

Your Rights and Access to Help If You Are a Victim of Crime

You have rights if you are a victim of crime.

Your Right to Information

If you are a victim of crime, British Columbia's Victims of Crime Act gives you the right to receive information about:

- victim services available to you
- benefits and financial assistance for criminal injury
- how the criminal justice system works, the status of the police investigation and the court case
- the administration of the offender's sentence
- your rights to privacy

Your Right to Financial Assistance and Benefits

If you or your immediate family member are the victim of a violent crime in British Columbia, the Crime Victim Assistance Act gives you the right to apply for benefits through the Crime Victim Assistance Program to help offset financial loss and assist in dealing with the impact of violent crime.

Your Right to Privacy

If you are a victim of crime, you have rights under Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

- to apply for access to information about yourself that is held in justice system files
- to know what information obtained about you is protected from unauthorized use or disclosure

Your Right to Information about the Offence

If you are a victim of crime, you have a right to receive information from the criminal justice system including:

- status of the police investigation
- charges laid against the offender
- outcome of court appearances
- where applicable, length of sentence and location of the convicted offender

Help is available if you are a victim of crime.

Victim Service Programs

Victim service programs may be available in your community to provide you with:

- help in coping with the effects of a crime
- emotional support
- an explanation of what happens in court
- help in applying for compensation, if eligible
- referrals to other agencies
- help in preparing a victim impact statement

VictimLink BC

VictimLink BC is a toll-free, multilingual, confidential telephone service available across B.C. and Yukon 24 hours a day, 7 days a week that provides information and referral services to all victims of crime and immediate crisis support to victims of family and sexual violence.

- Contact VictimLink BC at 1-800-563-0808 (toll-free in B.C. and Yukon)
- Call TTY at 604 875-0885; to call collect, please call Telus Relay Service at 711
- Text 604 836-6381
- Email VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca
- www.victimlinkbc.ca

Financial Assistance and Benefits

Victims, their immediate family members and some witnesses can apply to the Crime Victim Assistance Program for benefits to assist in dealing with the effects of violent crime and to help with some of the costs. Application forms and additional information is available through local victim service programs or online at:

www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victimservices/financial

Victim Notification

The Victim Safety Unit provides information to victims about the status of an accused or offender who is supervised by B.C. Corrections. Some information may also be provided to persons protected by a Family Relations Act restraining order. For more information, contact the Victim Safety Unit at (604) 660-0316 or toll free at 1-877-315-8822 or go to www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victimservices/victim-safety.

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