
- ☐ Notify employer/school (if applicable)
- ☐ Apply for Crime Victim Compensation
- ☐ Contact insurance companies (life, health, auto)
- ☐ Close or manage bank accounts (if appropriate)
- ☐ Track all expenses related to the loss
- ☐ Ask about emergency financial assistance

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DOCUMENTATION

- ☐ Create a “Justice Folder” (physical or digital)
- ☐ Include:
 - Police reports
 - Court paperwork
 - Funeral receipts
 - Medical records
 - Compensation forms
 - Contact lists
 - Notes from meetings
- ☐ Keep a timeline of events
- ☐ Store copies in multiple places

EMOTIONAL & SPIRITUAL CARE

- ☐ Allow yourself to grieve in your own way
 - ☐ Connect with grief counselor or therapist
 - ☐ Join a support group (Just Her Healing / Just Men Gathering)
 - ☐ Lean on faith community (if desired)
 - ☐ Practice rest, prayer, journaling, or reflection
 - ☐ Monitor mental health and stress levels
 - ☐ Seek help if experiencing depression, anxiety, or hopelessness
- Your grief matters.
Your pain is valid.
You do not have to carry this alone.

COURT & JUSTICE PROCESS PREPARATION

- ☐ Understand court stages (arrest, arraignment, trial, sentencing)
- ☐ Prepare for court dates
- ☐ Arrange emotional support for court appearances
- ☐ Prepare victim impact statement (when applicable)
- ☐ Ask about victim rights
- ☐ Request court accompaniment
- ☐ Take breaks when needed



GRANT ME JUSTICE
THE SAFE PLACE FOR FAMILIES IMPACTED BY HOMICIDE

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CHILDREN & FAMILY SUPPORT

- ☐ Explain loss in age-appropriate ways
- ☐ Notify schools and counselors
- ☐ Watch for behavioral changes
- ☐ Maintain routines when possible
- ☐ Provide safe spaces for questions and emotions
- ☐ Seek child grief counseling (if needed)

MEDIA AND PUBLIC ATTENTION (IF APPLICABLE)

- ☐ Decide who speaks for the family
- ☐ Set boundaries with reporters
- ☐ Request corrections if misinformation occurs
- ☐ Protect privacy
- ☐ Share only what feels safe

LONG-TERM HEALING & ADVOCACY

- ☐ Continue counseling/support groups
- ☐ Attend remembrance events
- ☐ Honor your loved one's legacy
- ☐ Engage in advocacy (if desired)
- ☐ Participate in community healing
- ☐ Find meaningful outlets (writing, art, ministry, service)

GRANT ME JUSTICE

- ☐ Survivor Care Advocate
- ☐ Court accompaniment
- ☐ Support groups
- ☐ Prayer and spiritual care
- ☐ Resource referrals
- ☐ Emergency assistance
- ☐ Community connections
- ☐ Long-term case support
- ☐ Long-term case support

Contact Grant Me Justice:

 **236 E. Capitol Street, Jackson, MS**

 **(601) 326-4377**

 **www.grantmejustice.org**



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Detective/Investigator

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Victim Advocate

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Prosecutor's Office

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Court Clerk

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Counselor/Therapist

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Grant Me Justice Advocate

Name: _____

Telephone: _____



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A Word to Families

You did not choose this journey.
You did not deserve this pain.
You are stronger than you feel right now.

We are Grant Me Justice. We walk with you from crisis to court, from heartbreak to healing, from mourning to meaning.

You are not forgotten.
Your loved one is not forgotten.
Your story matters.

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