

DID YOU KNOW? ALL VICTIMS OF CRIME HAVE RIGHTS, SUPPORTS AND PROTECTIONS

Trifold brochures have long been a type of material used to advertise brands, products, and services. The best way to maximize its use is to introduce what the brand has to offer with a brief or about section like this. Make sure to keep your introduction short but interesting enough to readers.

WHAT RIGHTS DO YOU HAVE?

Being the victim of a crime is quite distressing and scary. The same holds true for reporting the crime and potentially being called as a witness. As a victim, special rights, supports and protections have been designed to help you through this process, ensure your safety and help you deal with the impact of the crime.

THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT

All victims have the right to support services regardless of the type of crime and whether they decide to report the crime to the police. This means that as a victim you have the right to support from victim support services that provide information, counselling, and other services such as shelter.

These services assist you in deciding whether or not to report the crime, help you through the process if they decide to report, and provide support after the criminal justice proceedings are over.

THE RIGHT TO UNDERSTAND AND BE INFORMED

Information is essential in dealing with the aftermath of crime. The law requires that you be provided with clear and understandable information about your rights, services designed to help you as well as information about how the criminal justice process works and the case. This includes receiving information in your language.

This means that you may – if you wish – be informed of all phases of the criminal justice process including the time and place of the proceedings, the outcome, the release of the offender from custody, and any other important information regarding the case.

THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE AND BE UNDERSTOOD

Your voice matters. You not only have the right to tell the police or another criminal justice agency what happened in a way that makes you feel safe and comfortable, but also to play a more active role in the process and participate in the proceedings. Interpretation services are available at no cost to you.

You also have the right to review a decision to not prosecute. This means that you can ask that the case be reviewed again and say why the case is important.

You may also receive compensation and participate in restorative justice programmes such as victim offender mediation. Participation in such programmes is completely voluntary.

RIGHT TO PROTECTION AND AN INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT

Reporting a crime can be scary. Testifying in court may be even scarier, especially if you believe the offender will make threats, try to intimidate you or seek revenge.

Safeguards and procedures have thus been developed to ensure your safety throughout the process and avoid further harm either by the offender or by the system itself.

Protection measures are developed on the basis of an individual assessment and thus tailored to meet your needs. This may include testifying remotely, being accompanied by an expert there to support you, and having separate access to the courtroom so that you don't meet the offender in the hallway.

FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE RIGHTS TOO

Family members are victims too. This is especially true in cases of involving death where family members enjoy the rights listed above.