



RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF CRIME

IF YOU WERE VICTIM OF A CRIME, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT:

To be recognised and treated in a respectful, sensitive, tailored, professional and non-discriminatory manner.

To immediately receive written acknowledgement of your formal complaint, stating the basic elements of the criminal offence concerned.

To be informed when the person remanded in custody, prosecuted or sentenced for criminal offences concerning you is released from or has escaped detention.

To ask for a review of a decision not to prosecute.

To be reimbursed of expenses incurred as a result of your active participation in criminal proceedings, in accordance with your role in the relevant criminal justice system.

To the return without delay of recoverable property which is seized in the course of criminal proceedings, unless required for the purposes of those proceedings.

To be interviewed as few times as possible and only where strictly necessary for the purposes of the criminal investigation.

To understand and to be understood through communications given in simple and accessible language.

To make the complaint in a language that you understand or to receive the necessary linguistic assistance.

To be provided with interpretation during any questioning or court hearings and with translation of information essential to the exercise of your rights, namely any decision ending the criminal proceedings.

To access legal aid, where you have the status of parties to criminal proceedings.

To obtain a decision on compensation by the offender, if applicable.

To be protected from secondary and repeat victimisation, from intimidation and from retaliation, including against the risk of emotional or psychological harm, and to have your dignity protected during questioning and when testifying.

To have your individual protection needs assessed and suitable protection measured offered, if applicable.

To be accompanied by a person of your choice when assistance to understand or to be understood is required.

To receive information about your case, namely any decision not to proceed with or to end an investigation or not to prosecute the offender, time and place of the trial, the nature of the charges against the offender, amongst others.

To access confidential victim support services, free of charge, before, during and for an appropriate time after criminal proceedings.

To access safe and competent restorative justice services, subject to free and informed consent to participate, the acknowledgment by the offender of the basic facts of the crime, reaching a voluntary agreement and confidentiality of the restorative justice process.

To engage with professionals trained and qualified in dealing with victims in an impartial, respectful and professional manner.

To have your privacy protected, including personal characteristics and images of you or of your family.

To receive information about your rights, namely available support, how to make a complaint, protection, legal advice and legal aid, compensation, reimbursement of expenses, amongst others.

To choose not receive information about your case, unless that information must be provided due to your entitlement to the active participation in the criminal proceedings.

To be heard during criminal proceedings and provide evidence.

To be interviewed during criminal investigations without unjustified delay after the complaint.

To be submitted to medical examinations as few times as possible and only where strictly necessary for the purposes of the criminal investigation.

To avoid contact with the offender within premises where criminal proceedings are conducted, unless the criminal proceedings require such contact.

To be accompanied by your legal representative and a person of your choice.

IF YOU WERE VICTIM OF A CRIME IN A MEMBER STATE OF THE EU OTHER THAN THAT WHERE YOU LIVE...

You have the right to have your statement taken immediately after the complaint.

If you were unable to make the complaint in the Member State where the crime was committed, you can make it to the competent authorities of the Member state where you live, and they will transmit it to the competent authority of the Member State where the crime was committed.

The authorities of the Member State where the crime was committed shall use, if possible, video conferencing and telephone conference calls for the purpose of hearing victims who are resident abroad.

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VICTIM SUPPORT HELPLINE