

Know your rights as a victim of crime in Ontario

As a victim of crime in Ontario, the *Ontario Victims' Bill of Rights* says you should be treated with courtesy, compassion and respect for their personal dignity and privacy by justice system officials. Below is a summary of the Bill. Ottawa Victim Services can help you understand and exercise your rights as a victim of crime, including going with you to court or the police station, fill out Victim Impact Statements, etc.

You should have access to information about:

- ✓ services available to you as a victim of crime including financial compensation,
- ✓ the *Victims Bill of Rights*,
- ✓ protection to prevent unlawful intimidation,
- ✓ progress of investigation,. if charges have been or will be laid and reasons why if no charges are laid,
- ✓ your right to prepare a Victim Impact Statement;
- ✓ dates and places of all court proceedings, including the outcome of all significant court proceedings,
- ✓ any pretrial arrangements that are made that relate to a plea that may be entered by the accused,
- ✓ the release of the accused;
- ✓ the sentence given to the offender;
- ✓ a decision about an accused who is found unfit to stand trial or who is found not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder;

You can also ask to be notified of:

- ✓ any release or application for release of the offender (i.e. parole) and any escape from custody;
- ✓ any Review Board hearing (if the accused is found unfit to stand trial or is found not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder);

If you are the victim of a sexual assault, you can request to be interviewed by police officers and officials of the same gender.

If the police or Crown have property that belongs to you or a loved one, you can request that it be returned promptly once it is no longer needed for the purposes of the justice system

Please note: **This is a summary of the VBOR. For further information, please consult the Bill at http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_95v06_e.htm**