The Victims' Bill of Rights

The Role of the Courts

Please refer to ***Understanding The Victims' Bill of Rights*** for a current list of the most serious crimes to see if you are eligible for services under *The Victims' Bill of Rights.*

The meaning of the words in bold type are also explained in *Understanding The Victims' Bill of Rights.*

Understanding *The Victims' Bill of Rights*

Updated July 2002

A List of the Most Serious Crimes

If you are a victim of a serious crime, The *Victims' Bill of Rights* makes sure that you can ask for help and get information. Victims of the criminal acts listed below have the right to register to be given information and services:

- murder
- manslaughter
- aggravated sexual assault
- sexual assault with a weapon
- infanticide
- workplace fatalities
- criminal negligence causing death
- impaired operation of a vehicle causing death
- dangerous operation of a vehicle causing death
- aggravated assault
- assaulting a peace officer or public officer
- discharging a firearm with intent
- attempted murder
- parent or guardian procuring sexual activity
- corrupting children
- living off the avails of a prostitute under 18
- procuring a prostitute under 18
- an offence under *The Highway Traffic Act* that relates to the death of a person
- criminal harassment

Ask about the series of eight *Victims' Bill of Rights* fact sheets produced by Manitoba Justice.

For more information, call toll free: 1-866-484-2846 or go to the Manitoba Justice website: www.gov.mb.ca/justice/victims/victimsindex.html.

Explanation of Legal Terms

Here is a list of other words that might be used to provide information about your case.

Affirm an oath – promise to tell the truth about what you say in court

Accused – the person charged with the crime

Alternative measures – ways for the accused to be punished other than by going to court

Appeal – ask a higher court to see whether the accused's trial or sentence was fair

Bail – letting the accused out of jail while waiting for the case to go to court

Bail conditions – special rules the accused must follow if he or she is released from jail while waiting for the case to go to court

Charge – based on police investigation, a person is accused of committing a crime

Community service – unpaid work that an offender is ordered to do by the court as part of his or her sentence

Manitoba

Manitoba Justice recognizes the need to offer information, assistance and support to victims of the most serious crimes.

Crime victim services workers:

- provide information about the justice system and community resources
- advise victims of their options, rights and responsibilities

For information
Call toll free: **1-866-4VICTIM**(1-866-484-2846)
Or go to: www.gov.mb.ca/justice/victims/victimsindex.html

What is the role of the courts?

Criminal matters (offences under the *Criminal Code* – Canada) are usually heard in the Provincial Court, but they are also heard in the Court of Queen's Bench. The Courts Division of Manitoba Justice manages all court schedules and processes court cases and takes direction from the judiciary.

Crown attorneys handle criminal cases in the Court of **Appeal**, Court of Queen's Bench and Provincial Court.

What information may I request under *The Victims' Bill of Rights*?

If a victim requests information about the courts, a person from the court office will ensure they receive information on the following topics:

- the public's right of access to court proceedings
- security measures and facilities, including waiting areas available at court locations
- the availability of court records on a proceeding, including records on the release of a person from custody
- how to obtain the date, time and place of a court proceeding
- how to obtain the return of property used as evidence in a court proceeding

What can I request from Manitoba Justice Courts Division?

When you request it and where it is reasonable and practical, a waiting area separate from the area used by the accused person and **witness** will be provided.

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Ces renseignements sont également offerts en français.

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