

## Victims of youth crime

If you are a victim of youth crime, you may need support and help.

Victims Services offers the following services:

- telephone support;
- information about support services; and
- information about your rights as a victim

### VICTIMS SERVICES

Phone: 02) 8688 5400 (Sydney metro area)

Freecall: 1800 633 063 (outside metro area)

Website: [www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vs](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vs)

TTY: 02) 8688 5575 (for hearing impaired)

## Who can I speak to about how the young person will be dealt with?

You have the right to ask what decision the police have made. The police officer who spoke to you about the offence or a Youth Liaison Officer can provide further information.

### POLICE CONTACT DETAILS

## Am I entitled to insurance or compensation?

Each situation will be different. If you are insured, contact your insurer to find out about making a claim. Compensation will not always be possible. Young people are often unable to pay for damage or to replace stolen items.

However if the crime involved violence you may be eligible to apply for free counselling or compensation.

For further information, contact:

### VICTIMS COMPENSATION TRIBUNAL

Phone: 02) 8688 5511 (Sydney metro area)

Freecall: 1800 069 054 (outside metro area)

Website: [www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vs](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vs)

TTY: 02) 8688 5575 (for hearing impaired)

For legal information and referral, contact:

### NSW LAW SOCIETY SOLICITOR REFERRAL SERVICE

Phone: 02) 9926 0300

(9am–12pm and 1–4pm, Monday to Friday)

# Information for Victims of Youth Crime



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This information is available on Victims Services website [www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vs](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vs) (see 'Forms and Publications'). For alternative formats contact Diversity Services on (02) 8688 8460 (voice), (02) 8688 7733 (TTY - for people who are deaf or have a speech impairment) or [diversity\\_services@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:diversity_services@agd.nsw.gov.au)

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New South Wales Government  
Attorney General's Department  
Victims Services



NSW Police Force

## Introduction

As a victim of youth crime you are likely to want to know:

- what the actions of the police might be;
- what support services are available; and
- whether you are entitled to compensation.

### How will police deal with a young person who has committed a crime?

Under the *Young Offenders Act 1997* the police must consider the following factors in making a decision about a young person who has committed an offence:

- the seriousness of the crime;
- the harm to the victim;
- the violence involved; and
- the number of times the young person has been dealt with under the Act.

Police must consider many things in making their decision. Balancing what is best is very hard. When making a decision the police need to take into account the requirements in the legislation and the rights and the needs of those concerned.

## Young Offenders Act 1997

The *Young Offenders Act 1997* requires police to consider the least restrictive intervention appropriate for a young person. Police can:

- issue a warning;
- caution the young person in the presence of his or her parent(s)/guardian(s);
- refer the young person to a youth justice conference, which victims are invited to attend and where they have the opportunity to talk about how the crime has affected them and what happens to the young person; or
- send the matter to court to be dealt with by a magistrate.

Further information on conferencing can be found in the following material:

- *Warnings, Cautions & Conferences* (available from NSW Police Youth Liaison Officers)
- *Youth Justice Conferencing - A different approach to dealing with young people who offend* (For copies, go to [www.djj.nsw.gov.au](http://www.djj.nsw.gov.au) and follow the link to Publications)

## Statements of harm

A victim may prepare a written statement of harm that can be read to young offenders receiving a caution. The police officer or Youth Liaison Officer giving the caution will be able to read all or some of the statement of harm to the young offender during that process.

Some cautions are given in court and it is the decision of the magistrate whether it is appropriate to permit all or part of the statement to be read to the child when giving the caution.

Before a caution is given to a child the police officer must give a written notice to the child. At this time the victim should also be advised that they have the opportunity to prepare a statement of harm.

The victim's statement of harm must contain accurate information about the personal harm suffered as a result of the offence. For example, any physical injury, short or long-term and any psychological/emotional harm, short or long-term.

More information can be found in the *Statements of Harm Information Guide* which can be obtained from Victims Services or a Youth Liaison Officer.

You may ask a friend or relative to help you write a statement of harm, or you can obtain assistance from the **Victims Support Line** on **(02) 8688 5400** or **1800 069 054** (Freecall), or a victim support organisation.