

If you have been the victim of a crime, YOU HAVE RIGHTS!

How to ask about your rights throughout the criminal justice system

The *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights* provides:

- » Right to information
- » Right to protection
- » Right to participation
- » Right to seek restitution

If someone denies you those rights, you can file a complaint.

1

Reporting

What to ask the investigating officer

- ☐ Are there services and support available to me?
- ☐ What will happen next (information about the investigation process)?
- ☐ How can I get updates on the progress of the investigation?
- ☐ What can you do to help ensure my safety (no-contact order, peace bond)?
- ☐ Am I eligible for victim compensation and how can I apply?
- ☐ How can I get in touch with Crown Counsel and when should I do so?



2

Charges and arrest

What to ask Crown Counsel

- ☐ Can you keep me informed about the charges, bail conditions, and any changes, such as a plea deal, dropped charge, or stayed or dismissed case?
- ☐ How can I request restitution?
- ☐ If the authorities release the person who harmed me, how can I be protected?
- ☐ If the authorities release the person who harmed me, will you inform me beforehand and how can I share my concerns about bail conditions?
- ☐ When is the next court date and what will happen at that stage?
- ☐ Are there Restorative Justice opportunities and what are they?

3

Court Process

What to ask Crown Counsel

- ☐ Can you keep me updated on the case, court dates and proceedings, the Crown prosecutor's decisions, and what evidence will be presented?
- ☐ Can you put measures in place to help me testify in court and ensure my safety?
- ☐ How do I request a publication ban to protect my identity or how can I remove a publication ban order?
- ☐ How do I make a request for restitution and collect it?

5

After sentencing

Register with Correctional Service of Canada or the Parole Board of Canada to get information on:

- ☐ The administration of the offender's sentence (location, eligibility dates for parole or release)
- ☐ How to submit a victim statement before hearings
- ☐ Parole hearing dates, decisions, and offender transfers between institutions
- ☐ The offender's release date, parole conditions, and any supervision terms
- ☐ How to share your safety concerns
- ☐ Information about restorative justice or mediation

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Verdict and Sentencing

What to ask Crown Counsel

- ☐ Can you keep me informed about the verdict (guilty or not guilty), the sentencing and any conditions imposed?
- ☐ What additional protection orders like house arrest or a peace bond are available?
- ☐ When and how should I submit my victim impact statement, what can I include in it, and can I read it in court or have someone else read it for me?
- ☐ How do I register to receive information while the person who harmed me is incarcerated?
- ☐ If the **accused is found not criminally responsible**: how do I register and attend review board hearings?

In case of appeal:

- ☐ Can you keep me informed about the status and final decision?
- ☐ What safety measures are available if the authorities release the offender during the appeal?



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