

If you are a victim of crime you have rights. These rights are called the 'Charter of Victims Rights'. This is what it says:

1. Respect

You should be treated with respect and compassion when dealing with government departments (e.g. police or court people) about the crime. At all times your Aboriginal Culture should be respected.

2. Information about services

You should be told as soon as possible about the different services that can help you, including counselling and legal services.

3. Access to services

If you need medical, counselling, and legal help you should be able to get it if it is available.

4. Information about investigation of the crime

If you ask, you should be told about how the police investigation is going. But in some cases there may be some things the police can't tell you.

5. Information about the prosecution

Prosecution is about taking the offender to court for the crime. This is done by the police, or, in serious cases, a group of people called the Director of Public Prosecutions.

- As a victim, you should be told:
 - what the charges are OR why the offender has NOT been charged;
 - any decision of the prosecution to change or drop charges;
 - the date and place of the court hearing;
 - the final court result, including any appeal or gaol sentence given.
- If the prosecution is thinking about changing or dropping the charges they should have a talk to you about this if the crime:
 - was a serious sex crime, OR
 - caused you physical harm, mental illness or emotional shock.

BUT the prosecution don't have to talk to you if:

- you don't want to talk about it, OR
- they can't find you.

6. Information about being a witness

If you have to give evidence as a witness in a trial you should be told about HOW the trial works and WHAT you have to do.

7. No contact with the offender

While your case is in court you should be protected from contact with the offender and the offender's witnesses.

8. Protection of your privacy

You can keep your address and phone numbers private unless the court says different.

9. Court business before the trial

You do NOT have to go to any committal hearing (like a mini trial) or other court business before the trial UNLESS the court says you must.

10. Returning your stuff used as evidence

If the police or prosecution took any of your stuff as evidence you have the right to get it back as soon as possible.

11. Your protection

If you need protection tell the police or prosecution when the offender applies for bail.

12. Special bail conditions

You should be told about any special bail conditions the offender is given, which are meant to protect you or your family, like a condition which says the offender must not contact you.

13. Bail decision

If you were the victim of sexual assault or other serious assault you should be told if the offender gets bail or not.

14. Victim impact statement

If you want to tell the court about how the crime has affected you, then you should be given help and support to do this. This is called giving a 'victim impact statement'.

15. When the offender gets released

If the offender is locked up you can be told if the offender is going to be released from gaol soon, has escaped gaol or is on day release.

16. When the offender applies for parole

You can have a say if your offender applies for parole.

17. Victims compensation

If you were the victim of sexual assault or other serious assault, you can apply for victims compensation.



The Charter of Victims Rights is about how government departments should treat you if you are a victim of crime.

What can I do if I think my rights under the Charter are not being met?

1. Talk to the person you are dealing with about the problem. Usually the problem can be fixed that way.
2. If you are still not satisfied you can ask the person to tell you how to make a complaint to their department. You can get a friend or worker to help you make the complaint.
3. If you are still not satisfied after the complaint has been looked at, you can contact the Victims of Crime Bureau. Their job is to help you with your complaint and tell you what they can do about it.

Victims of Crime Bureau

Phone: 1800 633 063 (Freecall)

Fax: (02) 8688 9631

TTY (for hearing impaired): (02) 8688 5575

Email: vcb@agd.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vs

Postal address: Locked Bag 5118, Parramatta NSW 2124

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For further copies, please phone (02) 8688 5511 or download the online version at www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vs

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