



Ministry of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

YOUR RIGHTS

if you are a

VICTIM of CRIME

Victims of Crime Act

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



VictimLINK – for help and information 24-hours-a-day, call: (toll free) **1-800-563-0808**

Crime Victim Assistance Program:

- On the Lower Mainland, call: **604 660-3888**
- Elsewhere in B.C., call: (toll free) **1-866-660-3888**

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Privacy, Information and Records Office:

- In Victoria (250) 387-6898
- Elsewhere in B.C., contact Enquiry BC and ask them to transfer your call to the Victoria number listed above:

Enquiry BC: (7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon. - Fri.)

- In Vancouver, call: **604 660-2421**
- Elsewhere in B.C., call: (toll free) **1 800 663-7867**
- Outside B.C., call: **604 660-2421**

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Victim Services Division

Web site: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/victim_services/index.htm

The Victims of Crime Act

If you want more information about your rights under the *Act*, you can obtain the booklet, *Victims of Crime Act: Your Rights If You Are a Victim of Crime*.

The information is provided in eight languages and available through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Web site publication index under Victim Services:

www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/publications/index.htm

To obtain a printed copy of the publication, please contact your local victim services office or VictimLINK.

Victim Services

The following victim services 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

The Crime Victim Assistance Act

If you are injured (physically or psychologically) as a result of certain crimes, you can apply for benefits to assist with costs resulting from the injury, for example:

- counselling expenses
- medical expenses not covered by your medical plan
- income support

Note: benefits do not apply to injuries arising from motor vehicle accidents.

The Criminal Justice System and the Offence

You have a right to information about the offence, 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

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

You have the right:

- 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